G-CLOUD 11

IBM PLANNING ANALYTICS: POWERED BY TM1 CLOUD SOFTWARE SERVICE DEFINITION

INFOCAT: EUROPE'S FIRST GOLD ACCREDITED TM1 PARTNER

SOFTWARE SERVICE DEFINITION

This Service Definition document describes the **IBM Planning Analytics: Powered by TM1** Cloud Software Service provided through InfoCat Ltd.

IBM Planning Analytics, formerly known as Cognos TM1, is a market-leading enterprise planning software platform that can transform your entire financial and operational planning cycle, from target setting and budgeting to reporting, scorecarding, analysis and forecasting.

IBM Planning Analytics applications are typically managed by finance and business users, with minimal involvement from IT.

OVERVIEW

Many Finance departments short-change their financial performance management and risk management activities. They rely on systems that are disconnected, expensive, completely managed by IT, and lack the performance and data reliability essential for on-demand analytics. Resorting to spreadsheets introduces issues of version control, inconsistent data, siloed reporting, fragile links, poor security and lack of control - creating challenges that are increasingly difficult to overcome.

Recognising this need, InfoCat offers IBM Planning Analytics: Powered by TM1 to provide a method for transforming your planning, budgeting and forecasting processes in a quick and cost-effective manner.

IBM Planning Analytics is a fast, easy, flexible and complete planning and analytics solution designed for the cloud. It helps finance and business teams drive greater process efficiency and deliver the foresight needed to steer business performance.

IBM Planning Analytics is delivered on a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) cloud model. It provides a managed, governed, secure environment for all planning, analysis and reporting processes - be they personal, workgroup or enterprise-wide.

APPLICABILITY

IBM Planning Analytics is appropriate for any public sector body that wishes to improve its budgeting, financial reporting, forecasting and business planning activities.

It will enable you to reduce the time needed for the monthly close, leaving more time for in-depth analysis, driving improved business decisions. It will accelerate the production of budgets and plans, by removing inefficient and time-consuming manual processes and controls.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Centralised, integrated, multi-dimensional database** holds all actuals and plan data, providing a "single version of the truth" to ensure consistency of business structures, business rules and calculations for all users and for all planning activities
- **Planning Analytics Workspace** is an intuitive canvas for developing and publishing KPI dashboards and briefing books, with powerful interactive end-user analytics
- Gives users a **choice of browser and Excel** interfaces for all aspects of data input, modelling, reporting and analysis
- Leverages the power of **Excel layout and formatting** to design input templates and financial reports, automatically configuring them for browser users

- **In-memory processing** delivers automatic, **real-time calculation and consolidation** enabling you to react rapidly to changing business circumstances, turning round new scenarios and plans quickly and easily
- **Integration with source systems** – such as actuals data from ERP, general ledger, HR and procurement – can be through a dynamic link directly to the source or through a file extract
- Supports **multiple versions** of budgets, plans, forecasts, what-if scenarios and so on – as many as you want - with easy comparison across versions to enable rapid analysis of changing performance and business conditions
- Enables departments to participate in a **collaborative planning** process
- **Flexible reporting** options support all levels of user, from **dashboards and scorecards** through to traditional reports and charts
- **Granular security** provides proper control over who sees what, and what they can do with it
- The SaaS platform is **fully managed**, keeping the application software up to date with new releases, and managing all aspects of the server hardware, minimising dependency on your own IT team

SERVICE PROVISIONING AND PERFORMANCE

The service is provisioned on IBM's global SoftLayer data centre network, accessed by users across an Internet connection.   Data centres are located in the Europe, USA and Asia to maximise end user proximity to the environments for optimal performance, and to support local legislative and data security issues.

The service is provisioned as a single tenant virtual environment for the database tier, running on multi-tenant physical infrastructure.

The standard service includes a production environment and a non-production (development/test) environment.

Service availability is targeted at scheduled uptime of 99.9%, below which a credit against the cost of the service is given.

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT

Implementation services are provided by InfoCat Ltd. InfoCat is a specialist performance management consultancy, founded 25 years ago. With directors who are qualified accountants, InfoCat has real-world experience of the demands on finance departments for reporting and business planning.

InfoCat offers a comprehensive service from business analysis and application design through to development and training.

Post-implementation, the dedicated support desk provides a high level of personal service by qualified Planning Analytics consultants.

Please refer to the Cloud Support Service for full details of InfoCat's implementation, training and support services.

The InfoCat Advantage

With some 25 years' experience of working with finance teams in blue chip clients across the spectrum, InfoCat has the in-depth knowledge and understanding to change the way you manage your business. Utilising our specialist product knowledge, our team delivers applications that include:

- Financial reporting and consolidation

- Budgeting and forecasting

- Workforce planning

- Cash forecasting

- Capital expenditure planning

- Balance sheet modelling

- Human resource and compensation planning

In today's volatile world, trying to manage on fragile, cumbersome spreadsheets is simply nowhere near good enough. Having implemented and supported many technologies over our lifetime, we now focus solely on IBM Performance Management software, centred on Planning Analytics, formerly called Cognos TM1. We believe this to be the most powerful, flexible and integrated suite available on the market for all aspects of budgeting, reporting, forecasting and business analysis.

Contact us by email at **info@infocat.co.uk** or call us on **020 7735 7711**

www.infocat.co.uk

EUROPE'S FIRST GOLD ACCREDITED TM1 PARTNER

InfoCat Ltd
Unit 3.24, Canterbury Court
Kennington Park Business Centre
1-3 Brixton Road

InfoCat Performance Management Specialists

IBM.
Silver
Business Partner