



Top Results You Can Expect from Cloud FP&A Software



WHY BUSINESSES NEED FASTER FINANCIAL PLANNING & ANALYSIS

The role and expectations of CFOs and Finance leaders alike are evolving. The transition period to be more data-driven and provide financial predictability has greatly shortened, especially with today's uncertain future.

The need for faster Financial Planning and Analysis processes has grown, yet the Office of Finance continues to work with outdated, slow, and error-prone tools. ***In fact, finance teams currently spend over 60% of their time on activities that can be fully automated.*** This creates a large potential for value-added work once these teams can start leveraging technologies to automate their manual processes.

The American Productivity & Quality Center (APQC), the world's foremost authority on benchmarking, best practices and performance improvement, has released their study on the FP&A function in businesses. In this eBook, we'll show you the results from the survey and what you can expect to see from modern Cloud FP&A software.



INVESTING IN FP&A TECHNOLOGY DRIVES FASTER RESULTS

Inherent Problems of the Traditional Close Process



Improper Close Tools



Lack of Visibility and Control



Time-Waste Methods



- Full Automation
- Increased Visibility & Control
- Shifting Focus to Analysis

Do you know how many days it takes your team to complete core FP&A processes?

According to the APQC survey, companies that spend only **10%** of their budget on technology find that on average, their employees use **384 FTE** (full-time equivalent) days, that's more than an entire year, on core financial processes alone. Compare that to companies that spend **20-50%** of their budget on technology, and that number drops to **62 FTE** days, **equating to huge savings of 84% on time and processes!**

Imagine the potential that is wasted when teams are spending their time on grunt work, rather than focusing on the analysis portion of FP&A. Companies with larger technology budgets have time on their side, and thus are able to create more comprehensive plans and make data-backed strategic decisions faster than their competitors.

FINANCE PROFESSIONALS ARE SEEING CLEAR ROI



50%

REDUCTION IN
BUDGET CYCLE TIMES



80%

TIME SAVINGS IN
PLANNING PROCESSES

Finance teams seeking a quick ROI from new technology will find FP&A software to be a perfect choice. FP&A automation has shown immediate results and impact across these 2 key areas: **cycle time improvements and better decision-making capabilities.**

Efficiency is a critical challenge for FP&A teams, who typically spend more time on manual tasks than value-added analysis. Based on the APQC survey, FP&A participants reported spending 75% of their time gathering data and administering finance processes.

With modern FP&A technology, these manual and administrative processes are completely automated. Finance teams will no longer have to track down data from multiple sources or spend time consolidating spreadsheets and workbooks. The faster management can see the impact of their decisions, the more time the business has to make necessary changes.

REDUCE MANUAL DATA COLLECTION & CONSOLIDATION BY UP TO 75%

Budget Cycle Time - FTE Days

	MEAN	MEDIAN
Less than 10% of Systems		
Annual Budget	89.98	90
Financial Forecast	23.04	15
Rolling Forecast	23.04	8
10-19% of Systems		
Annual Budget	73.51	60
Financial Forecast	23.04	20
Rolling Forecast	12.8	6
20-49% of Systems		
Annual Budget	74.88	90
Financial Forecast	16.75	10
Rolling Forecast	11.84	5
50-79% of Systems		
Annual Budget	15	15
Financial Forecast	3	3
Rolling Forecast	2	2

Source: AFP Financial Planning & Analysis Benchmarking Survey

The survey results show that the more companies spend on technology, the less time it takes FP&A teams to complete their budgets, forecasts and reports.

For example, respondents from organizations that spent less than **10%** on technology also spent **90 days** completing their annual budget. Companies that spent over **50%** of their annual budget on technology saw those numbers drop to a whopping **15 days**; saving them and their team **75 DAYS!**

STREAMLINE BUDGET REVIEWS AND APPROVALS BY UP TO 50%

Collaborating on budgets and reports helps increase efficiencies and add more depth behind the numbers. Typically, organizations rely on Excel for their financial planning, but may not realize that this favored software could be costing them. Between the time and labor put into maintaining multiple spreadsheets, dealing with errors and gathering data from across the organization, Excel's hidden costs start to add up. The longer it takes to create budgets and reports, the more the business is at risk of making decisions based on outdated information.

Cloud technology enables better collaboration and integration between teams and data sources. FP&A software that provides an Excel-like interface on the Cloud allows teams to improve their performance in a familiar environment that presents little to no learning curve.



ACCELERATE REPORTING BY UP TO 50%

Over half of survey respondents said that in order for their companies to remain competitive, FP&A departments need access to real-time internal and external data that can be shared across the organization. FP&A software provides finance professionals with integrated access to enterprise-wide data on an as-needed basis.

With direct integrations, reports can easily be created to uncover trends and new insights. Instead of waiting on information, finance teams can use real-time access to manipulate and visualize data on demand. Management can better identify patterns and foster data-driven decision making to support company-wide strategic goals.



Take Back Your Time For Value-Added Work

The returns seen from companies that are already using FP&A technology is extremely promising, and points to the necessity of the software. Freeing up time to perform advanced analytics helps companies become more competitive and innovative, as they can plan faster and make data-backed decisions confidently. FP&A software complements the drive to cut costs, improve efficiencies and increase the amount of value-added work in an organization.

Get a firsthand look at the potential ROI of Modern Cloud FP&A Software.
Book your demo of Limelight today!

