

Aptitude Accounting Hub

Achieve financial control, transparency and insight

// The Aptitude Accounting Hub provides a strong tactical and strategic solution to the integration of data, technology, people and processes. //

Head of Business
Finance Architecture,
Leading UK Bank

- ✓ **ACHIEVE FINANCIAL CONTROL**
Control accounting rules and data at a single point; improve Finance's agility to accommodate new businesses, products and models.
- ✓ **REPORT CONFIDENTLY**
Deliver finance-quality information with cross-divisional alignment. Gain transparency into the detail behind your General Ledger balances with complete data lineage.
- ✓ **MAKE BETTER DECISIONS, FASTER**
Create a reliable information channel to speed the financial close. Unlock insight with a financial data source that is validated, granular and interconnected.



Progressively Transform Finance

CFOs in the banking industry face numerous challenges due to an evolving regulatory landscape, added business complexities, heightened competition and increasing demand for transparency. As a result, the role of finance in banking is more complex than ever.

Banking CFOs want to focus on strategic decision-making, but are too often hampered by regulatory reporting requirements. To get ahead, Finance must find ways to streamline financial, statutory and management reporting. Unfortunately, the time and cost of finance transformation projects have restricted many CFOs from having the detailed data and systems they need to get ahead.

Finance teams in banks need systems that deliver control and books and records-quality information from across trading divisions and geographical entities.

Unfortunately, many teams are held back by day to day requirements, such as dealing with reconciliations, clearing suspense, and preparing enhanced accounting for management. Existing Finance IT architectures fail to support rapid and efficient change.

What is needed is a step change. Assured financial reporting that provides detail and transparency into the 'as-was'; engines that deliver near real-time insight into the 'as-is'; analytics and rich data that support analysis into the 'to-be'. Whatever the time horizon, all reporting delivered from a truly integrated information hub.

The Aptitude Accounting Hub is an operational platform for Finance. The "Hub" centralizes control, improves reporting, and generates a rich source of data while giving Finance more agility to handle future changes. The out-of-the-box product links operations systems and data from across the enterprise, bringing together Finance, Risk and Business Information services. It automates the financial accounting processes and provides a financial data foundation to support a wide variety of end-user requirements. All of this while fitting into your existing Finance architecture removing the need for expensive and complex IT implementation projects.

Aptitude Accounting Hub Addresses Key Finance Challenges

Finance's Requirements	Aptitude Accounting Hub components
Link operations with Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Preparation Layer accesses, validates, enriches, and standardizes transaction-level data from across heterogeneous source systems; provides clear data lineage and managed workflow in high-demand environments
Automate the finance close process from source to sign-off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business user-managed accounting rules • Pre-populated Business Event Lifecycle and IFRS/GAAP accounting templates to speed implementation • Rules-based processing covering all Financial Services products • Automate adjustment processes
Build a financial data foundation to improve strategic decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Sub-Ledger maintains summary balances that substantiate the General Ledger, and detailed balances to support the operational accounting requirements at business unit level • Multi-GAAP, multi-currency, multi-entity accounting • Full finance data model with extendable, configurable data dimensions linked to core accounting information
Address current and emerging statutory, regulatory and financial reporting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configurable Accounting Engine gives Finance full control to create and deploy effective- dated business rules • Generate multi-GAAP accounting from the single transaction event • Decoupled from the General Ledger & ERP environment to reduce the cost and complexity of change • Scale to meet future transaction processing volumes

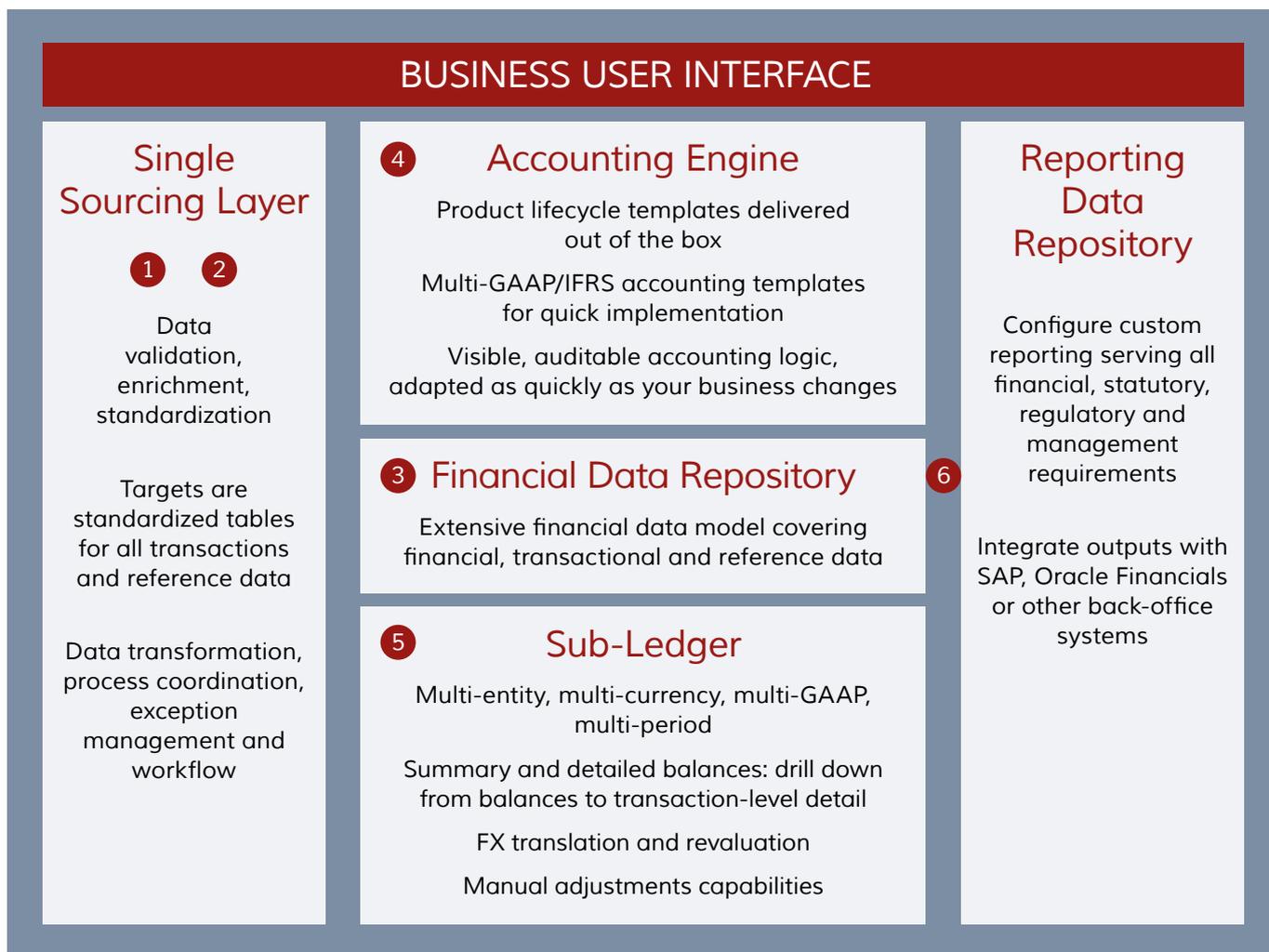
The Accounting Hub links disparate finance and operations infrastructure to empower Finance



What challenges have leading banks addressed with the Accounting Hub?

- One of the world's largest banks linked a massive volume of transaction data (i.e. trades, retail transactions, mortgage payments) directly with the firm's financial books of record, thus greatly improving the value of their data and the transparency of reporting.
- A prominent UK bank is simplifying both divisional and group-level finance architectures with a strategic accounting sub-ledger that brings together data, technology, people and processes and provides financial control and transparency throughout the organization.
- A leading consumer financial services company created a single Finance operations environment, enhancing control over burdensome manual adjustment and reporting processes.
- A major Northern European bank's Group Treasury established a multi-currency accounting sub-ledger to integrate detailed data from a range of source systems, helping them to streamline processes, improve capital management and reduce risk.

Aptitude Accounting Hub Features

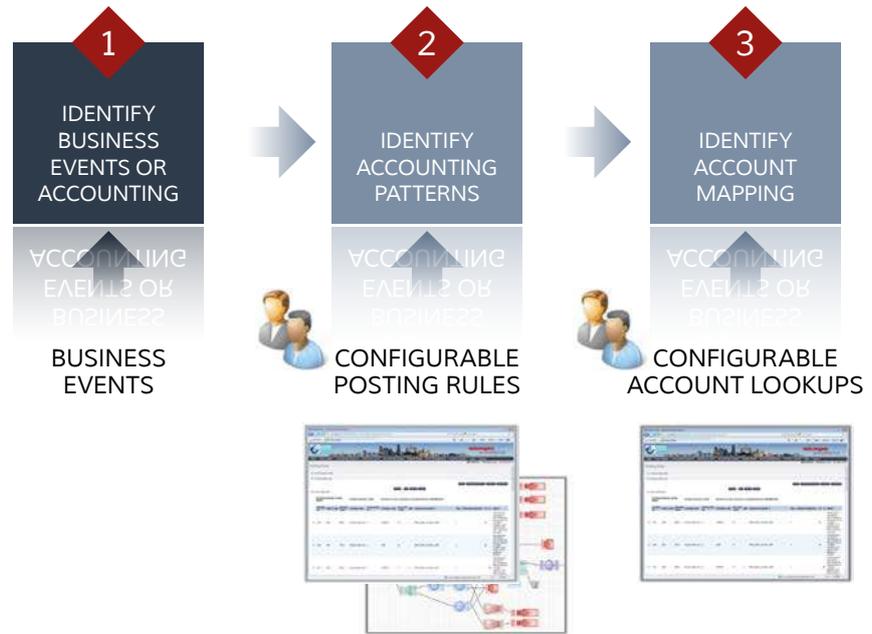


How data flows through the Aptitude Accounting Hub

- 1 Source system integration: transactional, business event and balance data from source systems - support for wide variety of file formats e.g. XML, flat file, manual entries
- 2 Standardization & validation: records transformed to standard form and put through rules-driven validation, correction and exception processes
- 3 Persistent data storage: financial data repository stores detailed financial, transactional and reference data
- 4 Creation of debits/credits: accounting engine derives debits/credits for all transactions, combining with pass-through postings
- 5 Population of journals and balances: the Sub-Ledger creates journal lines from accounting events and updates balances
- 6 Cube Engine extracts and retains data to provide pre-configured reporting views

Out-of-the-box support for the full range of Financial Services products

Apply consistent accounting at scale, with a three step accounting engine



Control accounting rule and accounting transformations at scale

Finance teams use the Aptitude Accounting Hub to control accounting logic at a single point in their finance architecture. Users apply the product's system of defining and processing 'standard business events' in order to apply accounting consistently, at a very granular level even for large transaction volumes. The product's in-built accounting engine is used to:

1. Identify the lifecycle events present throughout the life of every product

2. Establish common accounting events so that they can be treated consistently
3. Define and apply accounting and business logic consistently for all products and related lifecycle events

Business users define and control all accounting rules, posting patterns and account mappings. Many users benefit from IFRS accounting templates that are provided 'out of the box' in order to accelerate project implementations.

Why do leading banks choose the Aptitude Accounting Hub?

The Aptitude Accounting Hub provides a range of benefits over other accounting integration products or approaches.

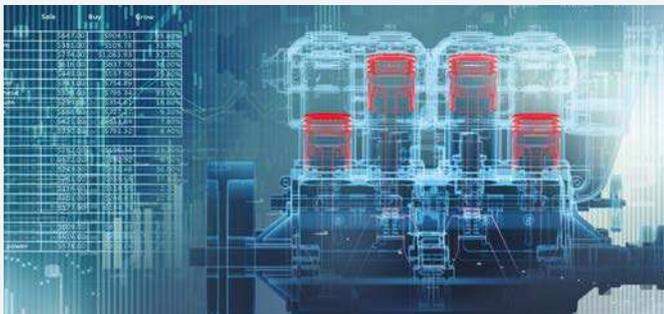
- Out-of-the-box IFRS accounting templates to speed implementations
- A true multi-GAAP and multi-entity accounting sub-ledger to maintain summary and detailed balances
- Business user control with graphical rules interfaces
- Support for complex rules, including exception management
- Integrated Financial Data Repository to support reporting and "drill-down"
- Seamless integration with existing Finance IT environments; works fluidly across in-house / 3rd party / Oracle / SAP General Ledgers and ERP modules
- Best-in-class processing performance

Aptitude Software to reduce operational costs, drive process efficiencies and foster sustainable growth as part of a Bank Simplification program

Client Challenges:

- Significantly standardize operational processes across Bank businesses and projects
- Support rationalization of multiple Ledgers towards a new, thin Group GL structure with single centralized supporting detail ledger
- Establish a flexible environment for the future with improved data granularity
- Increase finance department's ownership and control over data and accounting rules

One of the longest established retail and commercial banks in the UK had an overarching goal of simplifying their business in order to reduce costs while better serving internal and external clients. They also aimed to deliver sustainable growth to investors, particularly following the 2008 banking crisis. After acquiring many recognized brands over the years, they were looking for a platform to progressively transform their finance architecture and processes by business unit. They wanted a scalable platform that could start addressing existing divisional projects and grow into a company-wide strategic solution.



After evaluating the solutions from Aptitude Software and an incumbent large technology provider, the bank selected the Aptitude Accounting Hub (AAH) and the Aptitude platform to integrate and standardize data, (replacing existing ETL focused technology), standardize accounting policy and increase financial control and transparency. AAH will be utilized across divisions and projects of varying size and function to support the dynamic development of the bank.

Solution Benefits:

Minimizing implementation cost and risk

The packaged nature of the solution and the accounting templates encapsulating best practices, appealed to the bank's core goal of simplification.

Simplifying data standardization

The Accounting Hub will provide the bank with a single, integrated platform to ensure end-to-end transparency and drill-down from the general ledger to detailed balances.

Accounting Control

Giving Finance increased ownership will ensure the bank's flexibility in meeting new product and regulatory requirements and provides transparency to the business.

General Ledger consolidation

The Accounting Hub will allow the bank to decommission acquired and orphaned ledgers and systems without loss of current operational capability and decrease required on-boarding time for new financial applications.



About Aptitude Software

Aptitude Software has served Chief Financial Officers at many of the world's largest banks for over 15 years.

We combine finance expertise and technology assets to help our customers achieve financial control, transparency and insight.

For more information

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