



Microsoft® FRx® and Microsoft® Forecaster

Power your Organization

Microsoft FRx and Microsoft Forecaster are a part of the powerful Business Intelligence suite of products from Microsoft, designed to put you and your people in control of the financial information that drives your company. The powerful combination of Microsoft FRx and Microsoft Forecaster can streamline your financial reporting and budgeting processes and boost operational effectiveness. Used together or separately, Microsoft FRx and Microsoft Forecaster can automate many of the time-intensive, critical functions that are vital to your company, helping you spend less time gathering financial data and more time thinking strategically.

Microsoft FRx

Microsoft FRx was tailor-made for ever-changing business climates, to bring insight and control to the financial report creation, distribution and analysis process. It empowers you to create the kind of financial reports your organization requires, with the detail and flexibility necessary to stay on top of the trends in your business. It can help you and your organization work more efficiently, distribute critical financial information more efficiently, and understand the financial state of your business.

GET STARTED QUICKLY

- You can use Microsoft FRx to pull the information already set up in your general ledger.* It automatically understands fiscal periods, chart of accounts, various types of balances, positive and negative variances and posted and unposted transactions.
- Microsoft FRx offers you a tight integration with Microsoft Office Excel® so you can import the data maintained in spread sheets or export a completed report with formatting and formulas intact.
- FRx® Report Wizard gives you a step-by-step guide to quickly walk you through the report design process.

IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

- Microsoft FRx helps you automate the financial reporting process and makes it easy to provide comprehensive, timely and accurate financial reports with up-to-the minute information on a scheduled basis, or on the fly.
- Drill down functionality helps your people answer their own questions, by providing access to transaction-level detail underlying the rows in a report.
- FRx® Report Server enables you to schedule multiple reports to generate during off-peak hours, resulting in a minimal impact on your server resources. Reports can be automatically delivered to your stakeholders overnight, providing everyone with the information necessary for a productive start the next morning.
- “Reporting Tree-level” security rights enable you to distribute just one comprehensive report to everyone who needs the financial information, while feeling comfortable that individuals will only have access to the information that falls within their assigned viewing rights.

STAY ON TOP OF TRENDS IN YOUR BUSINESS

- You can provide your decision-makers with timely and accurate information on a scheduled basis, or whenever financial data is requested. Flexible delivery methods and many traditional or graphical output choices ensure a high-quality, professional presentation ready for analysis.

For more information about Microsoft FRx, visit our website at www.microsoft.com/frx

*Microsoft FRx is not available for all general ledgers. Customers who cannot use Microsoft FRx can take advantage of a simplified import process using other file types.



Microsoft Forecaster

Microsoft® Forecaster is the fast, affordable way to realize the benefits of budgeting and planning. It can be implemented quickly, it is easy to learn, and it enables you to establish a streamlined budgeting process with the flexibility to make adjustments as your business changes. With Microsoft Forecaster, you can make budgeting an ongoing process in your organization, while saving money throughout the year.

GET STARTED QUICKLY

- Your organization might be able to start benefiting from a better budgeting process in as little as two weeks. Integration with Microsoft FRx means you can use the historical information from your general ledger to build a base line budget right away. Your people can be trained to input their numbers in as little as one hour.
- Microsoft Forecaster can make budgeting easy. Features including automated e-mail notification during the budget approval process and a central location with goals and instructions aid the process. Your people can include notes and attachments, giving management insight to the rationale behind important numbers and assumptions made by other managers, reducing or eliminating the need for formal budgeting meetings.
- Customizable input screens for like cost centers or closely-related business units help managers get focused on their assigned accounts, and help keep the budgeting process on schedule.

EFFICIENTLY MANAGE THE BUDGETING PROCESS

- Around-the-clock access empowers more departments to participate in the budgeting process. And workflow management features show you at a glance which managers have entered their numbers and which have not. These features help you streamline the process and keep it on schedule.
- Microsoft Forecaster allows you to create budget hierarchies and scenarios that may be different from your organization's chart of account structure for what-if scenarios or to capture additional detail that is important to your organization's planning process. You can create different rollups for accounts, cost centers – or whatever accounting entities that are needed to be defined by your company. Simply create your rollups using the intuitive drag-and-drop interface, then run a simple restate function to consolidate your data.

CREATE A REALISTIC AND ACCURATE BUDGET

- With Microsoft Forecaster, your managers will be able to create budgets based on realistic goals. It allows you and your organization to consider more factors, such as exact salaries, capital expenditures and revenue projections in your budgets. Even non-financial factors that impact your budget, such as unit price and square footage or other statistical information, can be included.
- Microsoft Forecaster helps you feel confident about the quality of your numbers. Your people can input their own information, and review the information submitted by others with appropriate security features in place, helping reduce the chance for duplicate entry and associated errors.
- Changes can be made to cost centers by entering data directly into accounts or by using automatic copy/grow functions, calculated accounts, or a wide selection of spreadback methods. If there are any problems or any adjustments required, they can be fixed immediately. By simply entering a dollar amount or percentage change, your budget administrator can make an adjustment that will ripple through the entire plan.

REFORECAST AS YOUR BUSINESS CHANGES

- Leveraging the reporting capabilities of Microsoft Forecaster, you can take an in-depth look at the trends in your business. Based on your findings, you can reforecast your budget, make adjustments to your plan or experiment with different scenarios to support complicated decisions. Changes can easily be made and will be reflected in the budget quickly, and you can communicate your decisions and reasons using the tools within the system.

For more information about Microsoft Forecaster 7.0, visit our website at www.microsoft.com/forecaster