5 Cures for Static Planning

Stop the bleeding. And reclaim
the time, money, and opportunity
you're losing to static planning.
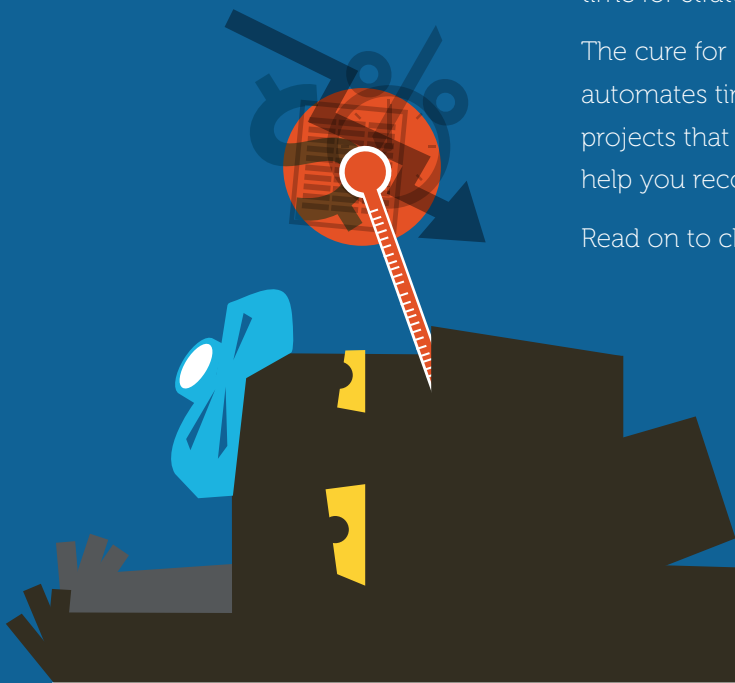
Adaptive Insights
A Workday Company

Cure the Costs of Static Planning

In our eBook *5 Costs of Static Planning*, we listed the personal pain and enterprise-wide costs of long planning cycles, immediately obsolete plans, siloed efforts, hard-to-find errors, and never enough time for strategic analyses.

The cure for all this begins with active planning. Active planning automates time-consuming tasks to free up your team for strategic projects that add real value. It's the key to accurate, agile plans that help you recognize and capture every growth opportunity.

Read on to check where it hurts and how to cure it.

Symptom	Cure
Static planning steals time. Endless manual, menial tasks cost you time and rob finance of capacity.	**Automate manual tasks** and take back your life.
Static planning invites errors. Spreadsheets are rife with errors, and that kills confidence in your numbers.	**Flow data directly from back-end systems—** and stop worrying.
Static planning can't scale. Spreadsheets are really only built for one user—not for many.	**Move to a cloud platform** for true collaboration and dramatically cut your administrative workload.
Static planning obstructs insight. Looking backward leads to decisions made on hunches, not data.	**Spend your time looking forward**—and go from data jockey to business leader.
Static planning robs you of opportunities. It blinds you to new revenue streams and markets.	**Model scenarios and perform what-if analyses** to spot the big opportunities.

Cure #1
Automate manual tasks and take back your life.

What if you spent 80% less time* on low-value tasks? We're talking the manual, menial stuff that sucks up most of your day, but—and we're just being honest here—does nothing to help your standing in the company.

Suddenly, you'll find yourself freed from sending Excel files back and forth, manually re-linking models, and chasing down linking errors.

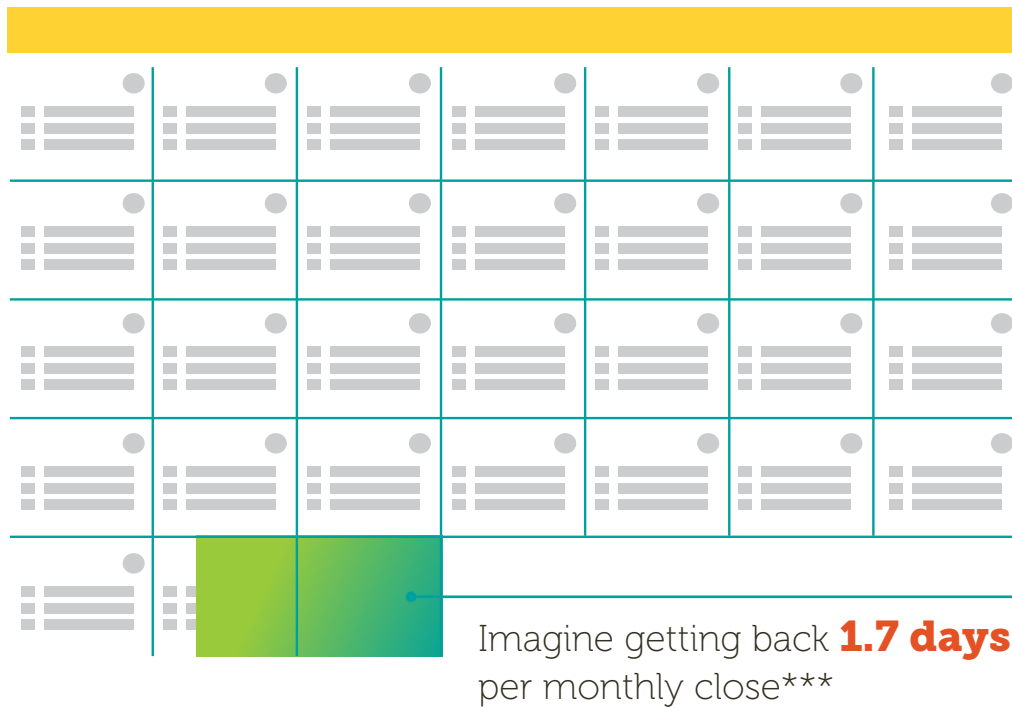And you'll finally have the time to understand the "why" behind the data.

That's what active planning does for you. No longer burdened with endless manual tasks, you can cut your planning and reporting cycles by 50-70%.*

Imagine getting all that time back.

When you automate the tasks you've always done manually, decisions come 20-30% faster.**

Imagine taking action that much sooner.

Then, with all that recaptured time, go ahead and reallocate your team's capacity to where it's really needed most, and equip your business to act faster and smarter.

Imagine getting back **1.7 days** per monthly close***

*Adaptive Insights Customer Success Interviews
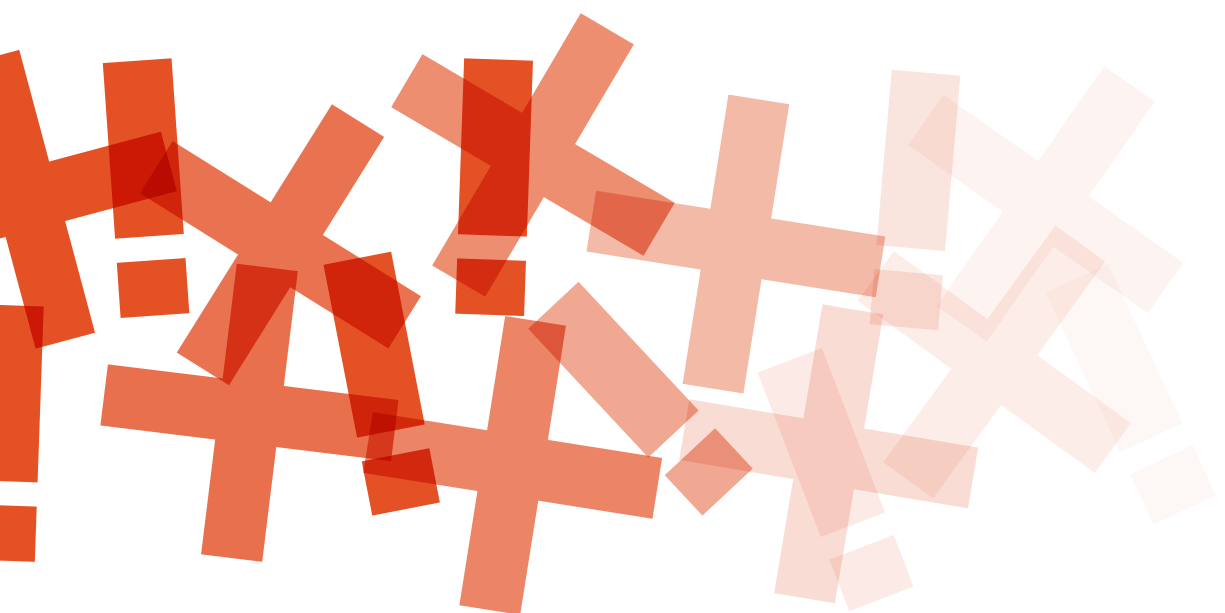**Aberdeen Group
***Ventana Research

Cure #2
Flow data from back-end systems. And stop worrying.

Spreadsheets are riddled with mistakes and broken formulas. As we showed in *5 Costs of Static Planning*, those flubs can cost a pretty penny—and no one wants to be the one who gets the blame.

That's never a worry with active planning, where finance and operational data flows directly from back-end systems. All those errors caused by manually entering the wrong number (or relying on a wonky spreadsheet formula) disappear.

Gone, too, are those pesky problems that flow from a single mistake onto every linked spreadsheet, budget, forecast, and report.

Best of all, you'll say goodbye forever to all the risks those errors cause—risks to your forecasts, your revenues, and even your reputation.

Watch errors and risk disappear.

Cure #3
Move planning to the cloud for real collaboration—and a lot less work.

Everybody plans. And planning works best when people from across your business—in finance and beyond—contribute to forecasts and budgets, and even sketch out what-if scenarios.

(Without everyone participating and working from a single source of truth, the result is confusion, costly mistakes, backtracking, and a siloed and unscalable approach to planning.)

It turns out business leaders already recognize this, with 77% telling KPMG that planning, budgeting, and forecasting needs to be driven jointly by finance and other parts of the business.*

Only an easy-to-use, cloud-based, active planning platform enables true enterprise-scale planning.

With the right platform, you'll always know who made changes to what and when (no more worries over version control!), and you can easily put up guardrails so only authorized users can access or edit specific budgets or reports.

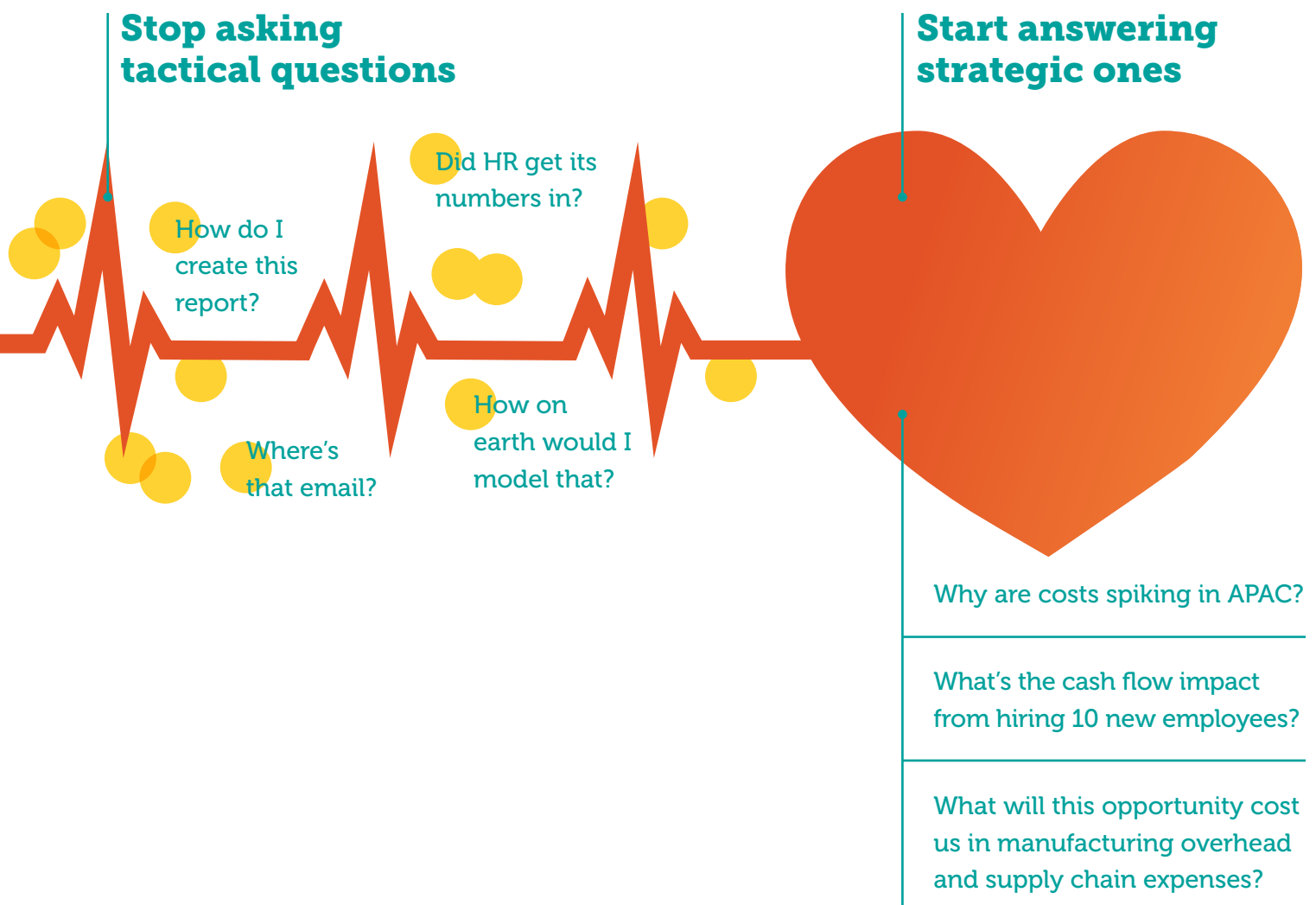**Every stakeholder included.**

Every change accounted for.

*KPMG, "Planning, Budgeting & Forecasting: An Eye on the Future"

Cure #4
Ditch the rearview mirror view. And go from data jockey to business leader.

Active planning gives you the ability to stop trying to steer your business by only looking in your rearview mirror. It lets you see what's coming. How? By creating forecasts, analyses, and what-if scenarios that combine historical perspectives with always-current information.

You'll understand the implications of possible decisions so you can take action based on insight, not instinct.

What's more, you can look beyond the tactical. That means you and your team can fully become the strategic assets your organization needs.

Stop asking tactical questions

How do I create this report?

Did HR get its numbers in?

Where's that email?

How on earth would I model that?

Start answering strategic ones

Why are costs spiking in APAC?

What's the cash flow impact from hiring 10 new employees?

What will this opportunity cost us in manufacturing overhead and supply chain expenses?
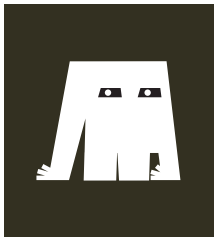
Cure #5
Plan scenarios and what-if analyses— and become that genius who spots what others miss.

At Adaptive Insights, we've seen it thousands of times: Armed with comprehensive visibility into enterprise performance, finance emerges as an integral voice in the most important decisions of the business.

Proactive reporting and analytics become commonplace, because automating previously manual tasks gives you more time to answer the big questions and make the right decisions sooner.

With active planning, potentially profitable opportunities don't slip by unnoticed.

So you become the kind of hero who spots those things everyone else overlooks. Then maybe you can spend more than 17%* of your time on the kind of strategic thinking that gets you noticed.

Stop the bleeding. Take the cure. And eliminate the costs of static planning.

There's no reason to suffer another minute with static planning. With Adaptive Insights, you can embrace active planning with the world's first business planning cloud.

Connect with us to learn how you can deploy the Adaptive Insights Business Planning Cloud for intuitive budgeting, planning, forecasting, reporting, and dashboards.

It's the key to charting your own path to active planning—in finance, sales, and throughout your organization.

Ready to eliminate static planning once and for all? Learn how now.