

Providing business insights using spreadsheet data

Improve the quality of spreadsheet data across your business but retain the freedom and flexibility for personal and team use.

It is not surprising that spreadsheets have been much loved and used by business users for many years. They are the ultimate self-service tool giving people full control over their own data.

However, data that employees use in their day-to-day roles is better thought of as an organisational than a personal resource, and consideration given to ensuring it is managed, protected and made available to all whose business decisions can be enhanced by it.

Spreadsheet Pros and Cons

Spreadsheets can be perceived as a way of losing control and so businesses must carefully weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of encouraging their use:

- There remain advantages in continuing to allow employees to have autonomy and flexibility, and apply their own analytical talents using spreadsheets;
- Providing data in the familiar spreadsheet user interface keeps it simple for users;
- However, allowing data to be captured and manipulated in user defined spreadsheets raises a number of management issues, including security, standardisation of data definition, errors in formulae, and user input error.
- The task of processing spreadsheet data can easily become cumbersome and error prone.

An Integrated Solution

Parity is aware from experience that an integrated solution based on a central data warehouse using spreadsheets to input and distribute data is realistic and practical.

Data can be imported to the warehouse from existing spreadsheets with appropriate data governance and standardisation. It can be exported from the warehouse to spreadsheets along with required controls, and delivered to users as a complete package.

Data supplied in this way can be automatically filtered, protected, and pivoted using categories contained in the data, and displayed in a variety of formats as tables and charts.

Benefits

- **Increase Organisational Effectiveness** - Bring together data from a broad spectrum of sources into a single tool for better informed analysis and eliminate difficulties caused by multiple disparate systems.
- **Enhance Business Insight** - Shorten cycle times to produce reports by allowing refreshes of data to be quickly assimilated into a central repository and redistributed, both by spreadsheet in a controlled manner .

The Right Solution, Reliably Delivered

Delivered through a state of the art platform such as that provided by Microsoft: SQL Server Report Services and Analysis Services and SharePoint Server. Power Pivot for Microsoft Excel provides an excellent analysis tool for self service business users.



A manufacturer using Parity's Business Intelligence Reporting and Analysis solution using spreadsheets benefited by:

- Obtaining a Master Data Management Platform for use in a data warehouse.
- The ability to quickly improve the quality of data supplied.
- The ability to quickly disseminate the right information, internally and externally.
- Governance of data being supplied and consumed, leading to 100% confidence.
- A secure environment controlling the use and access of data.