

CASE STUDY

OneStream Success Story

BDO



Company:  
**BDO**

Industry:  
**Professional Services**

Implementation Partner:  
**Finit Solutions**

## BDO Overview

BDO is the brand name for BDO USA, LLP, a U.S. professional services firm providing assurance, tax, and advisory services to a wide range of publicly traded and privately held companies. For more than 100 years, BDO has provided quality service through the active involvement of experienced and committed professionals. The firm serves clients through more than 60 offices and over 650 independent alliance firm locations nationwide. As an independent Member Firm of BDO International Limited, BDO serves multi-national clients through a global network of over 80,000 people working out of 1,591 offices across 162 countries. For more information, visit [BDO.com](https://www.bdo.com).

“**Providing daily data at their fingertips**, executive-level dashboards are supported by deeper dives into specific financial focus areas. By leveraging OneStream’s Guided Reporting, BDO users can choose which rows are paired with which columns for a **reporting experience tailored to their needs.**”

—**Lynn Calhoun**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**BDO**

## The Challenge

BDO had been using several Oracle Hyperion applications since 2009 to support their planning, reporting and analysis processes. Over time their deployment had grown to include three Hyperion Planning applications and nine Essbase reporting cubes spanning ledger data, contracts, employees, projects, demand and workforce reporting. This complex landscape of applications led to multiple versions of the truth, manual data movement, system stability and availability issues as the data volumes grew, and ongoing maintenance challenges. It was time for a change.

## Making the Leap to OneStream

The BDO team, led by CFO Lynn Calhoun, evaluated several alternatives and selected OneStream as their go-forward solution. According to Calhoun, OneStream was selected because it met three primary requirements: scalability, information delivery, and data integrity. OneStream offers a platform that would handle larger data volumes as BDO grows, and empowers key decision makers with accurate information, rich dashboarding and reporting capabilities. By combining multiple disparate data sets, OneStream creates “One Source of the Truth” for BDO.



### Corporate Performance Management Solutions Delivered

- ✔ Financial Close and Consolidation
- ✔ Planning, Budgeting and Forecasting
- ✔ Financial and Management Reporting
- ✔ Financial Signaling



### Business Challenges

- ✔ Company and data volumes outgrew their Oracle Hyperion applications
- ✔ Multiple versions of the truth
- ✔ System stability and availability
- ✔ Too much time spent on manual data movement and system maintenance



### Key OneStream Benefits

- ✔ Unified system for actuals, budgets and forecasts
- ✔ Single version of the truth
- ✔ Reliable system for mission-critical planning and reporting
- ✔ Users are empowered with daily insights into customers, projects and resource utilization

“As we focused on the capabilities that OneStream could provide, we realized we couldn’t just do a lift and shift of what we had before, because we would have some of the same issues we had in our old system and wouldn’t gain the full value of OneStream,” said Calhoun. “We needed to structure the new system in a way that could grow and scale with us and become that reliable tool we could use to combine data from multiple sources and provide value to our end-users.”

## Transforming Financial Planning & Reporting

The BDO team had several objectives in mind as they started their OneStream implementation, with the support of OneStream implementation partner Finit. They wanted to replace their current Hyperion solutions with a unified CPM solution that is easier to administer, maintain and own while supporting simplified data flows.

They also wanted to streamline and improve the financial planning submission / collection process and enhance the reporting and analysis capabilities for FP&A users with deeper information and insights. From a financial close and reporting standpoint, they wanted to enhance the data and processes they were utilizing, and align their external, legal, management and FP&A reporting.

The BDO and Finit team launched a multi-phase project in October 2018 that initially focused on implementing OneStream for actuals reporting. Then in the second phase, they extended the application to support their budgeting and planning process. A key capability that was delivered as part of the solution was a central landing page for all users. According to Calhoun, “BDO wanted users’ first experience with OneStream to be a page that could guide them to each key area of the application and provide critical status information.”

## Leveraging Extensible Dimensionality & Analytic Blend

BDO leverages OneStream’s Extensible Dimensionality® framework to address different levels of detail between budget / forecast collection and actuals reporting. This is leveraged across the Accounts, Cost Centers and Departments dimension in their application, providing additional granularity for reporting and planning across various lines of business—all in a single application.

BDO was one of the first customers to leverage OneStream’s Analytic Blend capabilities to report and analyze on large volumes of daily transactional data. According to Matt Spencer of Finit, “BDO loads 10 million records nightly, which is transformed into 30 to 40 million rows of data in OneStream’s Analytic Blend engine, with over 300 trillion cell intersections. After a few hours of processing, this data is then available to BDO’s users via their interactive dashboards.”

## Unleashing the Value of Finance

As a result of this project, the BDO team now has a reliable and stable system supporting their mission-critical planning and reporting processes. BDO has enabled their users to shift more of their time to value-added analysis vs. system maintenance. “We now have happy users who are able to absorb information the way they want with self-service reporting and dashboards,” said Calhoun. “This includes a wide range of information, not just financial—including managing people and clients.”

Through OneStream’s unified application, there’s now a direct linkage between actual and budget—avoiding the need to transfer data between different systems for analysis. And the BDO Finance team is very pleased with the high level of customer support and responsiveness they are getting from OneStream, and the internal development team is more willing to take on enhancement requests.

## Future Plans

While BDO has achieved a lot in a short period of time with their OneStream implementation, there are more opportunities on the horizon. The team is now evaluating the use of OneStream for rolling forecasts, as well as several MarketPlace solutions including Account Reconciliations and Predictive Analytics.

## About the Implementation Partner

At Finit we believe that creating value starts with aligning ourselves with your best interests. Our approach and methodologies are based on client advocacy—your goals are our goals, and we’ve crafted our project lifecycle around acting as an advisor and advocate throughout. Finit’s full lifecycle implementation methodology centers on four sequential project phases with infrastructure, integration, and project management activities crossing all four phases. Finit’s design methodology is a process of craftsmanship and collaboration. We act as your advocate by developing a clear, detailed, comprehensive understanding of your goals. For more information, visit [Finit.com](https://finit.com).



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## About OneStream Software

OneStream Software provides a market-leading intelligent finance platform that reduces the complexity of financial operations. OneStream unleashes the power of finance by unifying corporate performance management (CPM) processes such as planning, financial close & consolidation, reporting and analytics through a single, extensible solution. We empower the enterprise with financial and operational insights to support faster and more informed decision-making. All in a cloud platform designed to continually evolve and scale with your organization.

OneStream’s Intelligent Finance platform can easily be extended with over 50 solutions from the OneStream MarketPlace. These downloadable solutions are fully battle-tested and optimized for the OneStream platform. They allow customers to easily extend the value of their investment to meet the changing needs of finance and operations.

### OneStream Software

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