



Our customers speak for us



At Access Group, a PowerOLAP Reporting Solution empowers end-users with immediately accessible updated reports. And a quick-turnaround PowerOLAP Budget Solution greatly simplifies a labor-intensive budget process — “All of the maintenance is gone!”

A PowerOLAP case study with comments from Barbara Richardson, Manager of Managerial Accounting, Access Group, Inc.

The PowerOLAP Reporting Solution

“What I like most about PowerOLAP is that I am able to create standard Excel reports that end-users can work from, and then, after that, I am out of the loop of having to recreate reports for them on an ad-hoc basis. The reports are available and users can preview them at their leisure. I don’t have to create them, email them or print them. There are a few places where we have seen a lot of time savings—in particular, monthly and quarterly Revenue and Expense Statements.” says Barbara Richardson, Manager of Managerial Accounting at Access Group, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides private and federal education loans to graduate and professional school students.

Richardson was used to more reporting fuss and trouble before implementing a PowerOLAP Reporting Solution. “We would deliver paper copies of FRx reports or email exported versions. We would have to generate them and print them—which took a while—then collate them and distribute them. If we had a coding change or correction, we would have to run the report again. Also, additions were made for our month’s close at different time frames, so people weren’t getting the newest version of the report and the latest information. Yesterday’s published report could change 6 times by today—now end-users see the most recent information!”

As far as Richardson is concerned, PowerOLAP saves her quantifiable time throughout the month. She can see the improvement in the quality of her workday and in the positive results for her end-users. “It would take several hours a month to run the reports, print them and get them to the right people; even more time at the end of a quarter. And then there is the ad hoc time I spent here and there, answering questions for people, and all the paper and emails going back and forth. I used to spend between half a day and a whole day a month related to getting reports out, versus a couple minutes spent in PowerOLAP to maybe just adjust an account today. PowerOLAP takes the busy work off of our hands. There is a lot of streamlining.”

How does the new streamlined process work to keep everyone informed and empower report users to find the information they need immediately? Richardson explains: “Instead of worrying about the report generation process and keeping everyone up to date, we have a folder on the network with a list of PowerOLAP Excel reports. The users can go in and see revenue and expense sheets, balance sheets, transaction detail reports, plus coding corrections. Instead of having to call us and ask us to look up the details for them, they can just open an Excel report and pick from a drop down box that account they want to see the details on—they don’t have to wait for the reports coming once a month. They don’t have to call us to ask for a special report to see that account. Now they have the up-to-date information for all time periods at their fingertips.”



Access Group’s biggest PowerOLAP Reporting wins:

For Richardson: “Much less time, aggravation and distraction. No more random calls from end-users needing something in the middle of the day.”

For the end-users: “Having more up to date information at their fingertips, better access to current, accurate information... and they can do it themselves on their time!”

“Yesterday’s report could change 6 times by today—now end-users see the most recent information!”



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The PowerOLAP Budgeting Solution

“PowerOLAP has also been a big help as a budgeting solution,” Richardson adds. She found PowerOLAP through her Solomon reseller, Intellitec, when she was particularly frustrated with Access Group’s budget process. “I was complaining about getting budget info into Solomon, and the importing required. They [Intellitec] recommended PowerOLAP. PowerOLAP has taken that entire Solomon process away. We don’t have to import into Solomon anymore, because you get Solomon Actuals directly in PowerOLAP, so the budgeting is done simply and completely in PowerOLAP.”

Access Group started using PowerOLAP for budgeting last year, replacing an MS Access database. Says Richardson, “In prior years, budgeting was all done in Access, and that was very labor intensive. We had to make all the cost centers and accounts match for a top of the house report for 30 cost centers. I was aligning 150 General Ledger accounts and any one change required a re-running of reports. Our old budget process was a lot of database maintenance, report maintenance and Excel maintenance. Now, In PowerOLAP, I can do these changes on-the-fly and all of the maintenance is gone!”

PowerOLAP Solution Results Quantified

“During the budget season, I had to allow a whole week in the middle of the process for getting the reports together and now that week of my time is saved. That time-saving is a big deal during the fast pace of the budget process. PowerOLAP has given us a quick turn-around, so it is very significant. It makes a big difference in both data collection and reporting.”

Richardson says she knows of other areas of business where PowerOLAP can provide a valuable business solution. “I hope to expand to other uses of PowerOLAP in the future,” she says. Applying PowerOLAP to new business areas is logical because of the success of current PowerOLAP-based solutions and their acceptance and reviews from Access Group’s managers and end-users alike. “Managers who would normally be looking for information can now do it themselves. I’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback from all the users who say PowerOLAP is easier to use—and they are not technical people.”

At Access Group, PowerOLAP has proven to be a flexible, powerful and accessible source of up-to-date business knowledge, giving end-users and managers a distinct advantage in meeting their dynamic reporting and budgeting needs.

For more information about Access Group, see www.accessgroup.org.

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PowerOLAP Budget System Advantages:

- Quick turnaround and one FTE week saved.
- No more importing into Solomon.
- Streamlined budget process done simply and completely in PowerOLAP.
- On-the-fly changes; no database and report maintenance.