The Anaplan platform explained

As planning technology has evolved over time, it has unfortunately led to an all-too-familiar landscape of countless spreadsheets and standalone planning applications. Anaplan, unlike planning point solutions, overcomes this planning complexity and unifies all business planning with a groundbreaking planning platform powered by a new architecture.

A new era in planning across the enterprise
Table of contents

03  A brief history of spreadsheets and planning applications
06  Disintegrated business planning
07  Overcoming disintegrated business planning
09  Understanding planning applications in the market today
12  The Anaplan platform
14  Anaplan’s modeling innovations
17  The Anaplan user experience
19  Conclusion
20  Appendix
In the last 30 years, computing technology has revolutionized how organizations do planning. Spreadsheets gave us an incredibly flexible and easy-to-use planning tool, while countless planning applications now tackle most types of business planning done by business functions such as HR, Finance, Sales, Marketing, and Operations. Of course, the planning applications present in most parts of the organization have not replaced Excel® spreadsheets—which, though lacking computational horsepower, are more flexible and easier to adopt. Thus, we have a complex planning landscape of both standalone spreadsheets and disconnected applications—loosely stitched together with data integration tools, manual copy/pastes, and countless non-value-added processes. As a result, planning across the organization today is complex, slow, and disconnected.
Figure 1: Typical landscape of countless spreadsheets and point solutions leading to poor business planning performance.
Planning applications have historically fallen into the following categories: corporate performance management (CPM) led by finance; sales performance management (SPM) led by sales; workforce planning led by human resources; and supply chain management (SCM) led by operations. Software vendors since the 1990s have had success building point solutions to solve specific planning problems. In CPM for example, Hyperion, Cognos, and OutlookSoft innovated on-premise solutions using the advances in technology of the time to enable multi-user financial planning. These solutions typically included some modeling capabilities, but within tight constraints. The lack of flexibility in modeling drove many companies to model business questions in spreadsheets and only record the final “answers” in the tools to support the budgeting and forecasting process. In the last 10 years, cloud vendors have emerged—overcoming some of the challenges of their predecessors, though still lacking scalability and sufficient flexibility in modeling.

Supply chain planning blossomed as well, with i2 and Manugistics taking the lead in the 1990s. By nature, these solutions were more focused on complex “black-box” algorithms to define and balance supply and demand. Collaboration capabilities that allowed planners to work together and modeling capabilities were very rudimentary even for collaborative processes like consensus demand planning. Meanwhile, ERP vendors jumped on the bandwagon in the late 1990s, adding little innovation. Low adoption of these legacy tools and proliferation of spreadsheets are the norm at enterprises today. Emerging vendors, like Kinaxis are having success with improved usability and simplified, faster algorithms, while SAP, a legacy vendor in this area, is attempting to innovate with HANA (High-Performance Analytics Appliance), an in-memory database technology.

Sales performance management (SPM) has been served in a more limited way than CPM and SCM. Only a few vendors provide the ability to calculate incentive compensation, and planning functionality is limited to certain practices or industries. However, SPM planning needs, such as territory and quota planning and compensation planning, largely remain unmet since SPM vendors have not invested in modeling flexibility, the ability to test assumptions with “what-if” scenarios, and real-time calculations on large data. Complex, time-consuming, spreadsheet-based planning processes still prevail in sales organizations big and small.
Disintegrated business planning

The implication of this landscape of spreadsheets and point applications is not just sub-optimal performance for the planning process of each business function—HR, Finance, Sales, Marketing, and Operations. These disconnected organizational planning silos prevent the entire company from planning collaboratively across the business functions, and the applications thus become symbols of the disconnected organizational planning silos.

Ironically, even more point applications are emerging to bridge disconnected applications, such as sales and operations planning, control tower, and integrated business planning. However, this strategy of creating more point applications is counterproductive—adding complexity, latency, and duplication of data and planning process steps. The end result is an even more bloated landscape of point applications and Excel.

The cost of planning in departmental silos with inadequate tools is overwhelming. On one hand, incomplete, inaccurate plans result in lost revenue and market share due to sales ineffectiveness, slower time to market, and the unavailability of goods and services. On the other hand, companies see higher costs due to inefficiencies in operations, such as underutilization of resources and increased inventory. From the inefficiencies in the planning process and transfer of data, companies continually incur the costs of 1) hardware and software infrastructure of countless systems, including data integration tools, 2) manual data prep, copy/paste, and corrections from systems and spreadsheets, and 3) inefficient planning processes squandering hours from planners and executive decision makers.

Another significant area of cost frequently overlooked is that of shadow IT; i.e., tools and data flows used inside organizations without IT governance. Usage of Excel, email, and business-owned databases for planning and collaboration falls in the category of shadow IT and poses a great security risk. Confidential planning information, typically defining the future performance of the company, is not backed up, is stored and distributed without encryption, and can easily be leaked within and outside the company. Additionally, with ever-increasing regulations such as Sarbanes-Oxley, PCI, GAAP, and HIPAA, planning enabled by shadow IT is also a growing risk for internal and external compliance.
Overcoming disintegrated business planning

Let’s examine what’s needed to achieve business planning that is collaborative and integrated across all business functions, and that can accommodate more frequent and efficient synchronization of plans. Within a given planning process, the following is required:

**Ease of use** for both basic and expert planners to fully adopt the planning solution without using spreadsheet.

**Speed and scale** even when the number of users, data volume, and calculation complexity are high. Model, master data, and plan changes should be reflected immediately to all views.

**Ease and flexibility of modeling** to be flexible for different business practices, incorporate sufficient details, and allow business users to enhance models over time.

Now let’s have a look within a business function that consists of several planning processes, as well across multiple business functions (e.g. Sales, Marketing, Supply Chain, HR, and Finance). In addition to the previous three criteria, the following is needed:

**Real-time sharing of data** across planning processes to avoid latency, error-prone manual data transfers, etc.

**A consistent user interface** to avoid training issues and low adoption since most planners use several planning systems and/or spreadsheets.

**Model exchange** to allow sharing of models and spreading their associated planning best practices.
Speed and scale become even more important when planning spans multiple processes. In fact, it becomes a big data problem due to the volume of data and the number of calculations, with trillions of planning cells. In Figure 2, we see that a comprehensive planning platform, in contrast to a point solution, should support the four key planning disciplines defined above and unite them at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. Scenarios should be easily created and shared across planning. Such a platform optimizes planning both within and across business functions and enables organizations to unlock the value of more accurate plans produced more quickly and collaboratively—without the burden of a complex systems infrastructure and spreadsheets.

Figure 2: Planning processes integrated across business functions from strategic to operational levels.
In CPM, we have the traditional players—Cognos, BusinessObjects, and Hyperion—which were acquired by the large legacy vendors—IBM, SAP, and Oracle—respectively. Sometimes, these on-premise financial planning solutions, which have had little innovation since being acquired, are made available in the cloud but lack the benefits of a cloud-first solution, such as multitenancy, frequent releases, and a lower total cost of ownership. These traditional CPM solutions are characterized by lack of product innovation, slow performance (including batch calculations), poor usability, and inflexibility, and consequently, low adoption across the business.

More recently, several truly cloud-based, multitenant solutions have emerged—these include Host Analytics, Adaptive Insights, and Tidemark. Generally, these vendors have overcome usability issues for end users by making use of contemporary user experience paradigms and new user interface (UI) technology. However, these vendors have typically struggled to provide business planning and consolidation in large enterprises and even flexible modeling for smaller enterprise. Let’s examine why that’s the case.

Host Analytics and Adaptive Insights have lacked the in-memory computing capabilities required to scale for large data volumes and more complex financial calculations. Recognizing this, Host released in April 2015 a first version of in-memory planning—one can expect that it will take time to beta test and be migrated and adopted by existing customers, given the complexity of a planning engine. There is speculation that Adaptive Insights may also be re-architected from disk-based to in-memory computing in the future.

The newest kid on the SaaS block, Tidemark, avoided disk-based computing and uses “off-the-shelf” in-memory computing, which can scale not simply with a better performing server or cores, but across servers (which is technically known as horizontal scaling). However, this type of in-memory computing is optimized for analytics and not for planning, especially planning that requires flexible business-specific planning models. Additionally, horizontal scaling for planning use cases, where data is not just viewed but changed, results in longer calculation times using this generic in-memory technology (Tidemark uses open-source Apache Hadoop). This is because a top-down change—for example a “product family”—is disaggregated (using what is sometimes called “break-back”) to lower-level details such as countries and spread across servers or cores. These calculations across servers have business-related interdependencies, creating the need to communicate calculations dependencies and data physically across servers. After disaggregation and bottom-up calculations are completed, aggregation of data across servers is needed to see the top-down effect at an aggregate view, further requiring cross-server (or cross-core) information transfer. Unfortunately, this type of horizontal scaling, while allowing for larger datasets, is a fundamental obstruction to speed of planning calculations. Ironically, this performance bottleneck is similar to that of disk-based computing where information is transferred to and from disk and RAM.
Following these cloud vendors, it should be mentioned that SAP released a new cloud financial planning product in early 2015: SAP Cloud for Planning. It is extremely rare that SAP builds a cloud application (acquisitions are typically the norm). Similar to smaller cloud vendors, SAP’s solution makes a good visual impression with its user interface. Surprisingly, although SAP Cloud for Planning was not merely an on-premise solution forced into the cloud, the solution is not multitenant. It is very difficult to re-architect from single tenancy to multitenancy. Moreover, SAP has not proven that it has cloud competency in terms of both building successful true cloud products and maintaining the necessary cloud operations. SAP Business ByDesign is an example of perhaps the most-costly failed cloud initiative in software history. Likewise, SAP’s newly acquired cloud companies like SuccessFactors and Concur are managed separately from SAP’s core, where SAP Cloud for Planning resides.

Similar to Tidemark, in-memory computing is part of SAP’s strategy, leveraging SAP HANA. However, HANA is an analytics database heavily used on-premise for small sets of users, and, per its name, is not intended for planning (i.e., to allow users to make changes to plans). This leads to performance bottlenecks when modifying plans and viewing resulting calculations. Another side effect of HANA is that horizontal scaling across servers and cores is not supported for planning use cases. No doubt it will take time for the newest of the CPM products to mature and stabilize, especially from a company unfamiliar with the cloud. There is no confirmation that SAP will take on the vast effort to re-architect for multitenancy, speed of planning changes, and horizontal scaling.

In addition to scalability being insufficient for larger datasets and real-time calculations, the aforementioned CPM cloud vendors, as well as SAP Cloud for Planning, have had difficulties addressing large enterprise needs due to insufficient modeling capabilities. Even smaller companies have challenging modeling needs due to their industry-specific revenue modeling requirements, the use of driver-based forecasting and “what-if” scenarios, consolidation rules, or their hyper-growth nature. Modeling flexibility is lacking, making room for spreadsheet proliferation. Just as importantly, these cloud vendors lack the ease of use of modeling to enable business users to update models easily and in real time to reflect changing business assumptions. In fact, some vendors like Tidemark resort to technical syntax and scripting by experts with programming skills for making changes to models.

Figure 3: An illustration of sub-optimal horizontal scaling with a product family plan as an aggregation across seven countries. The corresponding data and calculations are consequently spread across four physical servers, obstructing speed of planning calculations.
Sales performance management’s planning needs—for example, incentive comp, sales forecasting, and territory and quota management—historically were met by Excel and on-premise solutions. An early pioneer, Callidus Cloud, was followed by Varicent (now an IBM offering with on-premise and hosted single tenant options) and pure cloud players, like Xactly (multitenant) and C9 (single tenant). Surprisingly, none of these established vendors cover the range of planning needed for SPM and related areas. For example, Callidus and Xactly don’t cover sales forecasting, while C9 doesn’t support territory and quota planning. Hence, there is a great opportunity for a common planning platform to enable planning across SPM and related areas.

Though some provide the advantage of a multitenant cloud, the Achilles heel of all SPM vendors is twofold. First, none enable planning using in-memory technology and thus lack the ability to scale for large sales teams or more complex planning models. Second, the vendors lack flexible modeling and remodeling capabilities to reflect evolving sales-related planning practices. As a result of these two planning deal-breakers, we see complex, error-prone, Excel template-based processes widely employed for SPM.

Supply chain planning (SCP), whether for demand or supply planning, traditionally consists of automated “black-box” planning algorithms, which produce unpredictable results and ignore the insights of supply chain planners. Solutions such as i2, Manugistics, and SAP’s APO suffer from low usability, long batch-process calculations, and hence low adoption, which all contribute to Excel’s dominance in this space. Unlike SPM, there are some in-memory players like Kinaxis and i2 (now JDA). However, many are disk-based, like Steelwedge, or have obsolete hybrid disk/in-memory architectures, like SAP’s APO and UIs from the 1990s. All lack the ability to scale horizontally. SAP’s newer IBP solution, similar to SAP Cloud for Planning, uses SAP HANA, which suffers from performance issues as HANA is not intended for planning, but rather big data analytics, as mentioned earlier in this document. Oracle’s Demantra is a dated, on-premise, disk-based architecture.

In terms of cloud maturity, the aforementioned SCP vendors have not caught up with CPM or SPM. Cloud vendors Steelwedge and Kinaxis have dated on-premise architectures, which were placed in the cloud, and SAP Integrated Business Planning (also known as SAP Sales and Operations Planning) is also available on-premise (due to its on-premise architecture). It’s no surprise that none of the SCP solutions are multitenant. In terms of modeling, supply chain planning solutions either have no modeling (especially supply planning solutions) or, at best, have very rudimentary functionality (like demand planning solutions and sales and operations [S&OP] solutions) to be used by programmers or senior consultants. Modeling limitations are in fact impeding SCP process maturity, which requires more financial and KPI (key performance indicator) modeling to understand the impact of supply-demand balancing scenarios.

In summary, SCP presents a great opportunity for an in-memory, scalable, multitenant platform. Such a planning platform would unify the currently disjointed planning domains (demand planning, capacity planning, MRP, supplier collaboration, production planning, detailed scheduling, inventory optimization, demand sensing, response management, etc.).
Figure 4: The Anaplan platform and its enabling components.

**Planning Engine**
- 64 bit in-memory
- Real-time modeling engine
- Hyperblock™ calculation engine
- Model and data change history manager

**Data Integration**
- Self-service UI
- Pre-built connectors and automation
- Rest APIs

**App Management**
- Custom apps with app designer
- Pre-built apps on App Hub
- Monitor apps

**User Interface**
- Web, MS Office, Mobile
- Analytics, reporting, planning
- Model map and settings
- Administration

**Users**
- Marketing
- Finance
- Sales
- HR
- Supply Chain
- Operations
- R&D
- IT

**CRM**
- Legacy planning systems
- External data
- Files

**ERP**
- BI
Used by hundreds of customers across dozens of industries, Anaplan is the only comprehensive platform fulfilling planning needs across the enterprise, supporting planning in any business function, including Sales, HR, Finance, Marketing, Services, Operations, Supply Chain, and IT. Let’s examine why Anaplan is groundbreaking in terms of 1) enabling technology, 2) modeling capabilities, and 3) user interface. Figure 4 summarizes the platform’s enabling components, which we’ll explore in the remainder of this paper.

The cloud has proven itself as the optimal means for customers to experience software. Most planning vendors have a cloud deployment model; yet, even today, very few are truly multitenant. Multitenancy offers the essential cloud benefits of synchronized software versions (allowing for higher software quality, higher SLAs, and access to the latest functionality) and lower operational costs. This is due to the fact that most cloud planning products are on-premise software masquerading as something more than hosted (especially larger legacy and SCM vendors). Anaplan was only built for secure cloud consumption and has the cloud know-how in terms of its people, its mature cloud operational processes, and experience with its large and growing SaaS customer base.

Anaplan is not only multitenant but also in-memory, the proven instrument for speed and scale. Not surprisingly, other vendors are starting to follow suit, employing in-memory rather than disk-based computing. However, not all in-memory planning is equal. Only Anaplan can scale for more complex models and for large enterprises, since Anaplan does not use off-the-shelf in-memory computing, but instead has a patented in-memory, Java-based planning engine. In particular, the patented Anaplan Hyperblock™ technology is optimized for planning and not merely analytics, unlike SAP HANA. What’s more, Anaplan’s unparalleled modeling flexibility makes it possible for Anaplan customers to scale horizontally across hardware without compromising speed, unlike off-the-shelf frameworks such as Apache Hadoop. Only Anaplan offers scalable in-memory technology and is, in fact, unique in its ability to handle trillions of planning cells for thousands of users across multiple models for a given customer.

Figure 6: Measurement of Anaplan customer usage reflecting both unmatched scaling and adoption across planning use cases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance measure</th>
<th>Anaplan’s customer proof point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cells</td>
<td>Trillions of cells on which to plan across models for some customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Users</td>
<td>Thousands of planners for some customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Models</td>
<td>Thousands of models for some customers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anaplan’s modeling innovations

Next, let’s get into the foundation of planning, which is modeling. Only Anaplan modeling can do justice to the spectrum of planning disciplines within CPM, SPM, SCM, workforce planning, and beyond. Anaplan is not just another point solution that’s limited to one planning discipline, but rather the first comprehensive planning platform. This is not a theoretical claim. Rather, we believe it’s validated by Anaplan customers creating apps with models across these areas, the wealth of diversity on the Anaplan App Hub (the planning app exchange), and analyst evaluations—for example, the 2015 Gartner Magic Quadrants placed Anaplan in the Visionaries quadrant for SPM¹ and CPM.² Additionally, several Anaplan customers have well over a thousand apps, a first in the history of planning. The modeling flexibility ensures high adoption by the business, and enables planning automation via business rules and predictive analytics techniques such as statistical forecasting. Some SCP, S&OP, and CPM point-solution providers have tried to take a first step into becoming planning platforms by venturing into new areas like planning for the sales organization, but have had minimal success.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modeling differentiators</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flexibility to model any planning use case</td>
<td>Build more accurate models of any planning process including CPM, SPM, SCP, and Workforce Planning from strategic to operational levels. Includes time series and order/opportunity modeling and complex KPIs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrate planning across all use cases</td>
<td>Integrate plans across all planning use cases in real time, avoiding transfer of data from point applications and spreadsheets. Enable Integrated Business Planning at strategic and operational levels across CPM, SPM, workforce planning, and SCM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-time model adjustments</td>
<td>View and validate impact of modeling assumptions on plans and KPIs in real time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excel formula-like calculation definitions</td>
<td>Define business rules and calculations without using technical expressions, scripting, or coding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text values over time</td>
<td>Allow planners to manage time-phased text values and text in time-dependent logical expressions to represent planning decisions and other purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-time hierarchy management</td>
<td>Allow business users to change hierarchy definitions in real time, using drag-and-drop functionality, concurrently while planners are modifying plans and scenarios.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-time “what-if” scenario planning on plans and master data</td>
<td>Let business users create scenarios on-the-fly to test assumptions and optimize projected outcomes. Allow changes to scenarios based on master in real time (e.g., new products, customers, new hierarchy definitions).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model change history</td>
<td>Understand and audit changes to your models and revert back to older model versions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data change history</td>
<td>Understand changes and change drivers to your plans. Provide transparency to cross-functional planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s also exceptional is that Anaplan model changes happen in real time and not as a batch process like other planning applications. Adding dimensions, changing a hierarchy, adding a new type of plan, or changing a calculation is reflected immediately in dashboards and reports. This allows for more rapid iterative changes to models without delaying the planning process, thanks to the Hyperblock™ calculation engine. And only Anaplan has a full change history, not only on the planning numbers but all model changes for analysis, auditing, and even recovery of past model versions.

Unlike other vendors, the Anaplan platform enables business applications (apps), to be created and exchanged. Anaplan empowers business users, consultants, and partners to create apps by easily defining sophisticated models and the needed UI with no programming or scripting. The apps can then be exchanged on the Anaplan App Hub to share best practices and speed up implementations. There are nearly 100 Anaplan and partner-created apps on the App Hub as of June 2015. Look for other vendors to follow in Anaplan’s footsteps at some point in the future, but in a very limited fashion, focusing on point solutions in certain domains like financial planning and without the ability for the business to easily create apps.

To support these wide-ranging use cases, Anaplan is designed to integrate any data from any source. Data integration can be self-service to allow the business to get started quickly via the Anaplan UI. ETL (extract, transform, load) tools and other automated methods like Anaplan connect provide more sophisticated, scalable options. Predefined, bidirectional Anaplan connectors with MuleSoft, SnapLogic, and Boomi ETL tools quickly connect the Anaplan platform to SaaS applications like Salesforce.com, Workday, and NetSuite, and ERP vendors like SAP and Oracle. Customers can also build custom integrations via Anaplan’s REST APIs. Unlike other planning vendors, Anaplan lets you quickly link your various Anaplan models together; for example, to integrate sales and finance with supply chain. This avoids the data integration projects mandated with other vendors to integrate their point solutions, not to mention Excel spreadsheets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application management differentiators</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>App building</td>
<td>Enable business users and partners to turn models into apps without coding including dashboards, reports, and planning models.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App Hub</td>
<td>Download, publish, and exchange apps to speed up implementation and sharing of best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>App monitor</td>
<td>Understand and optimize usage, maintenance, and performance of deployed apps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Anaplan user experience

What makes the Anaplan user experience so unique? To start, all changes to plans or the model happen in real time for Anaplanners. This breaks the traditional planning routine of waiting minutes and hours, if not overnight, for plan changes and interrelated calculations to process. After changing a cell, there is no extra button to click to save or submit changes, and the numbers impacted by the change, like revenue or inventory, update immediately. This is a tremendous paradigm shift in user experience due to Anaplan’s unmatched architecture. Likewise, changing a model definition or master data becomes a welcomed swift event.
To support this immediacy, Anaplan has a single consistent UI that allows Anaplanners (with the right permissions) to make model changes and view dashboards and reports at the same time. This is enabled via the Hyperblock™ Calculation Engine. Imagine changing your hierarchy definition via drag and drop or changing a complex KPI definition, and seeing the impact on your dashboard immediately.

To make models easier to understand and update, Anaplan offers its innovative Model Map to visually explore, zoom in, analyze, and change planning models—this is equivalent to being able to visualize Excel formulas within a workbook and across multiple workbooks. This breakthrough lets you avoid sifting through tabular pages in Web UIs of traditional applications and writing down notes to understand model and calculation interdependencies.

To further simplify user experience and accelerate planning and decision-making, there is no separation of planning and dashboarding/reporting UIs. An Anaplanner can change numbers (given the right permissions) on any view as they do analysis and reporting, and even pivot the data interactively without designing a secondary view—avoiding the all-too-familiar user experience and training nightmare of having to navigate from a dashboard view to another part of the UI to recreate a new but identical view for planning (making a change), and then navigating back to the dashboard to understand the impact. Other applications on the market have completely separate UIs in this case (and sometimes different URLs for access) and also have a delay—sometimes of hours or days—to see changes via analytics. Master data changes, such as adding a product or customer, are also possible from this single view. The Anaplan UI lives up to the name, fusing analytics and planning into one entity like never before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User interface differentiators</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate rendering of plan and model changes to all views</td>
<td>Understand impact of plan, master data, and model changes in real time without additional clicks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fusing of planning, reporting, and analytics</td>
<td>Simplified user experience allowing planning and analysis (and master data maintenance) to occur simultaneously on the same view. Reduced training time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interactive pivoting for planning and reporting</td>
<td>Allow business users to pivot their views for planning, reporting, and dashboarding for ad-hoc analysis and planning at multiple levels. Avoid redefining multiple sets of views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single consistent business user-friendly UI</td>
<td>Simplified user experience and reduced training time with one UI for planning, modeling, and administration. Allow business users to entirely own and maintain the application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model map visualization</td>
<td>Build, understand, and update models more quickly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To further simplify user experience and accelerate planning and decision-making, there is no separation of planning and dashboarding/reporting UIs. An Anaplanner can change numbers (given the right permissions) on any view as they do analysis and reporting, and even pivot the data interactively without designing a secondary view—avoiding the all-too-familiar user experience and training nightmare of having to navigate from a dashboard view to another part of the UI to recreate a new but identical view for planning (making a change), and then navigating back to the dashboard to understand the impact. Other applications on the market have completely separate UIs in this case (and sometimes different URLs for access) and also have a delay—sometimes of hours or days—to see changes via analytics. Master data changes, such as adding a product or customer, are also possible from this single view. The Anaplan UI lives up to the name, fusing analytics and planning into one entity like never before.
We have entered a new era of planning. Companies can now drive the future of their business—within and across departments, at strategic, tactical, and operational levels—without compromising on ease of use, flexibility, ease of model changes, the sharing of best practices, and the speed to assess the impact of planning scenarios. The Anaplan platform is enabled by the unique combination of:

01 a scalable, multitenant, cloud-based, in-memory architecture

02 a patented, real-time, change-tracking, Java-based planning engine

03 the ability for the business to easily build, own, and share apps

04 a user experience set apart by real-time model and planning changes, and the merging of planning and analytics

As described by Constellation Research,³

“[Anaplan] has a use-case subscription option, so you can start with just one app. But the growing strength of Anaplan is the platform, which lets you take advantage of an agile, consistent planning approach across finance, sales, HR, operations and a growing number of industry- and task-specific use cases.”

Anaplan’s hundreds of customers, some with thousands of Anaplan apps, are a testimony to the power and value of this groundbreaking platform that has freed them from countless spreadsheets and standalone planning applications. This unrivaled planning platform is enabling enterprises to plan flexibly and securely across their ever-changing business in real time and to continuously optimize their performance.
## Appendix

A handy checklist of what to look for in a planning solution that will help you continuously improve your business.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Modeling and planning</th>
<th>User experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cloud deployment model</td>
<td>Use cases across the business: CPM, SPM, S&amp;OP, SCP, Workforce planning</td>
<td>Immediate rendering of plan and model changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multitenancy</td>
<td>Integrated planning across all use cases</td>
<td>Fusing of planning, reporting, and analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-memory computing</td>
<td>Real-time model adjustments</td>
<td>Interactive pivoting without design mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizontal scaling</td>
<td>Excel formula-like calculation</td>
<td>Consistent business user-friendly UI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-time calculation on large data sets</td>
<td>Text values over time</td>
<td>Model map visualization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Real-time hierarchy management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scenarios on plans and master data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Model and data change history</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>App building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>App exchange (App Hub)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes


2. Gartner “Magic Quadrant for Corporate Performance Management Suites” by Christopher Iervolino and John E. Van Decker, April 2, 2015.


Gartner does not endorse any vendor, product or service depicted in its research publications, and does not advise technology users to select only those vendors with the highest ratings or other designation. Gartner research publications consist of the opinions of Gartner’s research organization and should not be construed as statements of fact. Gartner disclaims all warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to this research, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.
Anaplan is the enterprise planning cloud. Anaplan brings together an unrivaled planning and modeling engine, collaboration in the cloud, and a simple interface for business users. Anaplan customers can choose from over 100 pre-built planning apps from the Anaplan App Hub, or easily build their own apps. Anaplan is a privately held company, headquartered in San Francisco, CA with global offices on four continents.

To learn more, visit anaplan.com.