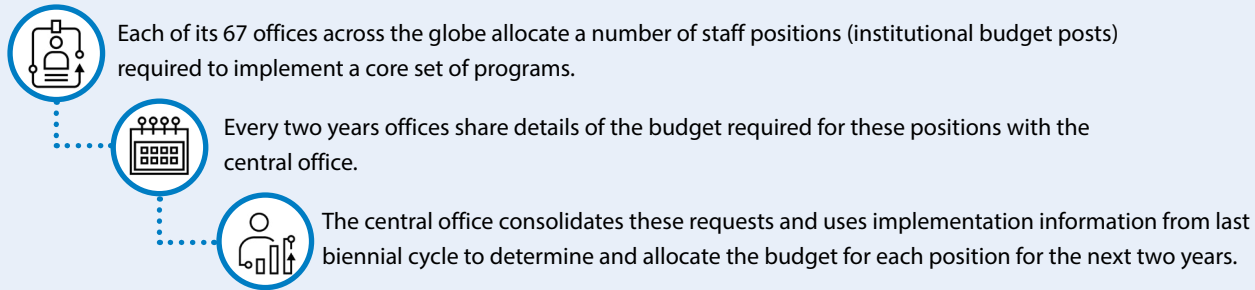


# IMPROVED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT WITH CLOUD-BASED BUDGETING

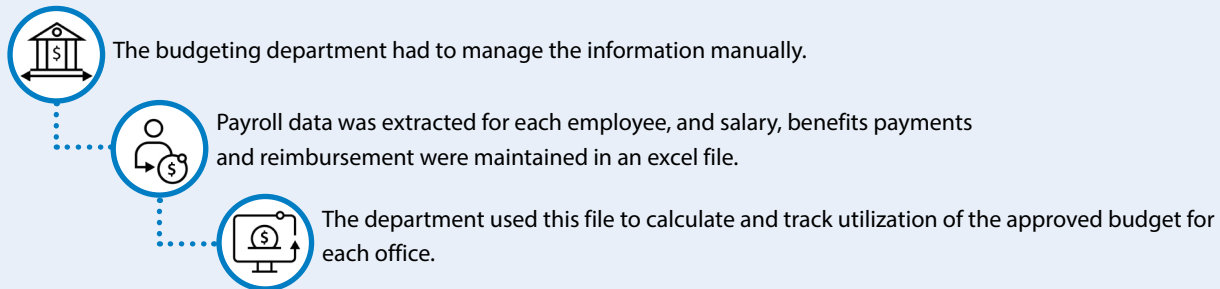
## Abstract

An agency of an intergovernmental organization used cloud to digitize its institutional post budgeting process. The new cloud-based system automated key processes and improved tracking and utilization of funds, ensuring compliance with parent organization's policies.

## An agency of an intergovernmental organization uses a complex budgeting process to fund its core mission programs.



## The agency's existing PeopleSoft system was unable to support this process.



The entire process consumed a lot of time and was error prone, especially if country offices promoted staff or moved them to other offices during the biennial cycle. There were instances when the agency could not track deviations (funds used to non-core activities instead of the mandatory ones) or accurately analyze utilization of funds.

## Cloud-based transformation of the budgeting system

The agency decided to use Oracle Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service (PBCS) system to digitize its institutional post budgeting process. When our team (Infosys Public Services) started the implementation program, we realized that the process was too complex for the PBCS system to support out of the box.

### Stage 1: Proof of concept

We worked with different stakeholders from the agency to understand the key features and requirements that they wanted in the new system. The team then created a small proof of concept, leveraging PBCS framework to show how the system would support these requirements and digitize the budgeting process. The demo was successful and inspired confidence within the agency to continue with a full-blown implementation.

### Stage 2: System implementation

The agency realized that the program will entail certain customizations to the PBCS system. Our team conducted extensive workshops to document all the requirements and used this information to create a set of configurations and customizations.

Configurations	Customizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interfaces to automate loading of the required data and process it according to business requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functionality to calculate proforma cost (cost associated with each staff position)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data mart for a multi-dimensional view to track the budget and actual utilization of funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool to load previous biennial approved budget</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workflows and rules to manage movement of data between the forms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool to capture budgets for non-staff cost at headquarter level</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports for operational and strategic insights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tool to calculate the variance between proposed current budget and previous approved budget</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security protocols to comply with agency's requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Custom forms and reports for variance analysis, utilization tracking, scenario analysis etc.</li> </ul>

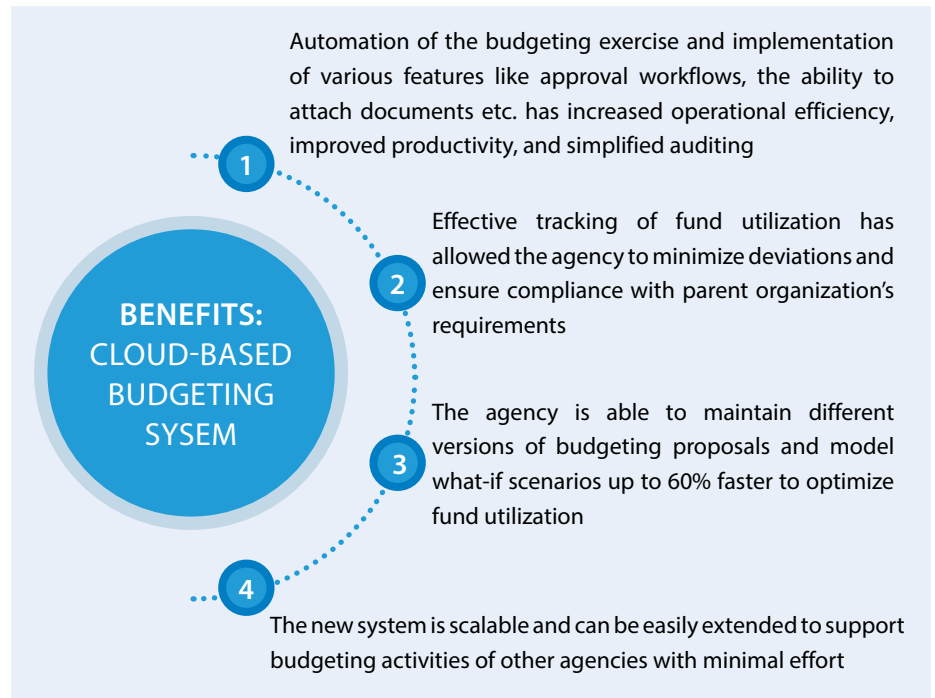
The team adopted an agile approach consisting of four sprints to build the entire solution. This allowed the team to effectively manage scope and requirements changes, and at the same time, enable faster adoption of the new system and the process.

The program was not without its challenges. Since documentation about the process and the system was limited, the team brainstormed to finalize the requirements and features required in the new system.

Product workshops and demonstrations, documentation and walk through of requirements, and agile development ensured that the project was executed successfully on time and within budget.

## Benefits from the cloud-based budgeting system

The first phase of the project is live and the agency is using the system for the 2020-21 biennial budgeting activities. Initial outcomes are encouraging.



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