



## Activity Analysis

Armstrong Laing's Enterprise Performance Optimisation suite is an integrated suite of web-based applications that help organisations better manage their resources and become more responsive to change. **Activity Analysis** is one such application.

Activity Analysis uses ALG's proven ABC calculation engine, but with all the advantages of the EPO suite - web-deployment, an open database architecture, and integration with the rest of the EPO applications. Activity Analysis takes advantage of the advanced Web Books for data capture and reporting.

### Enhanced Functionality

#### State of the art user interface

*User-friendly interfaces* designed using the familiar Microsoft Windows™ and Office™ look and feel means that users quickly learn how to build models and reports.

*Quick and easy data entry and analysis screens* using familiar grid-based formats with drag and drop functionality allow users to analyse data in multiple dimensions with automatic in-built summarisation. Using the latest relational on-line analytical processing (ROLAP) technology, Activity Analysis allows users to slice and dice, drill down and analyse data in any way they wish incorporating dynamic graphs and charts quickly and easily.

#### Easy and reliable control

*Integrated Work Manager* allows managers to control processes with the minimum of effort. The system automatically monitors progress against user-defined schedules to ensure that data is entered, validated and authorised on time. It can even be configured to issue automatic alerts to users and their managers when deadlines are missed, helping managers to concentrate on results rather than on the process.

*Powerful security and control mechanisms* ensure users are only allowed to review and update areas of the system for which they are responsible.

#### Swift deployment

Quick creation of personalised templates is achieved using drag and drop ROLAP technologies so that builders can quickly define workbooks and data entry screens that the system personalises according to the responsibilities of the individual user.

*International languages* are handled easily within an enterprise-wide system; enabling users to dynamically change languages and see them applied in real-time.

*The currency conversion facility* allows data to be input in local currency and converted into a common currency on consolidation.

*Integration* with today's most popular database technologies, ERP systems, GL and transactions processing systems is easy to achieve through a combination of cutting edge technology and industry standard protocols regardless of the surrounding environment.

### **Web Deployment**

*Web-deployment* allows books to be quickly and easily distributed to a large community of users with the minimum of IT support. Browser-based clients can now allow teams to deploy Activity Analysis over the Web, providing collaborative activity-based management functionality, leveraging the latest in Web technologies. This implementation is not limited to shipping data back and forth, but actually allows teams to run the client application in a browser, interacting with the server component over the Internet or corporate intranets.

Web deployment greatly reduces IT overhead, giving a broader range of employees access to important activity-based costing data without requiring installation of a traditional application on each user's desktop. Any data updates are immediately available to all other users, both conventional and Web-based, and the same built-in security features apply in both environments.

### **Multi-dimensionality in Activity Analysis**

Activity Analysis has multiple cost object dimensions, plus 'Versions', and 'Periods' allowing users to view any specific cost or profit information by any combination of specific or consolidated periods. It also provides variance analysis capability.

Activity Analysis utilises ALG's ABC calculation engine in the background, which has already proven itself to be capable of handling vast models very efficiently. This allows new users to take advantage of all the

years of development in the engine and ensures compatibility for existing users.

### **Benefits of Multi-dimensionality**

- Multi-dimensional cost object analysis without maintenance-intensive workarounds
- Accurate assignment of costs to more than one cost object view at a time
- Presentation of the combination in a single, multi-dimensional view, from a choice of perspectives

### **Traceability**

User-defined traceability of data working through re-allocation, with full validation facilities before calculation. Data integrity is assured with the data residing in a central database on the EPO platform.

### **Transferring Existing ABM Models into Activity Analysis**

There is also a facility that transfers existing ABM models into Activity Analysis and automatically transforms multiple hierarchies into Attributes hierarchies. Activity Analysis also offers the facility to report only at the high-level activities and then drill down to show all the details with a summary.

### **Enterprise Performance Optimisation Suite**

Other applications that run on the EPO suite include:

- *Predictive Planning* – single-click planning, budgeting and re-forecasting
- *Performance Management* – strategic implementation and operational monitoring
- *Process Simulation* – modelling and optimising processes

With all the performance optimisation applications working together, data and specifications between each application can be shared, saving on maintenance and development effort and minimising any risk of applications getting out of step.