Automate Financial Reporting and Analysis with WatsonX Orchestrate and IBM Planning Analytics
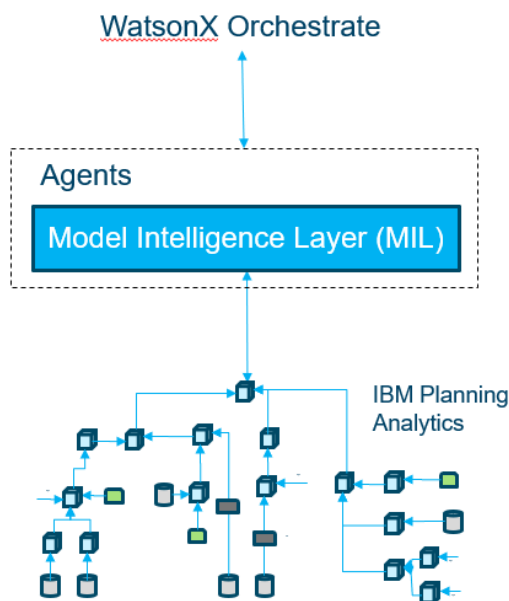
AI Financial Analyst

The AI Financial Analyst is an AI Agent that automates reporting and financial analysis in Finance and FP&A. The agent analyzes financial results, identifies key drivers of performance, and highlights variances even in complex finance applications. By automating initial analysis and routine manual tasks, the agent enables finance teams to focus on more value-add activities.

Key Benefits and Capabilities

✓ **Analyze Finance Information** Analyze information across complex finance environments, understand various parameters and variables

✓ **Identify Drivers and Variances** Automatically identify material variances (vs. plan, forecast, version, etc.) and provide insight into drivers of performance

✓ **Drill Down into Detail** Drill down into transactional detail to substantiate results and explain key contributors of results and variances

✓ **Create Formatted Reports** Deliver insights through a conversational interface and produce formatted Word or PDF reports with visualizations

Key Solution / Agent Characteristics

WatsonX Orchestrate

Agents

Model Intelligence Layer (MIL)

IBM Planning Analytics

o <u>Simple and Intuitive</u> - Understands simple business language and retains conversational context throughout follow-up questioning

o <u>Cognitively Aware</u> - Uses the Model Intelligence Layer (MIL) to understand complex finance systems, incl. cubes, dimensions, rules, processes, data sources

o <u>Analytics-Driven</u> - Analyzes data in IBM Planning Analytics and provides explanations of results, including calculations and business rules

o <u>Multi-Source</u> - Supports drill-down across data environments, including Cube-to-Cube and Cube-to-Transactional data (e.g. Snowflake)

o <u>watsonx-Enabled</u> – Utilizes watsonx Orchestrate to manage, govern, and control agent execution

o <u>Format-Flexible</u> - Supports real-time, natural-language interaction, or offline reporting in Word or PDF

Implementation Considerations and Benefits

- Rapid deployment, assuming existing IBM Planning Analytics application
- Represents a low-cost entry point for introducing AI in Finance
- Operates within a well-defined data framework to minimize hallucinations and reduce risk of error
- Compatible with major LLM providers, based on client preference

ACG

ACG is a professional services firm that specializes in building process and solutions to improve Business and Financial Corporate Performance Management. With over 25 years of experience, we have built complex systems and solutions to help support complex business processes for large multinational corporations as well as small size and mid-market companies. We help companies improve control and efficiency while creating capacity for value-add activities and increase insight across the enterprise.

IBM Planning Analytics

IBM Planning Analytics is a fast, easy, flexible and complete cloud solution to support budgeting, forecasting, reporting and analytics. It helps organizations drive greater process efficiency and deliver the foresight they need to steer business performance. This solution not only automates manual tasks but takes you beyond automation by providing self-service analytics that can help you uncover new insights directly from your data. It speeds decision making and improves decision quality.