

Real-time Integration of Excel Spreadsheets Improves SAP User Experience and Productivity

By RJT Compuquest

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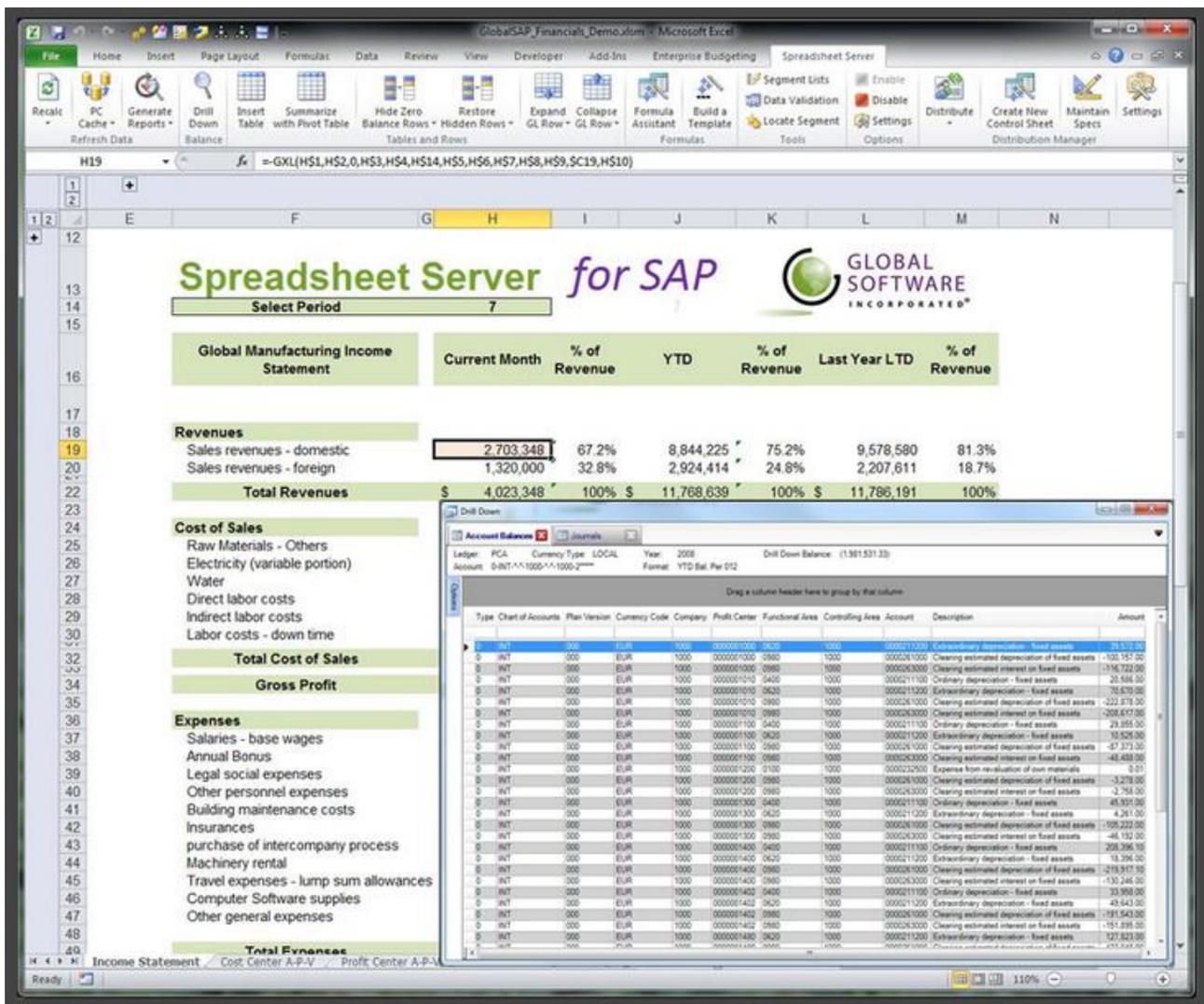
Overview

Most finance users are already very familiar with Microsoft® Excel; in fact Excel is used in 98% of all reporting, budgeting, and analysis applications. It is the ultimate fantasy of finance users to be able to use Excel as a true reporting tool to access their SAP® data. However most have just settled for the snapshots of stale information that they get now, while IT staff suffer through the hassles of running report after report to provide that static data.

What if there was a way to access back-end data in real-time? What would that mean in terms of productivity and decision making? There are companies out there that can answer those questions. These are the companies that use Excel add-on Spreadsheet Server from Global Software.

The investment your company has made in SAP software is a valuable asset to your company. It represents a deep commitment on your part of not only dollars, but also staff time, process development, in-house training, IT knowledge and end-user buy-in. Because it pervades your whole organization, SAP solutions become a key part of the operational environment and company culture that your employees rely on every day.

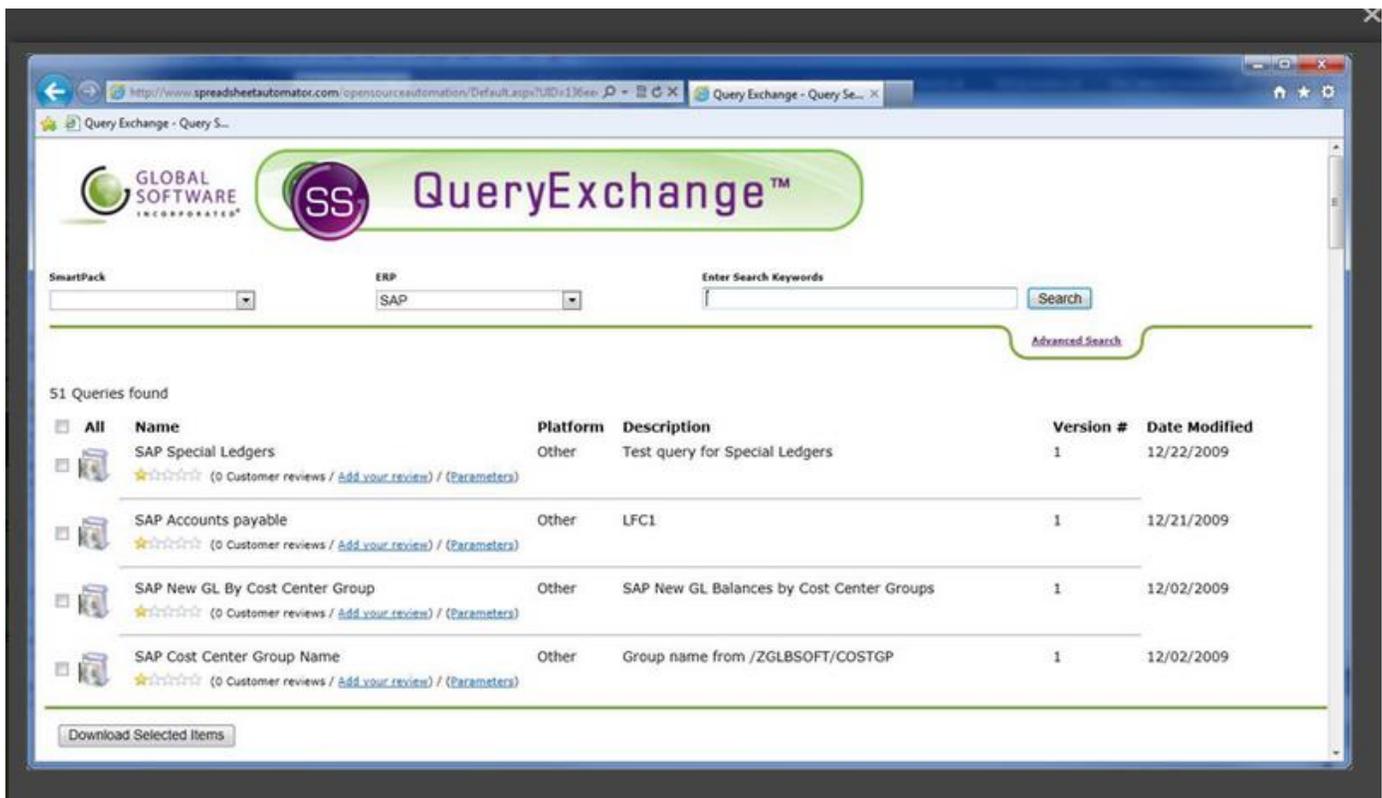
To get the most out of this significant investment, you need to have the tools that add the greatest value and offer the most enhanced user experience, but most important you need the tools that help your employees perform their job at the highest level. Spreadsheet Server is one of those products and RJT Compuquest has the expertise and skills to get this real-time Excel integration up and running in your SAP environment fast and efficiently.



Importance of Real Time Data in Reporting and Decision Making

Finance users will be able to spend more time analyzing data and less time refreshing results or requesting new reports, which will give your company faster and better insights on your business performance. Working intuitively with Microsoft Excel, Spreadsheet Server empowers users with the ability to use familiar Excel features and functions to create dynamic dashboard views from SAP. Different views can be created, accessed, automated and presented with the Spreadsheet Server formula driven methodology, including summary balances and detailed drill-downs. Global Software's cloud-based QueryExchange™ component of Spreadsheet Server enables organizations to select and tailor pre-built SAP queries to meet specific company or department needs.

In addition, Spreadsheet Server has the ability to dynamically access the following SAP modules: FICO, PCA, SD, MM, PP, QM, PM, HR, PS, New GL, and Special Ledgers.



Real-Time Access to SAP Data

Time Savings

Companies have seen a reduction of one to three days in monthly close cycles. No more downloading or re-keying/exporting of SAP balance or transaction level data. Organizations now have the ability to reduce the amount of time required to compile monthly reports, conduct analysis and close month end because they can report real-time against SAP data as activities occur and have the ability to drill down to review supporting entries.

With Spreadsheet Server, your organization will increase the overall efficiency and timeliness of your budgeting process.

Reducing dependency on IT

Excel users will no longer have to be dependent on IT or super-users to create/change financial reports. Users will also be empowered with the knowledge of the data and know how to work with it in an efficient and effective manner, which will also result in multiple time savings. Not only are users happier and more productive; IT staff time is also freed up to focus on other priorities instead of running snapshot reports for users.

Enhances Accuracy for SOX Compliance

Your organization will be able to report directly against the data while leveraging the SAP GL's security and enhancing accuracy and data integrity for SOX compliance.

Quicker Business Decisions

Waiting until after a month has ended to evaluate metrics is often too late to create meaningful change. With real-time Excel integration, companies enable managers to proactively analyze business as it happens and alter business processes upon first indications using the pre-close analytics tools.

Automated Report Distribution

Time Savings

Distribution Manager eliminates the time consuming task of printing hard copies of SAP reports or distributing reports through multiple emails. Your organization will be able to streamline and reduce the time required to compile and prepare management reports by allowing users to distribute various reports to multiple users in multiple formats.

Excel-Based Reporting and Dynamic Drill Down

Cost Savings: Reduced IT Support Expenses

Users in your organization will be able to leverage Excel as a report writer, and provide greater flexibility when changes to existing reports need to be made. You will also have enhanced data analysis by utilizing features in Excel, such as tables, pivot reports and charts.

Demand on your already busy IT staff will not increase and likely even decrease because IT resources are not required to support accountants for SAP® GL-based reporting. And because Spreadsheet Server is an Excel add-on no staging areas or data warehousing are needed.

Increased Ad Hoc, On-Demand Reporting

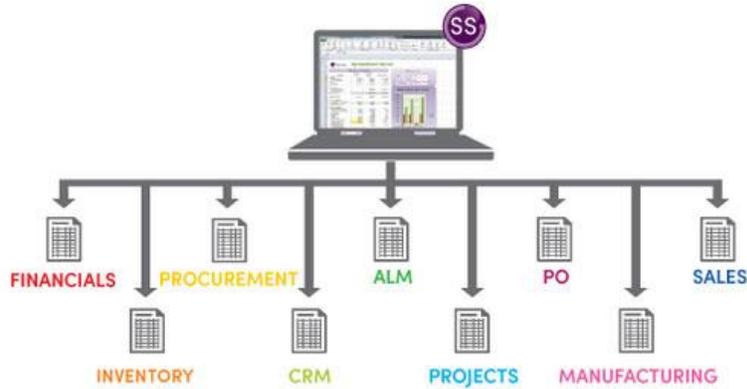
Because finance users are already using Excel every day, their comfort level with the Excel environment and interface is already very high. Now they will be empowered to create and modify reports as required without having to rely on IT.

Increased Accuracy

Your organization will see an increase in productivity and decrease in human error in reporting with Spreadsheet Server. Manual copying and pasting efforts and downloading or re-keying/exporting of SAP data will be a thing of the past.

Streamlined Implementation

Spreadsheet Server can seamlessly integrate Excel to multiple data sources across different platforms and different business functions. The cloud-based QueryExchange™ allowing SAP users to share pre-configured queries or users can create any custom query within SAP or any other relational database. No matter how your company chooses to utilize the software, RJT can help get everything installed and running within two hours. Training can be completed in a single day and RJT experts then continue to be available to answer any questions.



Compliance and Audit

The ability to drilldown and validate data will ensure accuracy and instill confidence in the data being presented.

Security Features

Spreadsheet Server uses company level security as defined in the SAP application. Security is controlled and administered using components provided by SAPGUI using custom RFC access. To avoid conflict with other custom or SAP supplied objects, the setup is held in a separate environment.

It Just Makes Sense

Microsoft® Excel is the de facto standard for finance users and business users to support their daily activities, regardless of what other reporting tools an organization uses. The Excel automation tool Spreadsheet Server increases efficiency and staff performance as well as ensuring data integrity, control, reliability of information and other intangibles.

Spreadsheet Server users report a 99.9% satisfaction rate because this software gives users a tool that enhances their SAP user experience, leverages their Microsoft Excel knowledge base, and seamlessly integrates their SAP data into the Microsoft Excel environment.



At RJT Compuquest our goal is getting your organization the highest benefit, fastest return and best continuous value from your SAP investments in every opportunity. We believe that Spreadsheet Server will provide your company with a cost effective tool that will allow for efficient and accurate reporting of consolidated financial statements, helping you get more out of your SAP investment.

RJT Compuquest is there when you need us...

With the knowledge and commitment to get the most from your SAP Solutions.

About RJT Compuquest:

Founded in 1996, RJT Compuquest, Inc. is an ERP and IT consulting services provider focused on providing innovative and successful business solutions. We are capable of working across all technology platforms, operating systems and infrastructures. RJT has experience in performing implementations, technical and functional upgrades, optimization projects, and full service staffing.

RJT consultants have real world experience across a broad spectrum of industries and can apply that knowledge to best face your business needs. Our recruiting process selects only the most highly qualified individuals for your project. If we cannot find the best consultant for your project, then we have a large pool of third-party consultants that we recruit from to ensure your business needs are met.

Our consultants have up to twenty years of business experience and an average of more than six years of IT and ERP experience. This means that the project team not only understands how systems work, they also understand how the technology impacts the business processes of organizations. We believe that the success of an engagement is determined by strong project management, as well as clear communication and mutual commitment working collaboratively. Our methodology begins with listening to the customer about their needs, then working with their team to gain a clear understanding of the requirements, while providing a knowledge transfer of best practices for the organization. The RJT team is committed to this goal.

When you leverage our exceptional recruiting and management capabilities and unparalleled client service skills, you take the most important step toward accomplishing your business goals. As a trusted advisor to companies of all sizes, we make it our business to become a specialized, physical extension of your team. We listen to your goals, assess your needs, and then take the steps necessary to achieve your objectives. Built on long-term, trusted client and employee relationships, RJT strives to consistently and efficiently plan, execute and deliver high quality services and results.

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