

## TAKE YOUR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH 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 to 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 also recognises that each client will have unique requirements. As a result, the system has been designed in a modular fashion allowing the product use to grow in line with your requirements.

The product currently supports the following modules:

### Financial Budgeting

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. Companies using the system have successfully reduced their budget cycle from months to weeks, and have the ability to reforecast within days. idu-Concept Financial Budgeting Module is available in a Light, Standard or Enterprise Edition, depending on the amount of functionality required.

### Financial Reporting

This purpose-built module allows users to keep track of their actual transactions as they occur, while also providing the tools and technology to analyse this data against the existing budget. The 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. Notifications relating to financial information held within the idu database can be sent directly to the user, keeping them up to date on any critical business information in real time. Built-in analytics capabilities deliver true slice-and-dice facilities while the simple dashboard can be customised for each user. idu-Concept Financial Reporting Module is available in a Light, Standard or Enterprise Edition, depending on the amount of functionality required.

### Revenue Budgeting

Many revenue budgets are still prepared centrally, with little to no input from the end user. However, financial budgeting can be significantly improved by end-user input, as their contributions result in a more realistic and sustainable budget. This module delivers a highly accessible toolset that enables users to capture revenue budgets at a customer/product level with real-time aggregation and management.

### Revenue Reporting

Companies depend on their sales teams to generate the revenue that fuels growth. Pressure is increasing for revenue teams to meet their goals, and managers to monitor performance. This module allows real-time interaction with revenue data and allows users to comment and analyse variances between anticipated revenue outcomes and those that have actually transpired. Aggregation allows real-time analysis by product and customer, or any summary of the underlying information.

### Asset Reporting

All cost centre managers are held accountable for the assets in their direct area of responsibility. However, few have access to the asset register. idu-Concept Assets Module provides access to the asset register information without allowing direct access. It facilitates asset audits, and allows managers to actively manage assets, initiate transfers and disposals.

### Technical Information

The system is web based being deployed on site or as a cloud solution it runs on a MS SQL Server database and supports 2008R2 version and above. The application has been developed on a .Net platform throughout. idu-Concept supports a number of reporting tools including MS SQL Reporting Services and MS PowerPivot

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

Simpler, faster and far more efficient – it's budgeting software at its best

## FINANCIAL BUDGETING

**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.

While this process was once time-consuming, idu-Concept is specifically designed to streamline the process of budgeting and forecasting. Developed by idu, this intuitive software creates a web-based platform that empowers businesses to manage their accounts with ease.



### Key Features:

- The web-based platform automatically captures data where possible, thereby reducing the amount of time users would spend manually inputting information.
- The system accommodates various budget types, including: Itemised Budgeting, Depreciation Budgeting, Grade and Employee Budgeting, Percentage Reallocations and Departmental Transfer Budgets.
- Comparative budgets, both actual and forecast values, can be linked to the current budget set, giving users detailed analysis on a monthly basis to use in preparing the budget.
- Users are able to export most budget account types into MS-Excel and work offline. This data can then be imported back into the system at a later stage.
- 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 accommodates multiple structures enabling data to be aggregates in real-time providing many different summary views.
- 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.
- On-line, real-time aggregation of budgets and forecasts means that information can be reviewed in real time at any level within the company during the cycle. This effectively reduces budget cycles from months to weeks, while also allowing users to reforecast within days.
- The system allows flexibility when creating multiple versions of a budget, and gives users the ability to define the current status of the budget – in progress, review, incomplete or complete.
- Security and access control is set up by the system administrator at an individual user level. This defines which cost centres certain users can see, what areas of the budget they can update, which reports they can run and how their screens will be displayed. Password policies can be defined and the administrator has the ability to clone similar users.

## 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. Financial information held within the idu database is sent electronically directly to the user, keeping them up to date on any critical business information in real time.



### Key Features:

- Allows for the analysis of variance between actual spend and the budget, comparative years and forecasts.
- Administrators are able to set tolerances to highlight adverse variances that exceed a predetermined tolerance level, in both percentage or value terms.
- The drill-down system allows users to access data from the highest level down to individual cost centres/accounts, as well as the underlying nominal journal entries. This gives managers the ability to identify the business areas responsible for major variances.
- The cost centre manager has the ability to capture comments explaining reasons for variances.
- Both the Budgeting and Financial Reporting modules include a standard suite of reports.
- The system administrator has the ability to create multiple accounts and cost centre hierarchies. These can be viewed online and reported against, eliminating the need to develop or hard code relationships for various reporting requirements.
- The Financial Reporting Module will complement the general ledger and streamline the management reporting process, creating transparency and business manager ownership.
- 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.
- The system enables the addition of customised reports to be included in the deployment of the web-based module. The administrator has the ability to create user-reporting profiles, thereby displaying the reports that are relevant to the user's specific requirements.
- The Financial Reporting Module has built-in analytics capabilities. This is powered by Microsoft PowerPivot and delivers true slice-and-dice facilities around the financial information held within the idu database. It enables the user to view the information graphically and is easily customised to meet the specific needs of individual clients.
- 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. The model also allows for the availability of offline data, i.e. there is a facility to replicate the database to a local PC or laptop, and allow for the continuation of the analysis offline.
- An added benefit is the alerts function. It can be set up to push relevant notifications to a specified user. An administrator can set when an alert is triggered e.g. a transaction threshold, balance threshold or variance threshold.

### **Group Financial Controller, MAN Truck & Bus**

*"idu interfaces seamlessly with our three systems. Every month before implementing idu-Concept, we faced the challenge of consolidating the spreadsheets from all the various divisions of the company. We needed a reporting tool that could interface with the three different core systems we use."*

### **Divisional Manager: Finance, Discovery Health**

*"I have been using idu-Concept budget software since April 2003 when it was purchased by Discovery. So far I have found it to be very useful. In particular, it has assisted me in the collection of Manex Budgets from many cost centres 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 cost centre 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."*

### **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,"*

### **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."*

