# HEADCOUNT AND COMPENSATION PLANNING



PERFORMANCE BLUEPRINT WEB-BASED PLANNING FOR MANAGING HEADCOUNT AND SALARY DECISIONS

**VERSION 1.0** 



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This application brief demonstrates a webbased planning process for managing headcount and the compensation process projections using IBM Cognos 8 Planning. By implementing the IBM Cognos Headcount and Compensation Planning Blueprint, a company will have forward-looking visibility into workforce decisions at the divisional level, and at the company level as a whole. The headcount projections can be leveraged as a driver in other planning processes of the organization. The Blueprint and processes described in this document are generic for employees in any industry in the US, but can be configured to support the complexity of fixed and variable compensation requirements for any industry across many countries.



# **OVERVIEW**

Employee related expenses are often the largest expense lines on a company's Profit and Loss statement. At the corporate level, best efforts are being taken to manage employee-related spending, while at the divisional level, line managers are making salary and headcount decisions to optimize the efficiency and output of their staff. Collaboration needs to occur on a forward-looking basis so that divisional level decisions are in line with corporate expectations.

Proper headcount assignment can be dependent upon a number of drivers, including Sales Volume trends, and Customer Service KPI objectives, and also may be affected by business operational issues such as Business Unit Relocation, and Restructuring. Headcount can also be a driver for many other areas, such as Help Desk support, IT spending, Call Center Support planning, and even Sales Volume when revenue projections are tied to revenue productivity of sales agents.

Therefore, it is critical that tactical workforce decisions made at the divisional level are aligned with corporate strategy and objectives.

Employee Compensation can also be a key driver towards employee productivity. Merit increases tied to individual, team, divisional and corporate performance objectives can act as an incentive with much more return for the company than an arbitrary annual pay increase.

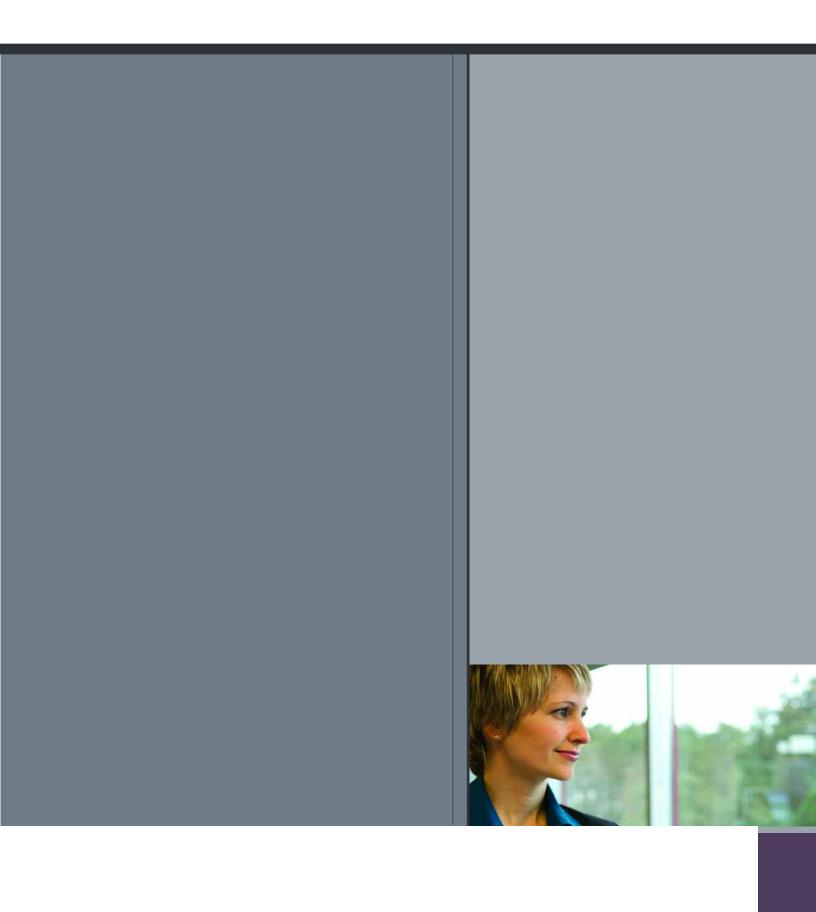
# **BLUEPRINT OBJECTIVES:**

The IBM Cognos *Headcount and Compensation Planning Blueprint* achieves a number of planning objectives:

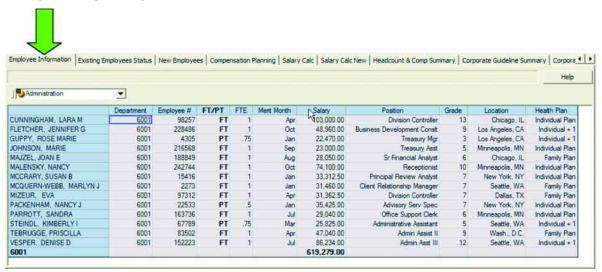
- Manages headcount for both Existing and New Employees
- 2. Manages Salary, Merit and Bonus decisions at the employee and/or group level.
- 3. Determines Benefit and Tax Expenses
- **4.** Links Salary and Headcount projections as a driver for other items on an expense plan
- 5. Demonstrates variable compensation capabilities
- Demonstrates internal transfer planning capabilities

# KEY BENEFITS OF THE COGNOS ENTERPRISE PLANNING SOLUTION:

- Flexible Blueprint development using IBM Cognos 8
  Planning to support any Headcount and Compensation Blueprint;
- Web based deployment of models for data collection and consolidation;
- Real-time workflow;
- Real-time consolidation;
- Real-time calculations in the browser for immediate results;
- Scalable architecture with proven deployments to thousands of line managers;
- Linking functionality to provide collaboration between all areas of the corporation;
- Capability to perform form-based planning with selection boxes to drive application logic and calculations.



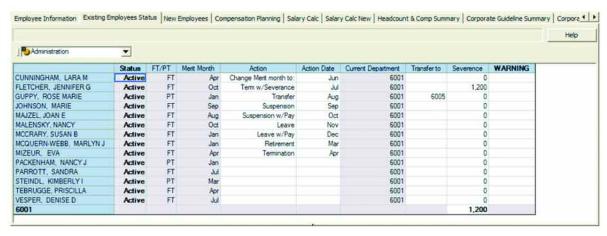
### **EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**



The first tab in the *Blueprint*, named "Employee Information" contains information uploaded from your current payroll system that will be used in calculating both Salaries and Benefits.

There are no selections to be made on this tab as it is for informational purposes only.

### **EXISTING EMPLOYEE STATUS**

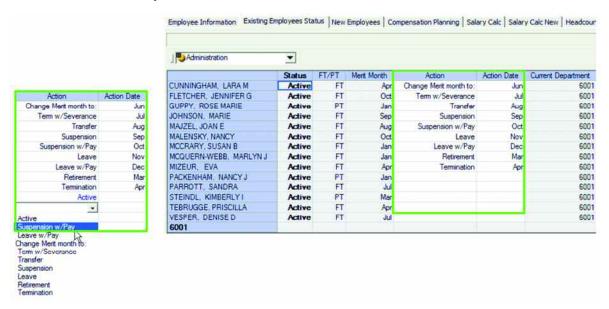


The second tab of the *Blueprint*, named "Existing Employee Status" is where we manage the Headcount of our Existing Employees.

Fields in GRAY are non-editable and are linked over from the "Employee Information" tab. Fields in WHITE are editable and used to manage our existing Headcount.

As changes are made they are highlighted in **BLUE** along with any cells affected by the change. As changes to this table are made, the Headcount and Salary impacts are being made automatically to the subsequent tabs affected by the changes.

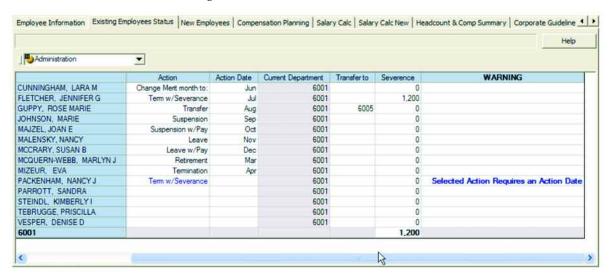
The selections in this *Blueprint* are below:



Action Code – The Action Code field is a list of codes describing the reason for the Status Change. Each of the codes has different business rules associated with it, and the financial ramifications are calculated automatically month-by-month for the user using standardized assumptions. There are no set limits to the number of Action Codes that can be set up in the system, and any business rules and conditions can be set up.

Action Date – The Action Date provides the effective month for the Status Change and the corresponding Action Code. The Action Date drives the financial month-by-month changes that occur based upon Status Changes.

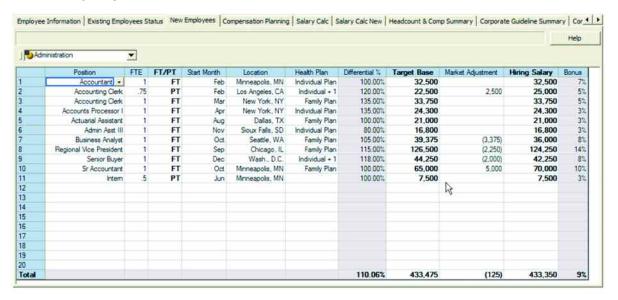
There are additional fields to the right:



Transfer To – Companies often have difficulty planning employee transfers in the upcoming year. Employees can sometimes "fall through the cracks" as a department recognizes the transfer out on their plan while the receiving department fails to recognize the incoming employee. The collaborative capabilities of the Cognos planning solution allow for processes to manage planned employee transfers effectively.

Severance – When choosing an Action that requires Severance pay, a warning would be issued to enter the Severance amount. Other WARNINGS would be issued based upon the selections made. As an example, all Actions would require an Action Month.

### **NEW EMPLOYEES**



The third tab of the *Blueprint*, "New Employees" is where we manage the Headcount or hiring of our New Employees.

The manager for this department enters the projected hiring schedule for the upcoming year. All of the fields that are editable are in WHITE. Those fields in GRAY are determined based upon the choices made in the white fields. For example, entering an employee's FTE (Full Time Equivalent) as 1 would designate the employee as FT (Full Time), making a choice of .75 or .5 would designate the employee as PT (Part Time). All of the text fields are selected by dropdown.

As before, the changes that are made are highlighted in **BLUE**. As changes to this table are made, the Headcount and Salary impacts are being made automatically to the subsequent tabs affected by the changes.

# Planning by position:

A selection is made from a list of pre-approved positions.

The Employees FTE is chosen.

The FT/PT field will be instantly calculated.

A start month is selected.

A location where this employee will be working.

The employee's Health Plan Choice.

Our *Blueprint* allows a differential to be paid based upon where the employee will be located. Minneapolis is our baseline, so a location of Minneapolis would pay 100% of the recommended midpoint for this position. Someone working in New York, as you can see, would get a differential equal to 135% of the midpoint, while someone working in Sioux Falls, SD would get 85% of the midpoint.

Each position has an associated salary grade. It is the combination of this salary grade and differential choice that causes the Target Base to be populated. The Manager then has the capability to make a Marketing Adjustment to the Target Base in order to arrive at a Hiring Salary.

The Bonus % is arrived at using business rules embedded in the model. Based upon the grade, and assuming all first year employees perform at mid level a Bonus % is brought via a lookup table. Our model pays a bonus to employees who serve at least six months in the calendar year. That bonus is spread over their entire pay period. These rules are assumptions made within the existing *Blueprint*. It is very easy to modify a Blueprint to reflect a customer's own set of Headcount and Payroll Assumptions.

The form-based paradigm of this tab allows a user to prepare a plan based upon the decisions they'll make to manage their employees, rather than burdening them with the month-by-month calculations of cost and headcount. This makes workforce planning easy for the department manager, while providing visibility for corporate into the decisions that make up changes to the workforce, rather than just receiving the change in dollar spend in a department.

# **COMPENSATION PLANNING**



In the first three tabs we've made decisions regarding Headcount Planning. In the fourth tab, "Compensation Planning", we manage our Existing Employees Compensation. Doing so will require making a decisions around four main areas.

Our first decision will be to select a Performance level for each employee from a drop down list of predetermined choices. In our *Blueprint*, an employee may fall into the category of Star, High, Medium, or Low. This information combined with where an employee stands relative to their midpoint salary determines the recommended Merit Increase.

The Recommended Merit Increase may then be adjusted by the user to reflect the user's ultimate desire. This adjustment may be made by adjusting either the Merit Adjustment \$\\$, or the Merit Adjustment %. Manipulating either will reflect in a New Salary being calculated for the employee.

Having arrived at a New Salary, the user may then, if desired make an adjustment to the Recommended Bonus. The Bonus % is looked up in a table based upon the Employees performance and what Grade level they are. The Bonus % is therefore a corporate guideline. As with the Merit Increase, the Recommended Bonus may be adjusted using either the Bonus Adjustment \$ or the Bonus Adjustment % fields. Adjusting either will cause a New Salary with Bonus to be calculated.

Our fourth and final decision centers on Equity. The user may grant Stock Options, RSU's (Restricted Share Units), or "other" compensation to the employee.

Once having completed these four decisions, the *Blueprint* has all the information it needs to go forward and calculate the monthly Salary, Benefits and Headcount for the user.

It should be noted, that the user could plan at both the individual employee level or for all employees at one time. Planning at the Total Department level allows Managers to Target specific corporate guidelines in areas such as Merit Compensation or Department Bonuses.

# **SALARY CALC**

Help										
							•	ALENSKY, NANCY	▼ JMA	Administration
Total Year	Dec	ov.	No	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	
74,100	74,100	74,100		74,100	74,100	74,100	74,100	74,100	74,100	Base Salary
				3.74%						Merit %
	3.74% 3.74%		3.74%						Merit % Cumm	
		Leave								Action
16	8	8		0	0	0	0	0	0	Action Cumm
24,599	0 0		2,460	2,460	2,460	2,460	2,460	2,460	Bonus	
0	0	0		0	0	0	.0	0	0	Severence
86,580	0	0		8,866	8,635	8,635	8,635	8,635	8,635	Total Salary
0.00	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	Headcount
4,984.80	0.00	0.00		166.52	535.36	535.36	535.36	535.36	535.36	Social Security
865.80	0.00	0.00	1/2	88.66	86.35	86.35	86.35	86.35	86.35	Medicare
90.00	0.00	0.00	.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	SUI
70.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	FUTA
17,316.01	0.00	0.00		1,773.18	1,726.98	1,726.98	1,726.98	1,726.98	1,726.98	Other Benefits
	Individual Plan	tual Plan	Individ	Individual Plan	Health Plan					
1,500	125	125		125	125	125	125	125	125	Health Plan Cost
1,250	0	0		125	125	125	125	125	125	Health Plan Expense
86,580	86,580	86,580		86,580	77,714	69,079	60,444	51,809	43,175	YTD Salary
86,580	86,580	86,580		77,714	69,079	60,444	51,809	43,175	34,540	YTD Salary Lag
	Active	Active		Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Status (beginning)
6.20%	6.20%	6.20%		6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	Social Security Rate %
\$80,400	\$80,400	\$80,400		\$80,400	\$80,400	\$80,400	\$80,400	\$80,400	\$80,400	Social Security Cap
1.00%	1.00%	1.00%		1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1,00%	1.00%	1.00%	Medicare Rate %
1.00%	1.00%	1.00%		1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1,00%	1,00%	1,00%	SUI Rate %
\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000		\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	SUI Cap
1.00%	1.00%	1.00%		1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	FUTA Rate %
\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	FUTA Cap
20.00%	20.00%	20.00%		20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	Benefit Rate %
61,750	0	0		6,175	6,175	6,175	6,175	6,175	6,175	Salary
	1	1		. 1	1	1	1	1	1	FTE
12.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	FTE
33.08%	0.00%	0.00%		38.40%	39.84%	39.84%	39.84%	39.84%	39.84%	Bonus %

Tabs five and six of the *Blueprint*, "Salary Calc" and "Salary Calc New" are where we do the calculations by Employee or New Position for their monthly Salary, Merit Increases, Bonuses, Government Impositions, Benefits, and Headcount. All calculations are reflective of the choices made on the preceding tabs. It is not necessary to show this information to the user. We have included them as a courtesy for informational purposes. An Administrator of the Contributor application could make the determination to hide these tabs and allow the user to see the results in the following "Headcount & Comp Summary" tab.

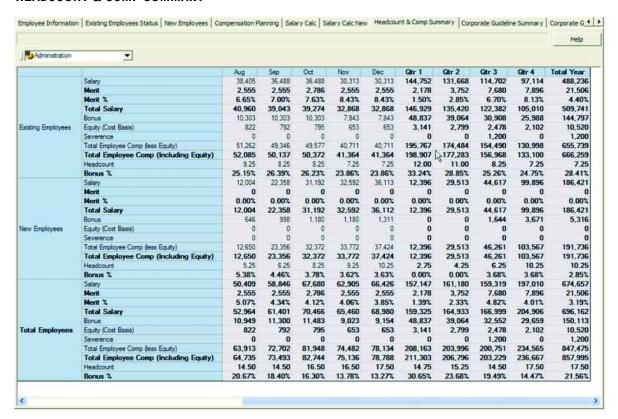
As Staffing changes were made on the previous tabs, the appropriate financial impact was automatically calculated for each month and is highlighted in BLUE. Notice how many calculations are performed automatically by just a few changes to the plan!! Managers are relieved of having to figure out the financial impact of workforce changes, allowing the system to do it automatically.

The Salaries, Variable Comp, Bonus, and Severance lines are calculated by entries on the previous tabs. The Benefits lines are calculated as a standard rate per active employee. Social Security, Medicare, and FUTA taxes are calculated employee-by-employee using the appropriate rates and taxable caps.

Headcount can be a driver for additional expense line items. Many of the IT Allocations are sensitive to Headcount changes since they're utilizing a standard cost rate per active employee. So, as the employee head-count changes, the associated IT expenses would automatically be calculated.

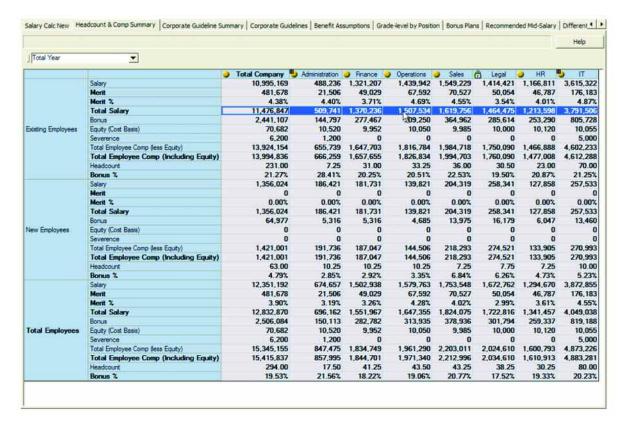
Additional driver-based planning sensitivities could be adopted in the *Blueprint*. For example, Travel expenses could be driven by headcount but also made sensitive to the employee's position. A sales person role could have a higher travel cost estimate than an Administrative Assistant. The travel expenses could be automatically estimated based the staffing and they types of positions within the department.

# **HEADCOUNT & COMP SUMMARY**

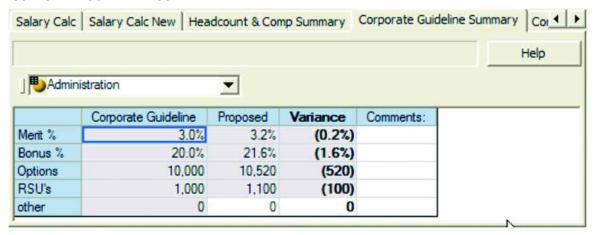


The seventh tab in the *Blueprint*, "Headcount & Comp Summary", consolidates the information in the two preceding tabs to give us a view of the entire Headcount and Compensation proposed for the department.

A user who is also a reviewer for more than one department may re-orientate this tab to view the Compensation for all their reporting departments for easy comparisons and evaluation.



### **CORPORATE GUIDELINE SUMMARY**

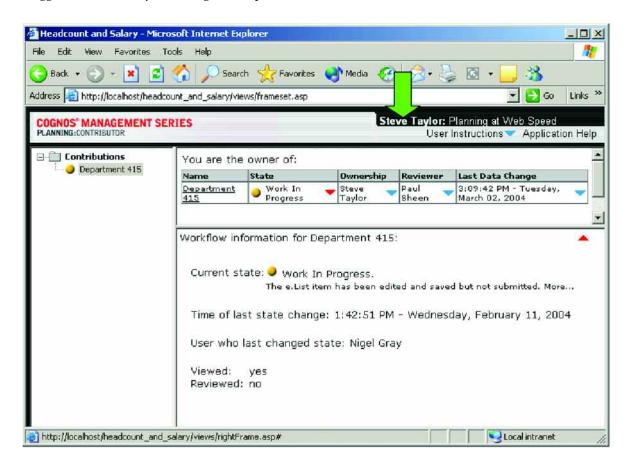


The eighth and final tab of our *Blueprint*, "Corporate Guideline Summary", compares the Proposed Merit Increase, Bonuses granted, and Equity awarded to the corporate guidelines that have been set. This tab may also be re-orientated to give us a few across multiple Departments.



# **REAL-TIME WORKFLOW VISIBILITY**

Logged in as Steve Taylor, manager of Department 415.

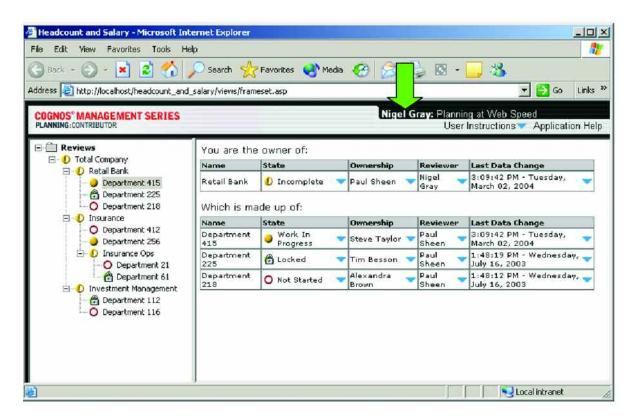


Steve Taylor is the manager of Department 415 so when Steve logs in, the workflow perspective contains only the departments that Steve is responsible for. Steve can view additional information regarding the status of the plan by clicking on the down triangles within each cell.

Before data is entered, the state of the plan is designated as **O** Not started. Once a plan is saved, the state becomes **Work in progress** and remains accessible for further editing. When an item is submitted, the plan is **C** Locked and no more changes can be made. The Locked state indicates that the plan is ready for review. A reviewer can review the plan in any state, but can only reject a Locked plan item. When a locked plan is rejected, it returns to a state of Work in progress, making it editable once again for the departmental manager.

# **REAL-TIME WORKFLOW VISIBILITY**

Logged in as Nigel Gray, manager at the Total Company level.



As managers are making changes to the departmental plans, the upper level managers have real-time visibility to the workflow status of the completion of the company-wide headcount and salary plan.

In this example, Nigel Gray is the manager at the Total Company level, and can see the workflow status of each submission. Nigel can see that Steve Taylor, manager of Department 415 is still working on the plan for this department. Nigel can view Steve's plan and can also see the consolidated expense plan for all departments in the Retail Bank or consolidated at the entire Total Company level.

The workflow status changes, data consolidation and aggregation all occur in real-time, without the need for a batch process to be performed on the database.

# ABOUT THE COGNOS INNOVATION CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Cognos Innovation Center was established in North America and Europe to advance the understanding of proven planning and performance management techniques, technologies, and practices. The Innovation Center is dedicated to transforming routine performance management practices into "next practices" that help cut costs, streamline processes, boost productivity, enable rapid response to opportunity, and increase management visibility.

Staffed globally by experts in planning, technology, and performance and strategy management, the Innovation Center partners with more than 600 Cognos customers, academicians, industry leaders, and others seeking to accelerate adoption, reduce risk, and maximize the impact of technology-enabled performance management practices.

