

## TAKE YOUR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO THE NEXT LEVEL

idu-Concept: User-friendly, wholly integrated and effective modules for your entire business

## SMART SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Established in 1998, IDU was designed to deliver financial value-add products around all standard ERP and financial systems. Typically, these systems are designed with accountants in mind, and are generally not easy for non-financial users understand.

Our core product, idu-Concept, was created to streamline management, specifically non-financial management interaction with financial systems, and in so doing, establish a platform of ownership and empowerment that leads to radical improvement in the effective management control of every business.

To enable idu-Concept to create an accessible and inclusive environment, the user experience is designed to be very user friendly. This allows users even those with low levels of financial expertise to navigate their accounts and budgets with relative ease.



idu-Concept's user interface incorporates simple point-and-click technology and other familiar web-based features to achieve a high degree of user-friendliness while still maintaining the functional power of the application.



User training is available as well as access to a dedicated helpdesk. IDU also have an Annual User Conference as well as regular roadshows to showcase new modules and functionality. This provides a platform for user collaboration and networking.



idu-Concept automates and streamlines the manual process of spreadsheet-based budgeting, forecasting and reporting.



The application has been developed on a .Net platform and C# programming languages, allowing the system to operate efficiently on all current web browsers.



IDU is a scalable solution. Organisations wishing to access greater functionality and additional modules to meet growing or changing requirements can do so with ease. There are 3 editions available to suit businesses with varying budgeting and reporting complexities namely: Light, Standard and Enterprise (Please refer to the Edition Comparison Table later in this document.)



Management can access the system and be provided with an up-to-date view of the budget and its status, without the need to wait for fragmented progress reports or manual aggregation of the latest budget versions.



The system is web based being deployed on site or as a cloud solution it runs on a MS SQL Server database and supports 2012 version and above.



The system works harmoniously to integrate other business solutions. Users are able to access and update the system in real-time. This allows you to capture your budgets and report on variances immediately

idu-Concept is a widely deployed, dedicated budgeting solution and has over 35 000 users across over 350 sites. Our customers range from medium to large size corporates across all industries and sectors and include Old Mutual, Discovery, Total S.A, Edward Nathan Sonnenberg, Coronation, South Australian Government, UNISA, and The Warehouse Limited.

The development arm of IDU is a Microsoft Gold Partner and since 2005 have regularly been finalists for the Microsoft Awards in the across a number of key competencies. IDU has also been recognised by Gartner as one of the top 25 Corporate Planning Applications, in their Gartner Market Guide.

idu-Concept is noted for its rapid deployment. As a packaged application, it can meet most companies' requirements "out-of-the-box", and will not require additional time to implement customised developments. The solution can be implemented and ready for use in a relatively short time-frame.

## TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR BUDGETING PROCESS WITH IDU-CONCEPT

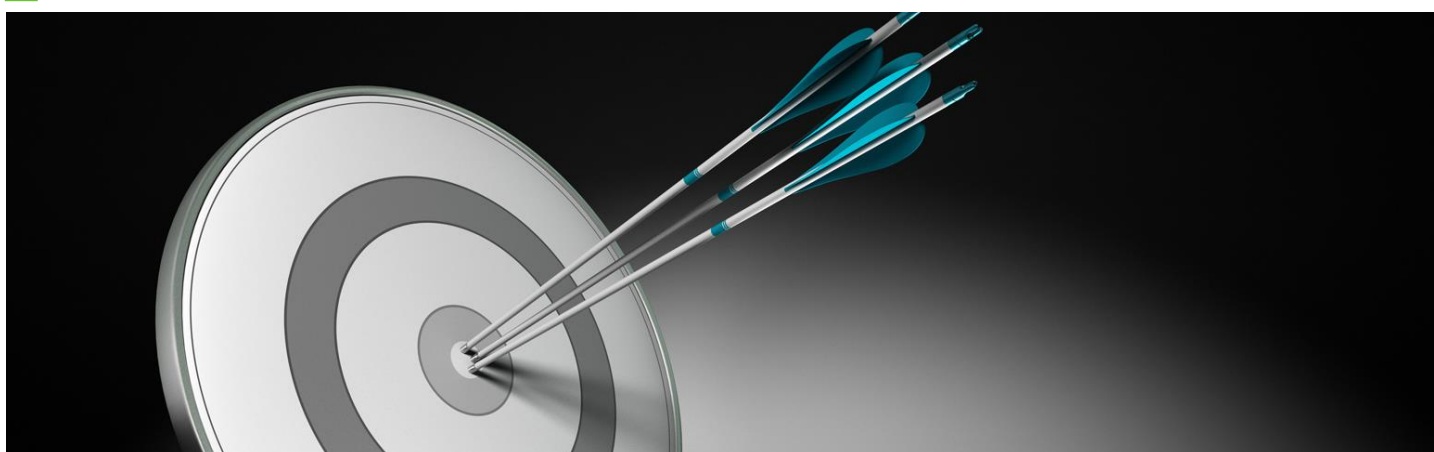
Simple, fast, agile and award winning Corporate Performance Management

## FINANCIAL BUDGETING

IDU streamlines the budgeting and reporting process, frees up financial managers to be more strategic and business to be more agile and responsive, which is essential in a disrupting market.

**Financial budgeting** is an essential part of every successful business. By providing reliable access to defined and disclosed budgets, idu-Concept allows financial and non-financial managers to be in control of their accounts at all times.

Now, non-financial managers can easily give you the figures you need, in a standardised format that can be rolled-up into a single version of the truth. You bypass the ineffective, time-consuming, and soul-destroying spreadsheet go-round, shaving weeks and months off the budget cycle in the process. And, importantly, by providing increased visibility and transparency, especially of business strategy, you foster buy-in to, and ownership of, the budget.



### Key Features of the Financial Budgeting Module:

- idu-Concept automates and streamlines the manual process of spreadsheet based budgeting, forecasting and reporting. The web-based platform automatically captures data where possible, thereby reducing the amount of time users would need to spend manually inputting information. This automation also leads to greater accuracy in the data.
- idu-Concept integrates with most ERP systems, from Pastel to SAP and VIP to PeopleSoft. The system interfaces directly with the underlying financial accounts to seamlessly provide a view of actual financial information related to approved budgets.
- The application allows users to access and update the system in real-time. Users are able to capture their budgets and view the results immediately. There are also indicators built into the system so that the current status can be visually flagged, signalling the stage and progress of the budget at any point in time.
- IDU offers as standard functionality the facility to capture comments on each account as the budget is created. Users are also able to attach and link supporting documentation if required.
- IDU reduces budget cycles from months to weeks, and our clients typically realise a return on their investment within the first year of implementation.
- idu-Concept accommodates numerous budget types, depending on the edition of the software in use, namely: Light (L), Standard (S) or Enterprise (E):
  - Standard Budgeting (L, S, E)
  - Fixed Budgeting (L, S, E)
  - Itemised Budgeting (S, E)
  - Grade based Employee Budgeting (S, E)
  - Unit based budgeting (S, E)
  - Depreciation Budgeting (Enterprise only)
  - Individual Employee Budgeting (Enterprise only)
  - Activity Based Budgeting (Enterprise only)
  - Project Based Budgeting (Enterprise only)
  - Percentage and Dynamic Reallocations (Enterprise only)
  - Departmental Transfer Budgets (Enterprise only)
- Budgets and forecasts can be captured against non-financial accounts such as headcount and square meters. The financial budget can then be driven as a result.
- The system supports drill-down from the highest level, normally company and aggregate account (e.g. total income), down to individual department/account and even to underlying budget elements.
- The system accommodates multiple structures enabling data to be aggregated in real-time providing many different summary views.
- Excel integration, allows users to upload and download account information with ease.

## EXPLORE THE POWER OF FINANCIAL MODELLING WITH IDU-CONCEPT

Get insights into the future of your business for up to 5 years.

## FINANCIAL MODELLING

Over the last 20 years, we have experienced an unprecedented amount of upheaval and disruption, leaving us to feel like our most fundamental assumptions can fail us overnight. As accountants we're especially vulnerable—what is the value of all our budgets and forecasts and planning in such an unpredictable world?

Help your business prepare for the future with “what-if” scenario planning from IDU. The idu-Concept Financial Modelling Module harnesses the power of the Financial Budgeting Module and allows you to prepare for the future with innovative top down budgeting and ‘what-if’ scenario planning.



### Top Down Budgeting:

IDU complements its powerful bottom up budgeting capability with innovative real time top down budgeting functionality. This functionality can be used in conjunction with the bottom up budgeting modules to provide an interactive target budget for the core bottom up budgeting process.

Capture high level target data and allow the system to push those figures and scenarios out across the organisation using IDU's unique multi-structural environment. Create detailed budgets by account and department, in order to realise the impact at a posting level based on the high level input.

Target data is pushed down using an existing data set, budgeted or actuals, as the source for posting level percentage allocation. Adjustments can be made at a lower level, even posting level, within the selected structure and the results viewed in multiple structures.

The top down budget can be used as such or as the target set of data in a bottom up budgeting process.

### Assumption Based Forecasts:

Get insight into the future of your business for up to 5 years using multiple scenarios.

Assumptions can be manually defined or predicted using historic data and Artificial Intelligence. The assumption based forecast features allow you to prepare for the future with innovative ‘what-if’ scenario planning with on demand recalculation to accommodate changing assumptions.

Multiple assumptions can be set up and adjusted to calculate specific increases or decreases per year, per period, using percentages. You can then link these assumptions to your accounts and departments, enabling real-time extrapolation up to five years into the future for multiple scenarios, such as optimistic, neutral and pessimistic.

The resultant budget fiscal set, complete with all the appropriate security and settings, can be shared with end users for their input and commentary.

The module offers online and paper-based reporting on budgeted or forecasted projections, with overriding ability to revert back to the original assumptions.

The Financial Modelling module can be used in conjunction with Power BI or PowerPivot to slice and dice the underlying data, you also have the option to re-input the resulting output back into IDU.

**Prepare for your business's financial future with Financial Modelling from idu-Concept.**

## KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BUDGET WITH FINANCIAL REPORTING FROM IDU-CONCEPT

Efficient, up to date and easy to use – it's financial reporting software at its best

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

Capturing a budget or forecast is highly beneficial to a business's budgeting process. However, the real value is only realised once the actual spend is brought to book and compared against the budget or forecast.

IDU has developed a purpose-built module that allows users to keep track of their actuals as they occur, while also providing the tools and technology to analyse this data against the existing budget. In essence, the idu-Concept Financial Reporting Module acts as a two-way interface between the budget and general ledger system.

As an optional module to the idu-Concept Financial Budgeting Module, it offers additional features for daily, weekly and monthly financial reporting. The Financial Reporting Module will complement the general ledger and streamline the management reporting process, creating transparency and business manager ownership.



### Key Features of the Financial Reporting Module:

- Allows for the analysis of variance between actual spend and the budget, comparative years and forecasts.
- idu-Concept accommodates varied functionality, scalable depending on the edition of the software in use, namely: Light (L), Standard (S) or Enterprise (E):
  - A drill-down system allows users to access data from the highest level down to individual departments/accounts (L, S, E)
  - Both the Budgeting and Financial Reporting Modules include a standard suite of reports. In addition to the standard IDU reports, customized reports can be written to meet your specific requirements. (L, S, E)
  - Drill down to the underlying nominal journal entries and even journal documentation if necessary. This gives managers the ability to identify the business areas responsible for major variances. (S, E)
  - Recommending corrections to fix mis-postings or mis-allocations is now enabled through the powerful recode and accruals functionality embedded in the application. An integration with the general ledger allows for seamless adjustment processing of approved changes. (Enterprise only)
  - The Reporting Module has built-in analytics capabilities. This is powered by Microsoft Power Pivot, PowerView, and PowerBI and delivers true slice-and-dice facilities around the financial information held within the IDU database. Microsoft Licensing considerations for the above Microsoft functionality remains the responsibility of the client. (Enterprise only)
  - Analytics comes standard with a pre-configured set of tabs, and is integrated with the idu-Concept database to deliver immediate added value to users. (Enterprise only)

### Key Features of the Administrator Module:

- The idu-Concept product suite has been developed to provide the finance department with the tools to administer the system. This reduces reliance on IT resources and the ownership for the system ultimately rests with finance.
- The idu-Concept Administrator Module allows the system administrator to define the department access for each individual user. The user is only able to view and update the department they are granted access to. They can also create user-reporting profiles, displaying only the reports that are relevant to the user's specific requirements.
- Administrators are able to customise multiple user-specific screen layouts. This can include variations such as what data is displayed or which calculations are performed.
- Restricting update rights for a department to a single user allows business managers to exercise ownership for budgets, and take responsibility for their financial performance.
- The system administrator has the ability to create multiple accounts and department hierarchies. These can be viewed online and reported against, eliminating the need to develop or hard code relationships for various reporting requirements
- The System Administrator is able to customise multiple user-specific screen layouts. This can include variations such as what data is displayed or which calculations are performed. In so doing, different users will experience the software in a way that is relevant to their requirements.



# FINANCIAL BUDGETING & REPORTING

## SELECT THE EDITION TO SUIT YOUR BUSINESS

Differentiating between Enterprise, Standard and Light Edition of idu-Concept

idu-Concept is designed in a modular fashion to recognize the unique requirements of each business and delivers on the ability to adapt to the ever changing business requirements. There are three editions available to suit businesses with varying budgeting and reporting complexities namely:

- **Enterprise** - The flagship offering, containing the full range of functionality.
- **Standard** - Rich budgeting and reporting solution aimed at the mid market.
- **Light** - Ideal for a smaller businesses requiring basic cost effective financial budgeting and reporting, or for larger corporates looking to streamline the aggregation process.

### Financial Budgeting.

The table below outlines the functionality available to each of the 3 editions.

FUNCTIONAL FEATURES	Light	Standard	Enterprise
<b>Browser Based</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>On-line Real Time Aggregation</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Multiple Account Hierarchies</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Multiple Departmental Hierarchies</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Multiple Fiscal Sets</b>	✓	✓	✓
BUDGET FUNCTIONALITY	Light	Standard	Enterprise
<b>Standard and Fixed Accounts</b> Values per month spread using client defined spread factors.. These values can be modified by user or fixed.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Excel Integration</b> Excel uploading and downloading of account information.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Integrated Fiscal Sets</b> Fiscal sets linked in a sequence to represent multiple financial years.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Itemised Accounts</b> Budgeting at a transactional level rather than total per month or year.		✓	✓
<b>Allocations</b> Quantity based budgeting where related values are calculated automatically based on drivers set by the administrator.		✓	✓
<b>Headcount Budgeting</b> Headcount based remuneration budgeting by grade.		✓	✓
<b>Percentage and Dynamic Reallocations</b> Automatically calculated accounts based on business rules defined by the Administrator.			✓
<b>Internal Charges</b> Enables inter department charging for services.			✓
<b>Employee Budgeting</b> Budgeting by Employee down to individual pay slip line items.			✓
<b>Supporting Documents</b> Attach and link supporting documentation for a budget.			✓
<b>Capex Budgeting</b> Capex based budgeting deriving depreciation based on Administrator defined accounting rules.			✓
<b>Activity Based Budgeting</b> Specific events driving a number of budget lines based on multiple input and global parameters.			✓
<b>Project Budget Type</b> Versatile project based budgeting toolset.			✓

## Financial Reporting.

The idu-Concept Financial Reporting Module is a two-way interface between the budget system and general ledger system. This allows the Departmental Manager to easily view the financial information applicable to their environment at a summarised level. Comparisons can be done based on current month, year to date or variance analysis against budget, forecast or previous years' actuals.

REPORTING FUNCTIONALITY	Light	Standard	Enterprise
<b>Account Drill Down</b> Users are able to drill down to information at account balance level.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Variance Comments</b> Allow users to capture and view explanatory notes on budget variances.	✓	✓	✓
<b>Multiple Layout Profiles</b> Ability to create and grant access to multiple screen layouts.	Max 1	Max 3	Unlimited
<b>Multiple Report Profiles</b> The grouping and defining of unique profiles to suite business requirements.	Max 1	Max 3	Unlimited
<b>Journal Detail</b> Allows users to drill down into the account balances to access information at journal/transaction level.		✓	✓
<b>Journal Detail Documentation</b> Drill down to underlying documents or purchase orders per fiscal set, Account and department.		✓	✓
<b>Variance Analysis</b> The facility to manage comments, explanations and motivations in detail or summary levels.			✓
<b>Recodes and Accruals</b> Empowering users to identify and recommend changes to posted figures for review by the Administrator.			✓
<b>FTE and Headcount</b> FTE and manpower reconciliation from budget to payroll at an employee level.			✓

## Additional Modules.

Additional modules available within idu-Concept to further enhance the quality of an organisation's budgeting and reporting.

MODULES	Light	Standard	Enterprise
<b>Report Scheduling</b> Allows users to schedule and prioritise the running of reports against the idu database.	1	1	1
<b>Financial Modelling</b> The Financial Modelling Module allows users to project up to 5 years into the future using multiple assumptions limited to individual accounts.	1/2	1/2	1
<b>Revenue Fee Budgeting</b> Maximise financial services budgeting performance	1/2	1/2	1
<b>Financial Consolidations</b> Provides journal capture, budget adjustment and company aggregation.		1/2	1
<b>Analytics Module (Power Pivot, PowerView and Power BI)</b> Offers user friendly slice and dice capabilities around the financial information held within the IDU database. Note: Microsoft Licensing considerations are the responsibility of the client.		1	✓
<b>Alerts</b> Allows users to be emailed should any key account, value or variance fall with in a predefined range.		1	✓

<sup>1</sup> - Optional modules licensed separately.

<sup>2</sup> - These modules are only available on Enterprise Edition, however they can run along side other modules in Standard and Light

## A WORD FROM SOME OF OUR SATISFIED CLIENTS

### IT Director, Smollan

*'idu-Concept revolutionised our budgeting process. Management is now actively involved in planning their budgets while still being able to tend to their main area of focus in the field.'*

### Divisional Manager: Finance, Discovery Health

*"I have been using idu-Concept budget software since April 2003 when it was purchased by Discovery. I have found it to be very useful. In particular, it has assisted me in the collection of Manex Budgets from many departments and in disseminating variance information on time. The staff at IDU have been very helpful and are always available to assist when required."*

### Finance Executive, Old Mutual

*"IDU enabled the Life Division to significantly streamline its budgeting process, making it simpler, faster and less costly. Receiving figures and consolidations in real-time means departmental managers spend more time looking at numbers that are relevant and less time trying to manage the process and consolidate figures. The application is simple and easy to use, even for the non-financially astute users."* [Watch Video Testimonial](#)

### Finance Manager, The Warehouse

*'idu-Concept is incredibly intuitive. Nowadays everybody is used to finding information on the internet, so the web interface to the system is familiar and easy to use. It's reduced a lot of unnecessary back and forth between business and finance.'*

### Director (Budgets) Department of Finance, Unisa

*"idu-Concept has proven to be a powerful tool for improved management in line with the university's commitment to the principles of good governance. We anticipate using these tools to deliver world-class financial management that is in the interests of staff, students and shareholders,"* [Watch Video Testimonial](#)

### CEO, Chiefs Rugby Ltd.

*"I've been very impressed at how IDU has not only made our whole budgeting process much simpler and speedier, but also meant that our management team have a real understanding of their budgets and take proper ownership of their financial performance on an ongoing basis."*

### CIO, Bsmart, Cape Consumers

*"I have never encountered another service provider who instils such confidence in the understanding, knowledge and skill of every member of their team,"* [Watch Video Testimonial](#)

### Head of International Finance Operations, Dragon Oil

*"We are IDU's first Upstream Exploration and Production (E&P) client. I must say, this has been one of the best projects that I have ever implemented, it was professionally managed and handled by all project team members. IDU was delivered on time and within budget."*

### Management Accountant, Capfin

*"IDU has made reporting, budgeting & forecasting an administrative dream for my department. I would highly recommend IDU for any business, big or small."*

**Awesome!!** ☒

**EXCELLENT** ☐

**GOOD** ☐

**AVERAGE** ☐

**POOR** ☐

