



Vena 5 Efficiencies Overview

Vena Solutions provides a comprehensive Financial Process Management solution. The solution provides automation, efficiency and visibility in operations by addressing the way organizations are able to manage manual, collaborative, business-critical spreadsheet processes.

Vena 5 is a flexible, web-based platform where users are able to put controls around existing spreadsheets and manage collaboration and business processes all in one simple solution.

FINANCIAL PROCESS MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

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Efficiencies Overview

Simplified Implementation and Quick Time to Value

Vena 5 fully embraces your existing Microsoft Excel® spreadsheets. Our implementation method starts by examining existing spreadsheets, then renovating them to optimize auditing & control, workflow & collaboration, data collection & aggregation, and enhance analysis capabilities. The modified spreadsheets allow users to continue using Excel – leading to high adoption rates, faster implementations, and process efficiency.

Workflow & Collaboration

BENEFIT	EFFICIENCY GAIN
✓ Workflow Visibility	Significantly Reduce Overhead with Real-Time, Interactive Status Dashboard Vena provides an interactive dashboard to view the real-time status of all required submissions for budgeting, reporting, or forecasting – significantly reducing the time required to gather statuses from contributors, approvers or reviewers.
✓ Single Point of Access to Users	Organize and Manage Templates Centrally All users contributing to budgets/forecasts/reports have a single point of access to manage their assigned templates, due dates and instructions. This eliminates the need to search through shared drives, or search through emails for the latest version of templates.
✓ Agility	Alter Processes On-The-Fly Vena’s graphical process flow designer features a drag and drop interface capable of altering live processes to accommodate changes in the process, contributors, approvers, and reviewers. New users can be quickly added, existing users can be changed, and new departments and templates can be added with clicks of a button.
✓ Enhanced Collaboration	Increased Productivity Worksheets within a workbook can effectively be separated or “template-ized” to allow for better collaboration. Workbooks no longer need to be shared – increasing productivity, and reducing errors.

Data Collection & Integration

BENEFIT

✓ Seamless Source Integration

EFFICIENCY GAIN

Eliminate "Keying" and Copy/Paste Errors

The Vena database will integrate to source systems to retrieve actual data. Actual data values will automatically update each department template, significantly reducing copy/paste errors, "keying" errors, and the time to prepare budget/forecast templates.

Closed Loop System Eliminates Manual Updates

In addition, the completed budgets, forecasts or reporting data can automatically integrate to other systems (such as ERP systems) by means of standard formats, or standard integration methods such as SSIS. This removes the need to convert spreadsheets into a standardized format and manually load into a source system.

✓ Streamlined Rollover

Automated Rollover and Reset Eliminates Setup Times

Once budgets or forecasts are complete, the workflow process can be rolled over for the next year planning period automatically. This procedure eliminates setup time by automatically updating all templates with actual data from previous periods, and by resetting all workflow statuses.

Data Aggregation & Consolidation

BENEFIT

✓ Real-time Data Aggregation

EFFICIENCY GAIN

Eliminate Linked Files and Macros

All data saved in a Vena template is automatically committed to a central OLAP database. This OLAP database allows real-time consolidation of results and provides the ability to produce P&L, B/S and C/F statements without the need to copy/paste values, and join/link worksheets and workbooks together. If there is a late update to data within template, all reports update automatically – without the need to run macros, or store files in specific directories.

✓ Enhanced Analysis

Eliminate Low Value Work and Increase High Value Analysis

Real-time reports provide variance analysis and trend analysis capabilities that refresh automatically. By eliminating low value, error laden tasks, users have the time and capability "slice-and-dice" the information to answer questions quickly and effectively.

✓ Compressed Planning Cycles

Expedite the Planning Processes

The entire budgeting and forecasting process can be drastically compressed by all the features indicated above: Source system integration, dynamic template and data updates, automated workflow notifications, automatic consolidation and streamlined repeatability.

Efficiencies Overview

Control & Auditing

BENEFIT

- ✓ Control & Auditing

EFFICIENCY GAIN

Centrally Control and Manage Business Rules and Assumptions

Vena allows users to centrally manage all template business rules and global drivers, assumptions and shared accounts. This centralized approach removes redundant data inputs into disparate spreadsheets reducing the amount of time for setup, as well as ongoing maintenance during the process cycle as business requirements change.

Streamline The Approval Process

Rules can be used to create input guidelines or to force commentary if numeric data falls outside these guidelines. Templates cannot be saved and submitted if these rules are not met, or if commentaries have not been provided. This minimizes back and forth emails between contributors and reviewers ensuring timely and accurate completion of the process.

- ✓ Full Audit and Rollback

Quickly Find Changes with Detailed Audit Trail

Each "Save" on a template captures details that is catalogued and tracked (who did what, when). This audit trail allows users to compare any two versions of a template in order to track cell-by-cell changes. This removes the effort and time needed to find multiple versions of a spreadsheet to identify changes, as well as effort and time to "rollback" to a previous version if required.

- ✓ Virtually No Change Management

Near "0" Training Means Instant Adoption

Vena leverages Excel as a front-end interface – End users are already familiar with the presentation layer of the application. This minimizes training and change management to the end users existing processes.

- ✓ Minimal IT Overhead

Minimize IT Support Requirements

Web-based deployment or hosted deployment options are available. User security settings are inherited through Windows Active Directory. As a result, the existing IT policy is enforced. Software updates are automatic via an Excel Add-in for end users without IT involvement.

About Vena Solutions

Vena Solutions delivers software solutions to the Office of Finance. Our software leverages investments in existing spreadsheet models and helps large and mid-market organizations improve their budgeting, planning, month-end close and external reporting processes. Our innovative, first of its kind proven solution wraps an intuitive application framework around spreadsheets, tied to a central OLAP database and governed by flexible workflow. This approach provides quick-to-deploy, high value solutions to reduce risk while improving operational efficiency.

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