KPMG Powered Enterprise | Enterprise Performance Management

Frequently asked questions: Oracle® Enterprise Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service (EPBCS)

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1 General

1.1 EPBCS application

1.1.1 What audit capabilities are in the cloud planning tool?

The EPBCS application provides reports and online tools to view user activity. There are user login reports, a dashboard providing user management statistics, and Task Lists / workflow progress indicators:

- The login reports let an administrator view who has had recent activity in the system.
- The dashboard user management tool allows a site administrator to manage users across all Oracle EPBCS subscriptions. Users are managed by roles, as well as defined account attributes.
- Task lists provide guidance throughout the planning and/or forecast process, but also can provide administrators or other power users with indicators of progress throughout the plan. Workflow will provide indication of the plan approval process.
- Application log files can be reviewed to track who modified data.

1.1.2 How do I leverage scenarios and versions? (i.e. multiple passes of forecast, plan, actuals, etc.)

Scenarios and Versions are two dimensions in the Oracle EPBCS application that provide flexibility in aligning your technology to your business process.

The Scenario dimension is a standard dimension for Oracle EPBCS and will be tagged as “Scenario”. Based on your planning and reporting requirements, various scenarios will be included in the Oracle EPBCS Application.

Below are examples of common members found in the Scenario dimension:

- Actual
- Plan
- Forecast

The Version dimension is a standard dimension for Oracle EPBCS and will be tagged as “Version”. This dimension allows users to further analyze and adjust a given Scenario.

The Version dimension is used to store multiple iterations of the same scenario.

The following is an example of common Versions:

- Pass1
- Final

- Pass2
- Working
- 7+5
- 8+4
- Board of Director (“BOD”)
- Allocated
- MRB (Management Review Board)

1.1.3 What are my “back-up” options?

As part of the subscription service, Oracle will perform a daily snapshot of all of your artifacts. This snapshot is performed during your daily scheduled maintenance window. Note that your data is NOT part of the routine snapshot process. If you want to create a back up of your data, you have a few options:

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1.1.4 Can I archive data?

You can archive data in Oracle EPBCS by utilizing one of the following methods:

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1.1.5 Can I still work in Excel® with EPBCS?

Absolutely! Oracle EPBCS and Enterprise EPBCS (EPBCS) provide access through excel, utilizing an excel add-on called “SmartView”.

This add-on gives you functionality to access your planning application for ad-hoc analysis, and access to forms for data entry similar to web forms.

You can also configure the capability to execute business rules from excel.

1.1.6 How can I leverage my existing excel model logic?

You can leverage your existing models as a guide in the development of your business rules. Business rules provide a mechanism to calculate or adjust data in your planning application.

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1.1.7 Does EPBCS support local languages?

Yes. There are 19 supported languages in Oracle EPBCS as of August 2016:

Abbreviation	Language
"ar"	Arabic
"da"	Danish
"de"	German
"en"	English
"es"	Spanish
"fi"	Finnish
"fr"	French
"it"	Italian
"ja"	Japanese
"ko"	Korean
"nl"	Dutch
"no"	Norwegian
"pl"	Polish
"pt-br"	Portuguese
"ru"	Russian
"sv"	Swedish
"tr"	Turkish
"zh-cn"	Chinese
"zh-tw"	Chinese - Taiwanese

1.2 Functionality

1.2.1 What level of detail should I plan at?

This can differ from organization to organization and is dependent on your business needs. Leading practice suggests that your planning process…

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1.2.2 What are the benefits of key Product planning?

Key product planning lets an organization focus on the sets of products or product families that have the most impact on their strategic plan. Leading practice suggests…

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1.2.3 How many currencies are too many from a Planning leading practice perspective?

Business reporting requirements determine…

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1.2.4 What kind of planning processes can EPBCS support?

In addition to the delivered planning functionality and models for Financial, Workforce, Capital and Project planning, advanced configuration of EPBCS can support more complex planning processes and concepts, including driver based planning, cascaded and linked plans, top-down and bottoms-up plans, and custom planning models.

1.2.5 When I forecast, should it be at the same level as my plan?

KPMG professionals recommend that the forecast is…

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1.2.6 When initially implementing, how many years of history are recommended from a Planning leading practice perspective?

It is important to weigh the benefits of having multiple years of history with the level of effort required for historical data validation. KPMG professionals generally recommend…

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1.2.7 Can I use EPBCS with multiple ledgers and other data sources?

EPBCS has the ability to integrate with multiple ledgers and other data sources, using the Data Management integration feature.

1.2.8 How can I manage my plan approval process?

Planning units change status each time reviewers pass the budget to another reviewer. Planning units are assigned a status based on what action a reviewer takes to send the budget to another reviewer.

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1.3 Security

1.3.1 What security options are available in EPBCS?

There are four EPBCS standard security roles:

— Viewer
— User
— Power User
— Administrator

Security can be furthered defined, as needed for various dimensions such as entity, cost center, and account.

1.3.2 Can I have users around the globe?

EPBCS has the ability to support a global user population and supports 19 languages.

1.4 Data Integration

1.4.1 What are my data integration options?

There are a variety of ways to…

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1.5 Infrastructure

1.5.1 Are there size limitations in the cloud for how much data I can store or archive?

As of August 2016, Oracle offers 150 GB of total storage available with a standard Oracle EPBCS subscription. Additional storage can be purchased in increments of 50 GBs

1.5.2 Does cloud mean I do not need my IT to support me anymore?

While moving your Planning solution to the cloud will decrease your need for environment support, IT resources are needed…

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1.6 Reporting

1.6.1 How can I satisfy financial statement reporting with hierarchies in my COA?

The account dimension represents account hierarchy. The EPBCS Chart of Account should be designed to support the level of detail needed for the financial statements.

It is critical for the EPBCS Chart of Accounts to be designed and signed off prior to the start of the application build as the Chart of Accounts is the main building block of applications including, but not limited to, the metadata, business logic, custom dimensions and reporting.

Alternate hierarchies can be utilized to facilitate flexible reporting requirements.

1.6.2 When does it make sense to include a legal entity structure with my management entity structure?

In EPBCS, the purpose of the entity dimension is to allow planning to occur at a level below "total company", and to then be able to consolidate base level entities to different parents to provide alternate views of the company structure and associated plan information. These alternate views are separate organizational hierarchies in the Entity dimension.

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1.6.3 What kind of reporting is available?

There are three reporting options within EPBCS:

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1.6.4 What are my mobility options?

EPBCS has a mobile-friendly user interface that allows user to access Financial Reports from tablets and smartphones.

1.7 Training

1.7.1 What training is available?

EPBCS has robust, in application training, available to all users, in a video format. KPMG firms offer training guides which identify what Oracle training is relevant for each user based on their role.

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2 Financial Planning

2.1 Can I develop a rolling forecast?

EPBCS can be configured to support a rolling forecast. The functionality is enabled when the application is created but also requires additional custom configuration and development to confirm the functionality to fully support a rolling forecast.

2.2 What Financial KPI's are available?

Metric		Business logic
Volume	Product Revenue	Product Volume captured through data feed from transaction system
Avg Selling Price	Product Revenue	Average Selling Price by Product. Avg. Selling Price = Selling Price/Product Volume

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2.3 Can reports be viewed on mobile devices?

EPBCS has a mobile-friendly user interface that allows user to access Financial Reports from tablets and smartphones.

3 Workforce Planning

3.1 How are employees set up – by name or generic?

Employees can either be named or generic employees.

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3.2 What Workforce KPI's are available?

Metric		Business logic
Headcount	Compensation	Headcount captured from HR system
Attrition Rate	Compensation	Attrition rate captured from HR system

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3.3 How is data integrated into the workforce module?

Data Management is integrated within the EPBCS tool and allows for data transformation, and mappings. Alternatively companies may utilize FDMEE; Oracle's existing on premise data management application. Files must be in a fixed width or a delimited text file.

Data can also be integrated between Financials, Capital, Workforce and Projects.

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4 Capital Asset Planning

4.1 What depreciation methods are available?

The following depreciation methodologies are available:

— Straight Line
— Sum of Years' Digits
— Declining Balance Year
— Declining Balance Period
— No Depreciation

4.2 How are new assets added in the module?

Follow these steps to add a new asset in the Capital module.

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5 Project Planning

5.1 Can I review financials at Project level?

There are various reports that can be leveraged from Oracle Project planning to review financials at the project level. Various standard reports can be used to evaluate financials including…

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5.2 Can I set up a project to include temporary staff?

Projects can be set up to calculate a variety of labor related costs, set start and end dates, plan the FTEs, etc. The following labor options can be selected…

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5.3 What type of projects does EPBCS support?

Several types of projects are supported…

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