



Making Finance Brilliant

Bringing even more value to finance

BT Group - British telecom, has always believed in the power of “connecting for good.” So, when the company embarked on a reinvention of its finance function, the company was keenly focused on driving value through connections. Now, after radically transforming their digital core, BT Group is achieving a 30% operational cost efficiency, closing the books 40% faster every month, and bringing its key values of “personal, simple and brilliant” to its own operations.

With Accenture’s support, BT moved its finance function to the cloud to become a centralized source of financial and management data. The new program, called Making Finance Brilliant, enhances efficiency,

standardization and the automation of core financial operations, management reporting and planning processes. And, critically, it provides the flexibility required to empower the business to continue to improve in the future.

“It’s a multi-year program,” explained BT Group’s CFO, Simon Lowth. “We’re implementing a standard model of information, simplifying our core finance processes, investing to introduce a cloud SAP solution and use our great colleagues in shared services even more effectively. All of that will free up our finance teams working with businesses to bring even more value to what they do.”



A dialed-in finance function

Phase one focused on the SAP implementation, which began with consolidating and simplifying the planning and budgeting process across the company. Proprietary assets like Accenture [MyConcerto](#) and other tools allowed BT to fast-track global SAP modeling and solution design workshops with BT employees.

Standardizing the data models created a single source of truth, which quickly streamlined and improved financial reporting. This, in turn, allowed employees who might have been unfamiliar with SAP to see the possibilities inherent in a modern, cutting-edge finance function.

From there, phase 2 shifted to plugging the whole of the UK operational finance into SAP, to enhance the finance foundation built in phase 1. Perhaps most transformative has been the way in which this approach helps set up the company for continued transformation and future success. Already they are looking at a roadmap to continuously improve the operating model.

What the future holds

The company's growth has been fueled by better visibility in the form of real-time financial insights, a harmonized data structure and reporting across the enterprise. It also means increased efficiency, as the finance group relies on data aggregation and reconciliation less and centralized processes and execution more.

And by ensuring that the human side of reinvention goes hand in hand with updating its digital core, BT Group is giving its people the opportunity to harness technology to create new ways of working and driving value.

BT now enjoys greater flexibility and tighter data governance and financial processes, along with enhanced security capabilities, and is well on its way to Making Finance Brilliant.