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Unlocking AI-Powered Financial Planning

Achieving xP&A Excellence With Qlik and Fiplana

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Introduction

Recently, [Qlik released its formal AI strategy for the coming years,](#) and it's clear that the platform is going all-in on AI.

The strategy outlines a path toward revolutionizing the way businesses leverage AI, making data-driven decision-making faster, smarter, and more accessible. For finance teams, this shift represents a transformative opportunity to lead with insight and innovation. By harnessing Qlik's advanced AI strategy—which combines generative AI-powered tools, intelligent automation, and both predictive and generative AI capabilities—finance professionals can uncover deeper insights, streamline processes, and drive strategic planning like never before.

Key innovations like Qlik Answers™, a generative AI-powered knowledge assistant, and Qlik AutoML®, a no-code predictive analytics solution, empower users to extract actionable insights in real-time. These tools are designed to work seamlessly with both structured and unstructured data, providing intuitive self-service functionality that makes diagnostics, predictions, and prescriptive analytics readily available.

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How Finance Can Take Advantage

To fully harness the transformative power of Qlik's AI-driven solutions, finance teams must go beyond traditional workflows and layer robust tools like extended planning and analysis (xP&A) over Qlik's advanced functionality.

By integrating modern xP&A capabilities with Qlik's predictive analytics and intelligent automation, finance leaders can elevate their role from data custodians to strategic visionaries.

Imagine the possibilities: AI-powered algorithms dynamically adjusting forecasts based on real-time data, enabling precise, proactive decision-making. Seamless integration of xP&A tools with Qlik allows teams to streamline budgeting, forecasting, and reporting across departments, breaking down silos and fostering collaboration. With real-time scenario modeling and a single source of truth, finance can align strategies with organizational goals, optimize resource allocation, and identify emerging trends with unparalleled accuracy.

This synergy between Qlik's AI advancements and xP&A tools transforms financial planning into a strategic driver of enterprise-wide value. It's not just about crunching numbers—it's about leveraging cutting-edge technology to create actionable insights and drive sustainable growth, all within the familiar and trusted Qlik ecosystem.

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Finance and AI

Adopting AI capabilities presents significant challenges for finance teams, even as its strategic value becomes undeniable.

Qlik's research reveals that while **88%** of senior decision-makers agree AI is essential for achieving strategic goals and driving profitability, a striking **20%** of global businesses have paused or canceled up to 50 AI projects, and 11% report over 50 projects stuck in planning. Key obstacles include gaps in AI skills (**23%**), challenges in data governance (**23%**), and trust issues among leadership (**37%**) and employees (**42%**). Additionally, only **56%** of organizations have a clear AI strategy, highlighting a lack of alignment between AI initiatives and broader business objectives, which affects execution and outcomes. For finance teams, where precision and reliability are critical, these barriers can result in missed opportunities to leverage AI for enhanced forecasting, productivity, and strategic insights.

Further complicating the landscape, data readiness is a persistent issue—**94%** of CIOs acknowledge that significant data cleansing is required for AI success, and **40%** of executives doubt their data's ability to achieve accurate AI outcomes. Finance leaders must also contend with rapidly evolving technologies; only **20%** of organizations have a comprehensive AI strategy, and **71%** of CFOs report less than two years of AI experience.

94%

of CIOs acknowledge that significant data cleansing is required for AI success.

Despite these hurdles, the potential remains vast: **80%** of CFOs believe AI will enhance productivity and strategic insights, and **62%** predict it will have the most significant impact on their industries in the next three years. Overcoming these challenges requires a deliberate focus on building AI literacy, addressing data governance issues, and fostering organizational trust, ensuring finance teams can unlock the transformative power of AI.

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Top 3 Tips for Qlik-Driven Finance Teams To Leverage AI for Maximum Value

1 Strengthen Your Data Foundation With Qlik's End-to-End Data Integration and Governance

AI can only deliver value if the data it analyzes is trustworthy. According to research, nearly all CIOs (**94%**) believe data cleansing is essential for successful AI initiatives, but far fewer executives (**60%**) think their data is ready for AI. To harness the full potential of AI-driven insights within Qlik, start by ensuring your organization's data foundation is robust and well-governed. Utilize Qlik's unified data integration and quality solutions to break down data silos, improve the accuracy of your data pipelines, and streamline the flow of information across departments.

This means auditing your existing data sources, identifying gaps, and making sure the data you're collecting is both clean and actionable. Qlik's data integration tools, like Qlik Talend Cloud, will help create an agile, trusted data foundation that can be utilized by AI-powered analytics tools.

By incorporating a data governance framework to ensure consistency, compliance, and data security, you'll set up a strong base for AI to operate effectively, boosting the overall success of AI initiatives in financial planning and analysis.

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2 Invest in Modern Third-Party xP&A Tools To Maximize AI Insights in Financial Planning

While Qlik's AI capabilities are powerful on their own, pairing Qlik with modern third-party tools focused on extended planning and analysis (xP&A) can significantly expand its potential for financial planning.

With AI-driven analysis embedded into the Qlik platform, finance teams can already derive valuable insights from historical and real-time data, but the real power comes when these insights are seamlessly integrated with financial planning and forecasting tools.

For instance, Qlik integrates well with platforms designed for budgeting, scenario planning, and reporting, allowing finance teams to not only analyze data but act on it quickly in a collaborative Qlik-based environment.

> By implementing advanced xP&A tools that extend Qlik's analytical power, finance teams can **transform AI-driven insights into concrete financial actions.**
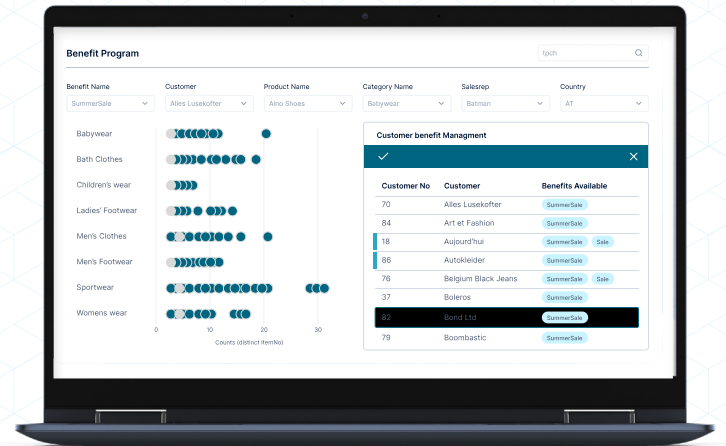
By implementing advanced xP&A tools that extend Qlik's analytical power, finance teams can transform AI-driven insights into concrete financial actions, improving accuracy in forecasting, identifying risks and opportunities in real-time, and enhancing decision-making. This also empowers teams to collaborate on data-driven financial strategies, making it easier to manage costs, optimize resource allocation, and drive profitability.

Integrating tools that complement Qlik's strengths, such as predictive analytics and financial modeling, will further extend the value of AI by enabling finance teams to plan dynamically, based on the most accurate, up-to-date data available.

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3 Develop a Strong AI Literacy Program Across Teams and Align With Strategic Business Goals

A key barrier to successful AI adoption is the lack of AI skills and trust within organizations.

In fact, **37%** of leadership and **42%** of employees report trust issues as major challenges in AI initiatives. For Qlik-driven finance teams to truly unlock AI's value, investing in AI literacy is essential. Start by building a comprehensive AI training program, designed not just for data scientists but for finance leaders, analysts, and business unit managers as well. With Qlik's self-service analytics and interactive dashboards, teams can quickly grasp how AI-generated insights can enhance decision-making processes.

The goal is to empower all users—regardless of their technical expertise—to understand how AI impacts their specific role and decision-making process.

To foster greater trust, ensure transparency in how AI algorithms work, and communicate the benefits clearly, encourage cross-departmental collaboration to align AI initiatives with broader strategic goals, ensuring that AI insights directly contribute to the organization's financial objectives. Additionally, embrace Qlik's advanced AI capabilities, such as Qlik Sense's embedded machine learning models, to enhance forecasting accuracy, automate repetitive tasks, and optimize financial reporting. By creating an environment where AI is integrated into daily workflows and everyone understands its strategic role, you can bridge the gap between technology and human decision-making, ultimately accelerating AI adoption across the finance function.

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Fiplana + Qlik:
Transforming Insights Into Actionable Financial Strategy

Fiplana is the ideal companion for finance teams leveraging Qlik, offering a seamless extension of Qlik's powerful analytics capabilities. Together, Fiplana and Qlik share a common goal: enabling organizations to make data-driven decisions with confidence, powered by trusted, real-time data.

While Qlik transforms how businesses analyze data and uncover actionable insights, Fiplana takes it a step further—helping finance teams turn those insights into concrete financial strategies. By integrating Qlik's data analytics with Fiplana's financial planning tools, teams can accelerate decision-making, optimize resource allocation, and enhance profitability. This collaboration ensures that every financial decision is informed by reliable, up-to-date insights, streamlining the journey from data analysis to strategic action in today's complex financial landscape.

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Bridging AI Insights and Financial Strategy

Fiplana bridges the gap between Qlik's AI-driven insights and actionable financial strategies. Qlik delivers advanced analytics and machine learning insights, while Fiplana translates that data into practical tools for financial modeling, budgeting, scenario planning, and reporting. By leveraging Qlik's robust data foundation, Fiplana enables finance teams to create accurate forecasts, improve performance, and manage financial risks more effectively.

With its "AI-ready" approach, Fiplana ensures that finance teams can fully capitalize on Qlik's growing AI capabilities. As Qlik continues to advance its AI features, Fiplana equips users with the tools to apply these insights to real-world financial decisions—helping businesses stay agile, competitive, and future-ready.

Real-Time Financial Reporting and Scenario Planning

Even without direct integration, Fiplana complements Qlik's capabilities by excelling in areas like financial reporting. This makes it a perfect match for Qlik's data analytics, ensuring that financial plans and reports always reflect the most current insights.

Fiplana also leverages Qlik's AI-powered predictions to create robust financial scenarios and forecasts. Teams can model potential outcomes, evaluate risks, and make confident, data-aligned decisions. By combining Qlik's cutting-edge analytics with Fiplana's financial planning expertise, businesses can unify their decision-making processes, align strategies across departments, and seamlessly move from insights to action.

Together, Qlik and Fiplana empower finance teams to transform data into strategic value—helping businesses adapt faster, plan smarter, and thrive in an ever-changing financial landscape.

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Imagine the Possibilities

1 Dynamic Budgeting:
Adapting to the Changing Business Landscape

Imagine a world where your budgeting process isn't static but continuously adapts to shifts in the market, business priorities, and operational performance. With Qlik, you can dive deep into your organization's data to identify key performance drivers—whether that's sales trends, customer behavior, or operational costs. These insights are then seamlessly brought into Fiplana, where you can dynamically adjust your budget to reflect these changes in real-time. Whether your company faces unexpected fluctuations in demand, changes in supplier pricing, or new opportunities that require a shift in resources, the combination of Qlik and Fiplana allows you to pivot quickly. This agility ensures that your financial plans are always in sync with the reality of your business, allowing you to proactively manage risks and seize new opportunities as they arise, rather than waiting for periodic budget reviews.

2 AI-Informed Forecasting:
Predicting the Future With Confidence

In the fast-paced business world, being able to predict the future with confidence is a game-changer—and that's exactly what AI-powered forecasting can offer. Qlik's AI capabilities excel at uncovering hidden trends within your data, identifying patterns and shifts that might otherwise go unnoticed. These predictive insights are then fed into Fiplana, where you can refine and adjust your financial forecasts based on these new data points. This ensures that your forecasts are not just educated guesses but are grounded in the most accurate, up-to-date information available. For example, if Qlik's AI predicts a downturn in a specific region or a surge in demand for a product, Fiplana allows you to immediately adjust your forecasts to account for these changes, optimizing resource allocation and setting your team up for success. By combining the predictive power of Qlik with Fiplana's planning capabilities, finance teams can forecast with unprecedented accuracy, making smarter decisions and preparing for the future with confidence.

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3 **Enhanced Collaboration:**
Breaking Down Silos Across the Organization

One of the greatest challenges for finance teams is ensuring that financial insights don't just live in a vacuum but are shared and acted upon across the entire organization. This is where the synergy between Qlik and Fiplana truly shines. Qlik's advanced data analytics empower departments to gain a deeper understanding of their specific areas, from sales to operations, HR, and beyond. Once those insights are generated, Fiplana ensures finance teams can act on them swiftly and efficiently, bringing departments together in a collaborative financial planning process. With both tools, everyone—from finance to department heads—can be aligned on the same page, with clear, real-time data and financial projections.

This collaborative approach not only ensures that decisions are data-driven but also streamlines the process of translating insights into action. No longer will departments operate in silos, working with outdated or incomplete information. Instead, with Qlik and Fiplana, organizations can foster a culture of shared responsibility, where cross-functional collaboration leads to more informed, faster decision-making and a unified financial strategy.

Sales

Operations

Human Resources

Financial Insights

The Path Forward for Enterprises

Enterprise analytics and AI foster a collaborative, data-driven environment where all parts of an organization—from finance to marketing—work in unison toward shared objectives. By integrating robust analytics tools with advanced AI technologies, like Fiplana from insightsoftware, businesses gain the ability to not just predict outcomes but actively influence them. Fiplana integrates seamlessly with Qlik to empower business users with strategic, streamlined planning and analysis, enhanced collaboration, and robust decision-making.

However, true success goes beyond adopting the latest tools. It requires a unified vision, a commitment to fostering a data culture, and a willingness to evolve alongside the technology itself.

Fiplana Makes It Easy With:

Automation: Benefit from automated planning, analysis, and reporting functions.

Collaboration: Eliminate data silos, foster cross-department collaboration, and ensure consistent planning.

Transformation: Transform your financial planning and analysis by optimizing the accuracy, adaptability, and strategic alignment of your business operations.

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The evolution of analytics and AI has profoundly transformed enterprise ecosystems, providing ample opportunities for businesses to thrive in an increasingly competitive market.

From improving financial planning to enhancing customer insights, these technologies unlock immense value when implemented thoughtfully.

With Fiplana, teams can access and update data in real time, ensuring everyone is always on the same page, fostering faster planning cadences, more accurate insights, and better data-driven business decisions.

Want to learn more about becoming a truly data-driven enterprise? Watch our on-demand webinar, "**Unlock the Future of Integrated Planning and Analytics in Qlik,**" to learn how advanced analytics can revolutionize your business strategies.

Ready To See Fiplana in Action?

Book a Live Demo ›

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About insightsoftware

insightsoftware is a global provider of comprehensive solutions for the Office of the CFO.

We believe an actionable business strategy begins and ends with accessible financial data. With solutions across financial planning and analysis (FP&A), accounting, and operations, we transform how teams operate, empowering leaders to make timely and informed decisions.

With data at the heart of everything we do, insightsoftware enables automated processes, delivers trusted insights, boosts predictability, and increases productivity.

Learn more at insightsoftware.com

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