GUIDES

solver UK

A Finance Team's Guide to Cross-System Reporting

What to consider when ERP data, Excel files, entity submissions, and reporting tools all feed the same finance outputs

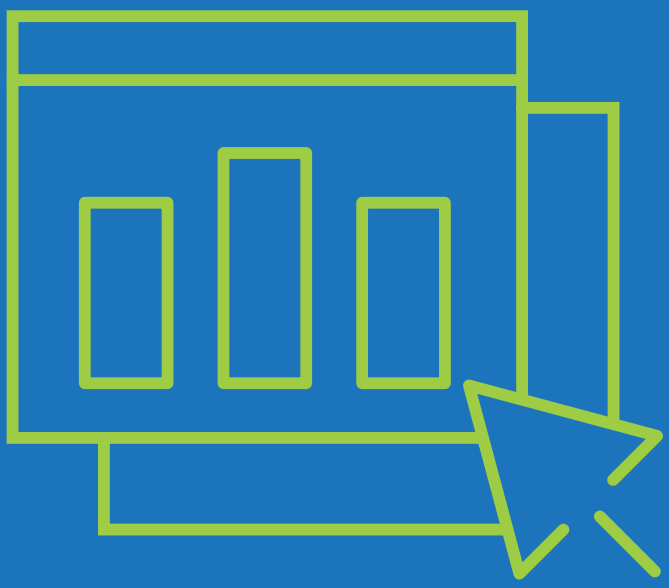


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Executive Summary

Finance reporting often depends on data from several systems, files, entities, and input processes. An ERP may hold core transactional data, while Excel supports budgeting inputs, Power BI presents dashboards, local entities submit files, and operational systems hold detail that finance needs for reporting, consolidation, forecasting, and management review.

As organisations grow, the recurring finance outputs that once felt manageable can require more coordination, mapping, checking, review, and manual preparation. Management accounts, board packs, consolidation reports, forecast packs, dashboards, and planning views may all depend on data being brought together from different places before finance can produce a consistent view.

This guide helps finance teams understand what to consider when cross-system reporting becomes part of the monthly, quarterly, or annual finance cycle. It explains where reporting pressure usually appears, what a structured reporting layer can support, and what information to prepare when evaluating a reporting data warehouse or Corporate Performance Management platform.

A reporting data warehouse acts as a controlled layer between source systems and finance outputs. It can help bring ERP data, Excel-based inputs, entity submissions, operational data, and other sources into a shared model for reporting, consolidation, budgeting, forecasting, dashboards, and analysis.

For finance teams considering Solver, the most useful starting point is the process they already need to support. This may include a sample management pack, a list of source systems, current reporting templates, consolidation files, budget or forecast templates, entity structures, or examples of reports that require data from several sources.

Solver UK helps finance teams structure recurring reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting processes inside Solver's cloud-based Corporate Performance Management platform, supported by finance-led implementation experience, local support, and delivery knowledge built from real finance projects.

1. Introduction

Finance reporting often depends on several systems, files, and input processes working together.

An ERP may hold core transactional data, Excel may support budgeting inputs, Power BI may present dashboards, local entities may submit files, and operational systems may hold the detail behind revenue, cost, stock, payroll, projects, customers, or departments.

Each source may be useful in its own setting, and the reporting challenge usually appears when finance needs to bring those sources together into consistent outputs the business relies on every month, quarter, or year.

Those outputs may include management accounts, board packs, consolidation reports, budget reports, forecast packs, variance analysis, dashboards, and planning views.

This guide helps finance teams understand what to consider when reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting depend on data from more than one place. It explains where cross-system reporting pressure usually appears, what a structured reporting layer can support, and what to have ready before evaluating a platform such as Solver.

2. Why cross-system reporting becomes harder to support

Many finance teams build reporting processes that support the organisation well for years. The team understands the files, the source systems, the reporting pack, the mapping logic, the adjustments, and the review steps. The process may depend on a combination of ERP exports, spreadsheet models, local submissions, Power BI views, and supporting schedules. As the organisation grows, the same process can require more coordination.

Additional entities, new systems, ERP changes, more frequent forecasting, new reporting lines, board requests, and more detailed management questions can all increase the amount of work behind the final report.

The pressure often appears in practical places. Data needs to be exported again, mapping needs to be checked again, entity submissions need to be copied into a group file again, and a number in the board pack may need to be traced through several tabs, extracts, or systems before finance can explain what changed.

A structured reporting layer can help finance teams bring data from different systems into a more consistent model for reporting, consolidation, budgeting, forecasting, and planning.

One way to support this type of structure is through a reporting data warehouse.

A reporting data warehouse acts as a controlled layer between source systems and finance outputs. It helps bring data from different places into a structure that finance can use for recurring reports, consolidation views, planning outputs, dashboards, and analysis.

3. When a reporting data warehouse may be relevant

A reporting data warehouse may be worth exploring when finance outputs depend on data from more than one system, file, entity, or input process.



The signs usually appear in the way reporting work is prepared, checked, reviewed, and supported.

Area	What this may look like
Multiple data sources	Reporting depends on data from ERP, Excel, Power BI, SQL, payroll, CRM, operational systems, or entity files.
Repeated manual handling	Finance exports, copies, pastes, reformats, maps, or adjusts data during each reporting cycle.
Group reporting	Multiple entities, departments, currencies, or cost centres need to feed into one reporting view.
Mapping work	Different charts of accounts, entity codes, departments, or dimensions need to be aligned before
Budgeting and forecasting	Actuals, assumptions, inputs, and outputs sit across several files or systems.
Board reporting	Follow-up questions require finance to trace numbers through several reports, tabs, files, or source systems.
Key-person dependency	One person holds much of the knowledge about how the reporting model works.
ERP change	A new ERP has been introduced, while reporting still depends on historic data, Excel files, or separate
Reporting expansion	The organisation needs more views, more detail, more users, or more frequent reporting cycles.

These signs often appear when a reporting process has carried the organisation to its current stage and the next stage needs a more supported structure around the finance outputs the team already produces.

4. What to clarify before evaluating a structured reporting layer

Before evaluating a reporting data warehouse or Corporate Performance Management platform, it helps to be clear on the reporting process the platform needs to support. The aim is to gather enough information to explain the source systems, recurring outputs, users, data structures, and practical reporting requirements that need to be reflected in the platform.

Source systems

Start by listing the systems and files that feed the current reporting process.

This may include ERP systems such as Business Central, Dynamics, SAP, Sage, NetSuite, or other finance systems, along with Excel files, SQL databases, Power BI datasets, payroll systems, CRM platforms, operational systems, and entity submissions.

Question	Why it matters
Which systems hold the data used in recurring finance reports?	This helps define integration and data scope.
Which data still comes from Excel or local files?	This shows where structured input collection may be relevant.
Are different entities using different systems or account structures?	This affects mapping, consolidation, and reporting design.
Is historic data held in a different system from current data?	This matters during ERP change, migration, or reporting continuity work.
Which systems are the source of truth for each data type?	This supports a clearer data model and reporting structure.

5. Finance outputs

A structured reporting layer should be built around the outputs finance needs to produce. These outputs may already exist as management packs, board reports, consolidation files, budget templates, forecast packs, dashboards, or variance reports.

Question	Why it matters
Which reports are produced every month, quarter, or year?	This identifies the recurring finance cycles that need support.
Who uses each output?	This clarifies whether the output supports finance, leadership, board reporting, entities, departments, or operational teams.
Which reports require data from more than one source?	This shows where cross-system reporting is creating work.
Which outputs need supporting detail or drilldown?	This helps define traceability and investigation requirements.
Which outputs may need to expand later?	This helps the platform support future phases.

Common outputs may include:

Output	Typical reporting need
Management accounts	Recurring finance reporting with consistent structure and supporting detail.
Board packs	High-level reporting with traceability behind key numbers.
Consolidation reports	Entity-level inputs, mapping, adjustments, FX, intercompany, and group views.
Budget reports	Planned values, business inputs, assumptions, and comparison to actuals.

Forecast packs	Actuals, forecast inputs, roll-forward logic, and updated planning views.
Dashboards	Visual reporting built on consistent finance data.
Variance analysis	Comparison between actuals, budget, forecast, prior periods, or other reporting views.

6. Reporting structure

The structure behind the numbers matters because source system data may need to be shaped before it matches the way finance reports.

A finance team may need to report by group, entity, department, region, cost centre, project, customer, product, or management line. Some of these dimensions may exist in the ERP, while others may need to be mapped, grouped, or managed in the reporting layer.

Question	Why it matters
What chart of accounts structure is used for reporting?	This affects mapping and group reporting.
Are there multiple entity, department, or cost centre structures?	This affects consolidation and management views.
Are currencies involved?	This affects FX handling and reporting logic.
Are intercompany items part of the process?	This affects consolidation design and adjustment handling.
Which reporting dimensions need to be visible?	This affects how reports, dashboards, and drilldown should be structured.
Are there management reporting views that differ from statutory or ERP views?	This affects how the reporting model should be shaped.

A reporting data warehouse can help bring these structures together so recurring finance outputs are supported by defined mapping, logic, and reporting views.

7. Users, inputs, and review steps

Cross-system reporting often depends on people as well as data.

Many finance processes require people to submit inputs, review numbers, approve changes, add context, or confirm assumptions. This is common in budgeting, forecasting, consolidation, management reporting, and entity-level reporting.

Question	Why it matters
Who prepares the current reports?	This shows who understands the process and where knowledge sits.
Who provides inputs?	This helps identify departments, entities, or users involved in the cycle.
Who reviews or approves outputs?	This supports workflow and accountability requirements.
Which inputs come from outside finance?	This may affect input forms, templates, and user access.
Where do review notes or adjustments currently sit?	This shows whether information is held outside the main reporting structure.
Which parts of the process depend on one person's knowledge?	This highlights areas where structure and support may be useful.

A structured reporting layer can support controlled inputs, defined workflows, consistent outputs, and clearer ownership across recurring finance cycles, depending on the implementation scope.

8. What a reporting data warehouse can support

A reporting data warehouse can support finance teams by bringing data from different systems, files, and inputs into a shared model for recurring finance outputs.

The exact setup depends on the organisation's systems, reporting needs, data quality, internal ownership, and implementation scope.

Cross-system reporting

A reporting data warehouse can bring data from ERP systems, Excel files, SQL databases, entity submissions, operational systems, and other sources into a shared reporting structure.

This helps finance produce outputs that depend on more than one source while reducing the need to rebuild the reporting model each cycle.

Consolidation

For group finance teams, a reporting data warehouse can support entity-level inputs, account mapping, group structures, FX, adjustments, intercompany items, eliminations, and consolidated reporting views.

This can make consolidation easier to review and support when several entities feed into one reporting process.

Budgeting and forecasting

Budgeting and forecasting often rely on actuals from the ERP, assumptions from the business, and inputs from departments or entities.

A reporting data warehouse can help create a more consistent foundation for actuals, budgets, forecasts, and reporting views, so the planning process can be easier to repeat and compare across cycles.

Management reporting

Management reporting often requires finance to present data by entity, department, cost centre, region, project, customer, product, or another management dimension.

A reporting data warehouse can help shape source data into the reporting views leadership needs, while supporting the detail finance needs behind the summary numbers.

Drilldown and investigation

When a board pack or management report raises follow-up questions, finance often needs a route from the summary number to the supporting detail.

A structured reporting layer can support drilldown and traceability, depending on how the data model and reporting outputs are configured.

Future expansion

Many organisations begin with one finance process under pressure, such as management reporting, consolidation, board packs, or forecast reporting.

Once the structure is in place, the same platform may be able to support wider budgeting, forecasting, planning, dashboards, and analysis requirements over time.

9. Questions to ask when evaluating a solution

When reviewing a reporting data warehouse or Corporate Performance Management platform, the strongest questions are usually connected to the finance outputs the team already needs to produce.

System and data questions

Question	Why it matters
Can the solution connect to the systems we already use?	Cross-system reporting depends on access to the right source data.
Can it support ERP data and Excel-based inputs?	Many finance teams need both system data and controlled business inputs.
Can it handle multiple entities, currencies, departments, or cost centres?	This matters for group reporting and consolidation.
Can source data be mapped into the reporting structure finance needs?	Reporting often requires a structure that differs from the source system.
Can historic and current data be supported where needed?	This matters during ERP changes, acquisitions, or reporting continuity work.

Reporting and output questions

Question	Why it matters
Can the solution support the reports we produce regularly?	The platform should connect to recurring finance cycles.
Can we produce management packs, board packs, consolidation views, dashboards, or forecast reports?	This keeps evaluation tied to practical outputs.
Can reports include supporting detail and drilldown?	Finance often needs to investigate numbers after reports are produced.
Can reporting structures be adjusted as requirements change?	Reporting needs often develop as the organisation grows.
Can the same platform support future budgeting, forecasting, or planning requirements?	This helps the organisation build from one structured foundation.

Implementation and support questions

Question	Why it matters
What information is needed before implementation begins?	This helps the finance team prepare.
How will the current reporting outputs be translated into the platform?	This connects the project to the finance process.
What role will the finance team play during implementation?	The client brings the finance context and required outputs.
What implementation knowledge does the provider bring?	Finance-led implementation matters when reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting need to be structured properly.
What support is available after go-live?	Reporting requirements change, and finance teams need support as the system evolves.

10. What to bring to a Solver UK conversation

A useful first conversation begins with examples of the finance outputs, source systems, files, and reporting structures that matter most to the current process.

Item	Why it helps
Sample management pack or board pack	Shows the outputs finance needs to produce.
List of source systems	Helps identify where reporting data comes from.
Current reporting templates	Shows how the process is currently structured.
Consolidation files or entity submission templates	Helps explain group reporting requirements.
Budgeting or forecasting templates	Shows how planning inputs and outputs are currently managed.

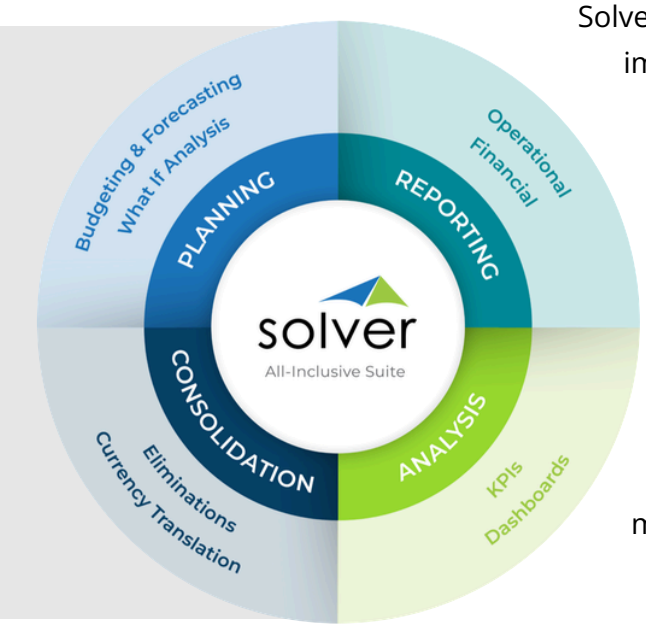
Entity, department, or cost centre structure	Helps explain reporting dimensions.
Examples of recurring manual handling	Shows where data is exported, copied, mapped, adjusted, or reviewed.
Examples of follow-up reporting questions	Shows where drilldown or supporting detail may matter.
Notes on future reporting requirements	Helps identify whether the first phase should support later expansion.

These examples help Solver UK understand the reporting, consolidation, budgeting, or forecasting process that needs to be structured inside Solver.

11. How Solver UK supports structured finance reporting

Solver UK helps finance teams structure recurring reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting processes in Solver's cloud-based Corporate Performance Management platform.

The platform can support reporting, consolidation, budgeting, forecasting, planning, dashboards, and analysis from a shared finance structure.



Solver UK combines the Solver platform with finance-led implementation experience, local support, and delivery knowledge built from real reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting projects.

The client brings the finance context, the outputs they need, and the way the business needs to report.

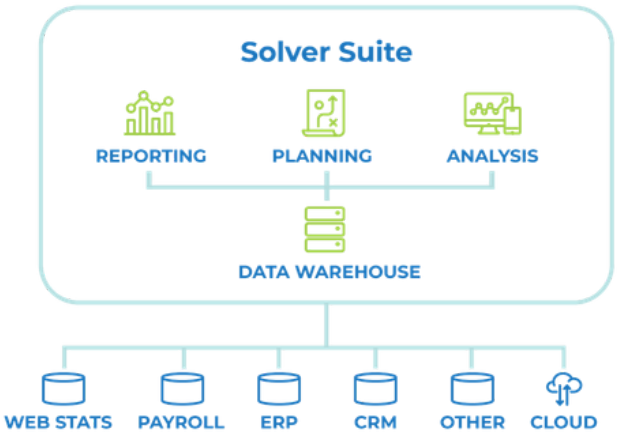
Solver UK helps structure that process inside Solver so source data, mapping, inputs, workflow, reporting logic, and outputs can work together in a more controlled and consistent way.

About Solver UK

Solver UK helps finance teams structure recurring reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting processes in Solver's cloud-based Corporate Performance Management platform.

The UK team works with organisations where finance data sits across ERP systems, Excel files, entity submissions, reporting tools, and other sources, while the finance team still needs to produce consistent management reports, board packs, consolidation views, budget reports, forecast packs, dashboards, and planning outputs.

Solver UK combines the Solver platform with finance-led implementation experience, local support, and delivery knowledge built from real reporting, consolidation, budgeting, and forecasting projects. The client brings the finance context, the outputs they need, and the way the business needs to report. Solver UK helps structure that process inside Solver so source data, mapping, inputs, workflow, reporting logic, and outputs can work together in a more controlled and consistent way.



A useful first conversation usually starts with the finance outputs your team already produces and the systems, files, and inputs that sit behind them.

Bring a sample reporting pack, a list of source systems, current reporting templates, consolidation files, budget or forecast templates, or examples of reports that require data from more than one place.

Talk to Solver UK about your current reporting, consolidation, budgeting, or forecasting setup.

Schedule a Demo

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