

Mapping Finance's Route to Monthly Forecasts

Turn-by-turn directions to move your forecasts from instantly obsolete to instantly actionable



There's a lot of traffic and congestion between today's uncertain reality and your strategic business goals. You can't rely on plans and predictions you made **even a few months ago** with so much happening.

It's time to **reroute your thinking** on planning and forecasting. Taking the scenic route only puts you further behind.



Mapping out your goals equips finance to easily bypass roadblocks, eliminate misdirection, and quickly find your way to **more frequent, more accurate, and more useful** rolling monthly forecasts to stay ahead of that snarled traffic.

Let's go!

START

Fuel up with cloud planning software

You need a full tank (or battery!) to get where you're going. A cloud-based planning and forecasting solution gives you the power needed for forecasting at an increased frequency without disrupting your business with unnecessary stops.

An affordable, efficient way to:

Automate processes

Centralise Reports and financial information

Provide unified data source to align teams

By starting down the right path, you'll add speed and accuracy to forecasting, so you have more time to focus on strategy and analysis—or just look out the window and enjoy the scenery.

Waypoint A: Take the onramp to quarterly forecasts

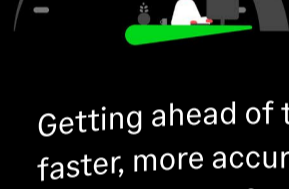
It's important to merge onto this modern finance highway at an appropriate pace, so plan on first moving to quarterly forecasts.

This gives you more speed and insights, while also helping you create a process, refine it, and get comfortable with your new route and your cloud software's capabilities without feeling pressured.

Look at your current forecasting process, identify pain points, and identify improvements.

As you learn your new solution, you'll have time to explore and bring the business into the journey without impacting your quarterly forecasting process.

Waypoint B: Steer towards impactful forecasts



No need to exceed the speed limit here; ease in with a high-level, top-down forecast at a level you're already comfortable with.

Getting ahead of the traffic flow can distract you from the goal of getting faster, more accurate forecasts into the hands of decision-makers. It's also helpful to focus on areas where better forecasts will really make an impact.

Categories or business lines with high variability are good starting points to give you quick wins needed to maintain momentum. Consider comparing revenue, margin, and other projections with prior forecasting methods to quantify your progress, too.

HIGH VARIABILITY → QUICK WINS → MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Waypoint C: Cross the bridge to the business

Crossing the bridge means building trust with stakeholders across the business. The better your forecasts get, the more confidence they'll have in them and your team.



It brings you into their world to collaborate beyond forecasts and into scenario modelling, planning, and more. It also gives you more opportunities to frame information in ways the business can better utilise with interactive dashboards and tailored reports.

You're **driving the organisation** to make better decisions and give them more reasons to seek out finance for strategic navigation.

Waypoint D: Turn forecasts into actions

You're almost there! Show your progress by pointing to improvements and decisions that were better informed and had better outcomes due to your new, timely, more accurate forecasts.

Inviting the business into the driver's seat will give them more buy-in on the data and more confidence in the resulting direction. You'll then have more influence to help them make changes and course-correct based on revised forecasts.

And don't forget to **celebrate** these wins with the business along the way!

Destination: Modern finance, modern forecasts

You have arrived! Before cloud planning software, you could only move as fast as your tools allowed. That meant working nights and weekends and limiting the business to infrequent forecasts.

But today's C-suite and business leaders expect instant answers, ideally with a monthly rolling forecast cadence.

You won't get there driving spreadsheets and emails. Cloud-based forecasting solutions are the new way to travel, eliminating your reliance on slow, manual spreadsheets and replacing them with a real-time engine of financial truth for fast and nimble monthly forecasting.

Road trip to monthly forecasting

Change is happening fast. When you're driving through the chaotic traffic of today's world, you depend on your navigation system to keep you on the right track.

That's what forecasts do for your business. But old forecasts are like an out-of-date map: so much has changed that you just can't be confident, and you're likely to end up at a dead-end.

So, hop onboard **Sage Intacct Planning for modern cloud-based forecasting.**



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