

Sun and Oracle Hyperion

Comprehensive planning and forecasting for 21st century enterprises

Accurately predicting revenue and operating performance is a daunting challenge facing many managers. In today's complex and dynamic business environment, most executives understand that effective decision making must be based on comprehensive planning and forecasting analyses. Many organizations still budget using disconnected spreadsheets — an unreliable and inefficient method that results in missed forecasts and ineffective plans.

The planning process for many enterprises is relegated to desktop and office systems that are designed for relatively straightforward tasks such as word processing and simple spreadsheets.

Integrated financial and operational planning

Oracle Hyperion Planning offers businesses a comprehensive planning, budgeting, and forecasting solution. It is a centralized, Excel- and Web-based forecasting system that integrates financial and operational planning processes. Planning solutions based on Oracle Hyperion Planning, along with Oracle Hyperion Essbase running on scalable Sun servers, help enterprises dramatically reduce budgeting cycles and costs, while increasing forecast detail and accuracy. Oracle Hyperion Planning works on large data sets that are resident in memory with Oracle Hyperion Essbase, a multidimensional database (MDDB) that is optimized for fast access to aggregated data.

Highlights

- Create more accurate forecasts
- Improve productivity by integrating financial and operational planning in one powerful Sun system
- Reduce budgeting and planning cycles by weeks or months
- Meet growing planning needs with highly scalable systems
- Increase level of detail and size of data cubes by running on powerful Sun servers

Oracle Hyperion Planning, in combination with Oracle Hyperion Essbase multidimensional database, helps managers rationalize their existing spreadsheet environment into a single planning system, creating a platform for future organization-wide deployment.

As the company grows, these systems fail to keep up with the changes to the business models and structures. The resulting long budget cycles and forecasting inaccuracies prevent responsiveness to change, causing companies to miss business opportunities while wasting money and resources on deteriorating business segments.

An MDDB can be thought of as a stack of spreadsheets forming a three dimensional data cube. Running on highly-scalable Sun servers that support large amounts of globally-shared memory, Oracle Hyperion Essbase can handle larger and more complex data cubes.

In addition to storing the data cubes for Oracle Hyperion Planning environments, Sun systems perform the data load, analytical calculations, and data sorting. By using Sun platforms, a business's planning and budgeting infrastructure can be scaled to hundreds and even thousands of users.

Scalable family of powerful servers

For many companies, the planning process requires immense amounts of data to be compiled and distilled, creating a need for systems that can handle large numbers of dimensions and enormous cube sizes. Completing these calculations in a reasonable time depends upon highly scalable servers with powerful processors and large, globally shared memory — such as the Sun SPARC Enterprise® M3000, M4000, M5000, M8000, and M9000 servers.

Optimized for serious number crunching and large, shared memory applications, the SPARC Enterprise M3000, M4000, M5000, M8000, and M9000 servers offer the highest availability, highest absolute performance, highest scalability, largest memory, and the most sophisticated control of resources in Sun Microsystems' server product line. Supporting up to 64 quad-core SPARC64® VII 64-bit processors and as much as 2 TB of memory, these servers help companies analyze large data cubes as rapidly as possible.

With as many as 24 Dynamic Domains and thousands of Solaris™ Containers per domain providing complete isolation and control of the applications and data, the SPARC Enterprise M3000, M4000, M5000, M8000, and M9000 servers are ideal platforms to help reduce operating expenses by consolidating multiple applications onto fewer servers.

Mainframe-class reliability, availability, and serviceability (RAS) features such as on-line module replacement and automatic system recovery make the Sun SPARC Enterprise servers highly reliable, virtually eliminating downtime and lowering maintenance costs.

World-class operating system

The Solaris 10 Operating System (OS) offers the performance, stability, and security needed by enterprises that depend upon IT infrastructure to accurately and securely implement planning processes. Running on over 1000 multivendor SPARC and x86 platforms, the Solaris OS can power solutions throughout the entire enterprise. The Solaris 10 OS is a reflection of Sun's continued commitment to innovation, with many new features and technologies that offer dramatic benefits. These include:

- Virtualization — Dynamic Domains and Solaris Containers enable enterprises to consolidate multiple — potentially incompatible — applications onto the same server, helping to reduce operating costs, energy consumption, and facility space usage.
- Observability — The powerful Solaris Dynamic Tracing (DTrace) capability enables administrators to quickly locate and repair performance hotspots as well as difficult-to-find and difficult-to-recreate bugs, helping to keep systems running.
- Manageability — The ZFS™ file system automates many administrative tasks and greatly simplifies storage management, giving companies the flexibility to optimize data storage for peak analytical performance.
- High availability — Solaris Predictive Self-Healing supports automatic diagnosis and recovery from hardware and application faults, maximizing system uptime.

Learn More

For more information, visit sun.com or oracle.com, or contact your local Sun sales representative.

Supported by Sun and a community of highly experienced users, administrators, and engineers, the Solaris 10 OS sets the industry standard for performance, efficiency, availability, and security.

Meeting the planning needs of companies worldwide

Over the years, Sun and Oracle have offered innovative and cost-effective solutions to help enterprises adapt quickly and effectively to today's turbulent business environment. Sun's knowledge of these market dynamics coupled with Oracle Hyperion's comprehensive portfolio of planning solutions helps managers choose the best solution and technology infrastructure tailored to their specific needs.

Sun's SPARC Enterprise M3000, M4000, M5000, M8000, and M9000 servers are ideal for enterprises running large shared-memory applications such as Oracle Hyperion Planning. Coupled with the unbroken binary application compatibility of the Solaris OS, these servers enable enterprises to maximize investments in forecasting and planning systems by minimizing IT obsolescence. Enterprises worldwide rely on Sun and Oracle Hyperion to deliver the right combination of product innovation and capability, coupled with unprecedented scalability and unequalled investment protection.