

The 4 Steps to Becoming a Business Partner

Plot a course to becoming a strategic business partner and empower your organization to stop profits falling between operational cracks

ROADBLOCKS



STAGE



SOLUTIONS

- No big picture
- 'Off-system' email to collaborate
- Change is time-consuming
- Opaque data ownership
- Procedures are ignored

01



STANDARDIZE

Structure your finance procedures

- Common data procedures
- Cut delays and access to real-time data
- Eliminate spreadsheets for collaboration
- Record data touch points
- Single, uniformly presented data

- No single version of the truth
- Growing IT costs
- Costs of change discourage action
- Many systems and practices across the organization

02



OPTIMIZE

Execute your processes efficiently

- Store and analyse in one location
- Ensure data is input accurately
- Flexible technology that is easy to run and change

- Outdated & unreliable data stops ad-hoc analysis
- Non-standard reporting is prohibitive
- Standard reporting spreadsheets are inflexible
- Business intelligence (BI) can't react to change

03



PREDICT

Deploy flexible, real-time analysis

- A unified finance system
- Assimilate regulations and standards automatically
- Mobile-enabled analysis in graphs, charts or tables
- Quickly model potential responses to change

- Lingering data reliability, reporting and collaboration issues
- Fragmented data without context disguises real picture
- Rigid, daily routines
- Performance-related results of what-if scenarios impossible

04



DRIVE

Achieve automated self-service

- Enable collaboration, decision making and execution, but also track KPIs
- Invest in BI and finance systems that deliver value
- Evolve beyond current systems
- Use systems that fully integrate real-time financial information

For more on how to achieve strategic business advisor status, visit cfo.unit4.com