



# Large Distribution Company

Modern financial reporting with budget commentary.





*Consolidating their general ledger data in a modern data platform provides this finance team with a strong foundation from which to expand their financial reporting and easily integrate commentary.*

## PROBLEM

Our client's financial team are overrun with consolidating data from multiple general ledger systems for financial reporting and gathering budget variance commentary from the management team in a consistent manner. This is all done in Excel and requires various general ledger extracts, mapping exercises, file sharing, and consolidation efforts.

The management team provide commentary on budget variances in their business. To review it in a consolidated capacity, someone will need to copy and paste this from various files into a master.

Small changes to a single report layout or the chart of accounts requires increased manual labour to reproduce the multiple iterations of financial reports.

Exposé' task was to design and develop a solution to consolidate the general ledger data, capture budget commentary, and provide interactive financial reports to the users.

## SOLUTION

The first task at hand was to consolidate the disparate sets of general ledger data with their respective charts of accounts. The data is ingested to an Azure Data Lake and mapped into one general ledger and chart of accounts (using Microsoft's new Azure Synapse Analytics engine).

A common stumbling block is producing custom reporting layouts for interactive financial reports. Exposé designed a simple solution which allows the finance team to define and maintain their Profit and Loss layout and produced an interactive visual Profit and Loss in Power BI.

The final element of the solution was to close the loop on the budget commentary. Exposé designed an embedded Power App to capture commentary live and in line with the interactive Profit and Loss report. The commentary can now be reported on like any other slice of information within the data platform.

## BUSINESS BENEFITS

- A consolidated data set for general ledger data which can be used by any downstream analytics medium.
- Azure Synapse analytics gives the power of SQL on top of the data lake without paying for the SQL database to store the data.
- A single authoritative general ledger data model which can be used for multiple other financial reports (balance sheet, cash flow statement, operational reports, etc.).
- A secure commentary repository in a fit-for-purpose database. Increased reliability and availability of information (no information loss from copying in between files).
- One report layout to maintain and with the addition of row-level security users can access only their relevant part of the business (but in the same format).
- No manual data processing required from the finance team.
- The management team can monitor their budget variances at any point of the month (even daily if necessary).