

PROJECT BRIEF



AT A GLANCE

CarpeDatum created a custom budget and planning solution for Seattle Public Utilities combining the analytical and calculating power of TM1 with a data warehouse and custom front-end solution that:

- Improved budget development process enabling personnel to improve detail and accuracy in significantly less time.
- Designed an end-user interface to allow 300+ users the ability to enter and analyze budgets independently.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Distributed Input
- Decreased reconciliation amounts
- System Integration of the budget and other SPU or City systems
- Improved Reporting
- Common and Standardized Processes
- Structured Workflow
- Increased Collaboration
- Reduced Ancillary Systems
- Reduced Time to Create Budgets

SOLUTION TECHNOLOGIES

- IBM Cognos TM1
- CarpeDatum's Enterprise Services

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Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Seattle Public Utilities provides reliable sewer, drainage, and solid waste services to the 1.3 million customers in King County, WA. The SPU Budget & Planning Office is responsible for managing \$850 million annual budget and 1,450 employees shared across three distinct utilities: Drainage and Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Water.

SPU was looking to make the following improvements to their budgeting and planning process.

- Reduce the manual data entry, spend more time on the analysis and quality of the budget.
- Reduce data manipulation in multiple offline spreadsheets.
- Consolidate biennial budget and intra year forecasts in one streamlined process.
- Provide the ability for detailed planning with appropriate commentary.
- Automate integration with source systems – Financial, HR, and the Enterprise Project Management.

Solution Details

In 2012, SPU selected IBM Cognos TM1 as their tool of choice and CarpeDatum Consulting, Inc. as their implementation partner. CarpeDatum and SPU worked together to refine requirements and build out the foundation of the system that includes the following modules:

Labor (workforce) – this module integrates with the SPU HR system to acquire the most up to date position and compensation information and an Enterprise Project Management System (EPMS), to acquire projected labor hours that each position will spend on individual activities. The module calculates complete position compensation costs broken down by CIP projects vs. normal expenditures by fund.

Non -Labor – this module integrates with the SPU Data warehouse to acquire historical financial actuals and enables end users to provide detailed budget requests along with appropriate commentary for expenditure information.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) – this module integrates with EPMS to acquire the projected capital cost for all of SPU's projects.

Revenue – currently this module simply uploads information from an Excel spreadsheet that is provided by the revenue planning team. The system is designed so that this module can be expanded to accommodate all of revenue and write planning in the future.

Financials – this module combines all the information produced in the previous modules to produce an income statement by fund. It also provides the capability to aggregate information and provide relevant commentary for submission to the city budget office (CBO), including city specific descriptive documents like budget issue papers and greensheets. In addition, SPU can now produce a 6-year plan at the same level of granularity.

Scenario Management – this module allows SPU to simultaneously manage multiple versions of budgets and compare and contrast the differences between each version at an extremely granular level.



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WHO WE ARE

CarpeDatum is a premier provider of strategic business intelligence and performance management solutions, focused on enabling companies to make timely and informed business decisions. We provide our clients with the tools, resources, and experience to rapidly implement and harness the power of business intelligence applications.

At CarpeDatum we have been developing Business Intelligence solutions since 1997. Our highly skilled consultants have years of real-world experience in financial analysis, business management and information systems.

For more information about other CarpeDatum customer project briefs, please visit:

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Business Improvements

Once complete, SPU expects the new Budget, Planning, and Forecasting (BPF) system to deliver the following significant improvements.

- **Distributed Input**- Distributed authorship of the budget and performance management data and information throughout the organization will decrease double entry and the chance of input-related errors.
- **Decrease the amount of reconciliation** – With distributed input, the reconciliation and consolidation of the data will be significantly reduced.
- **Integration of Systems** – Increased integration of the budget system with other SPU or City systems will automate data transfer, reduce manual input and data reconciliation, and allow for more value added data analysis.
- **Improved reporting** – A central data repository for all budget data will improve the depth, range, quality and timeliness of reports that can be produced.
- **Common and Standardized Process** – By incorporating the use of a single integrated budget system, the budget process could rely on consistent calculations of global values in the budgeting, planning, and forecasting of budget and financial management processes.
- **Structured Workflow** – The implementation of workflow will provide users with the ability to submit data for approval throughout the reporting hierarchy of the organization. Reviewers will immediately view the state of each input level within the applications.
- **Increased collaboration** – With web based workflow functionality, users will easily see who has submitted data and contact them directly with questions and/or comments to discuss the budget. This will improve department coordination and collaboration on shared budget issues.
- **Reduced Ancillary Systems** – The implementation and reliance on a core department wide system to conduct budget activities within SPU will reduce the number of disparate side systems used to develop and track these activities.
- **Reduced Time to Create Budgets** – A new budget system is expected to significantly decrease both the amount of work time and calendar time required to create SPU's annual budget.

Technologies Utilized

IBM Cognos® TM1

IBM Cognos® TM1, a component of the IBM Cognos platform, provides a complete planning, analytics and reporting environment that fits the requirements of City of Seattle – CBO Budget Optimization Project. IBM Cognos TM1 supports the full range of business performance management needs, from simple static reporting, to real-time, dynamic, enterprise planning and analytics.

Enterprise Services

Produced by CarpeDatum, Enterprise Services is a drag and drop middleware platform that provides the communication layer between the web front-ends and TM1. Enterprise Services (ES) provides real-time read/write capability into the TM1 calculation engine into a format readily consumable (as objects) by JavaScript and jQuery. This relieves the burden of creating specialized server-side web services using the TM1 API. Enterprise Services provides pass-through security to TM1, connection pooling and optimized query management for high-speed access to information in TM1.