

Oracle's Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance

Technical Data Sheet

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Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance Specifications Summary

	Light Use	Heavy Use
Client Machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 512 MB RAM minimum, 1 GB recommended • 2 GHz processor minimum, 3 GHz recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB recommended • 2 GHz processor minimum, 3 GHz recommended
Server Machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB or more recommended • 2 GHz processor minimum, Dual 2 GHz processor recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB or more recommended • Dual or Quad 2 GHz processor minimum

	Client Machine	Server Machine
Data Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel • ASCII Text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperion Planning • Hyperion Financial Management • Hyperion Essbase • Hyperion Enterprise • Oracle 9i, 10g, 11g • SQL Server 2000, 2005 • DB2

The Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance Solution

Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance (HSF) is a tool that allows financial professionals to model and to analyze data more effectively and efficiently in support of their short and long-term decision-making.

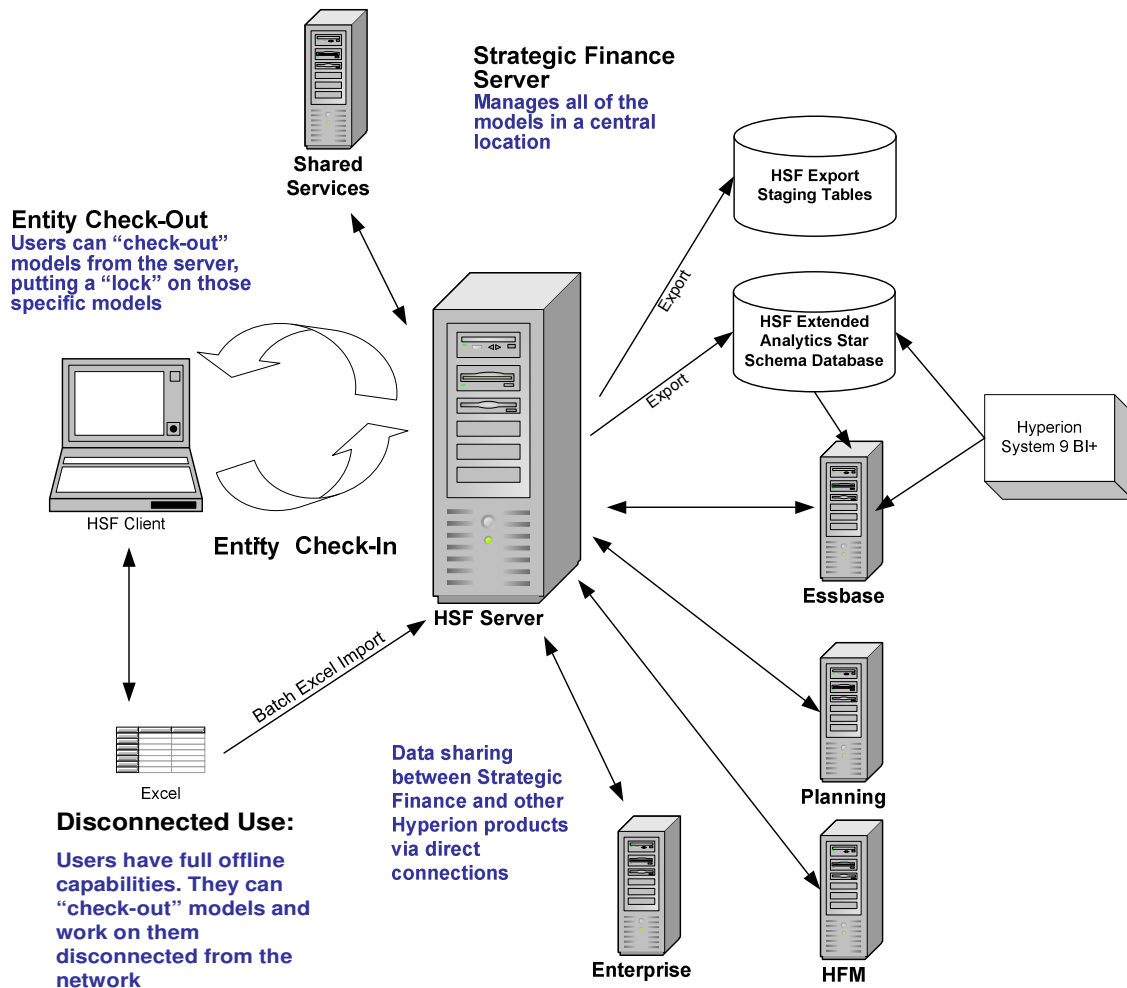
What is Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance?

Strategic Finance enables the seamless integration and consolidation of financial forecasts and models among planning, business development, treasury, and investor relations groups within a company. This includes not only the interaction among corporate groups, but also between business units and the corporate office. The results are significantly enhanced and lead to more consistent communication not only within the company but also to external constituents as well. Most importantly, Strategic Finance reduces the time and cost of completing the related planning activities while increasing the accuracy and robustness of the analytics at the same time.

Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance for Corporate Credit

Strategic Finance is also the core of our solution for credit risk analysis and portfolio management, which addresses the analytical needs related to all steps in the corporate lending process in financial institutions. From the simple financial modeling during the origination phase, to the more complex financial modeling that supports the underwriting analysis, to the ongoing account monitoring, to powerful what-if scenarios across a portfolio of financial models, our Corporate Credit solution is the first one of its kind, and creates a competitive advantage for financial institutions.

Hyperion System 9 Strategic Finance Technical Overview



Strategic Finance Templates and Entities

Strategic Finance Entities are structured files that may reside on the server and that can be checked-out and saved to a local machine. These files form the primary mechanism for storing and manipulating data. Each Entity is a file and may represent a business unit, a product line, an investment project or any other logical unit for which you are forecasting financial statements.

You have full financial statements and an unlimited number of scenarios in each one of these Entities. In most cases, you will be consolidating multiple Entities in different ways to allow you to see aggregate historical and forecasted financial models. For more details on the concept of Entities, please contact Hyperion.

Templates are files that are created as frameworks from which Entities are built; they form the basis for the files that are used within the Strategic Finance system. You can customize templates in order to accelerate the creation of new business units, companies, potential acquisition targets and major investments.

Strategic Finance Client

The Strategic Finance Client is the main interface for working with Strategic Finance Entities. The Strategic Finance Client incorporates various features that were developed to ensure modeling with flexibility, yet structure with integrity. Strategic Finance Entities can be modified even if the user is disconnected from the Strategic Finance Server.

Strategic Finance Server

The Strategic Finance Server contains Strategic Finance Databases and programs to manipulate them. The Server also has the ability to run several administrator-controlled and automated processes such as the file conversion routines that ensure that all files on server are of the same (and most current) version.

Entity Change Manager allows a Power User to make sweeping metadata and report changes to all or a defined group of Entities.

Assumptions Change Manager allows the user to set key driver account data (prices, drivers, rates, etc.) in one place and push it out to select Entities.

Strategic Finance does not require any external relational database. The Strategic Finance Server is a centrally-managed version control system. Users check out Entities for editing on the Strategic Finance Client, which can be saved to a local hard drive for editing (at the office, at home, on an airplane, etc) and later checked back in to publish the changes to the Strategic Finance Database. The Strategic Finance Server can be configured to keep a defined number of archived (older) versions of each Entity so a user can reference them at a later time either by opening them or referring to them on reports.

The Strategic Finance Server runs on a Windows 2000 or Windows 2003 Server.

Strategic Finance Database

The Strategic Finance Database serves as a collective data store for groups of Entity files. It is possible to copy, move or archive Entities from or to a different Strategic Database as needed. A Strategic Finance database is a highly organized library of financial models that possesses a large number of powerful administrative functions.

Strategic Finance Staging Database

The Strategic Finance staging database is used only if you wish to establish data export routines to a third-party relational database. The export occurs immediately after an Entity is checked in.

This typically serves as an intermediary unit for storing data that is being exported to an external relational database (Oracle, SQL Server). It functions in a messaging capacity between the Strategic Finance Server and other external databases.

Strategic Finance Extended Analytics

The Extended Analytics star schema relational database (Oracle, SQL Server, DB2) is used if you wish to export data from Strategic Finance for reporting and data mining. The export occurs immediately after an Entity is checked in. This relational database can be configured to update an Essbase database as well for additional data mining and reporting options.

Strategic Finance Administrator

The Strategic Finance Administrator is a utility application that offers a comprehensive interface to manage centralized security and Access Control elements of the Strategic Finance system. User rights, Entity access and group membership are all administered from this tool. Transaction and users access logs can be monitored from Strategic Finance Administrator.

Hyperion Shared Services

The Strategic Finance Server can be configured to make use of Hyperion Shared Services. Shared Services provides unified user provisioning and management across all Hyperion products and supports automatic single sign-on authentication. This configuration is required for batch data integration between the Strategic Finance Server and other Hyperion products as well as external user authentication. See the section on User Authentication for more details.

Technical Requirements

Note: Please consult a Hyperion pre-sales associate in order to assess whether the Strategic Finance deployment in your organization will fall into a light or heavy category. One of the main metrics used to determine the usage category is the number of entities in the model, which can vary substantially depending on the overall requirements. Other key metrics include the number of concurrent users, and the number and scale of consolidations run on the processor.

Light / Heavy Use of the Products

The requirements for the client and server hardware relate to how a company plans on using Strategic Finance initially and going forward.

Strategic Finance Client

- *Light* use means that in addition to editing Entities, the user runs model consolidations locally for structures containing less than 50 Entities
- *Heavy* use relates to running consolidations locally for structures containing more than 50 Entities

Strategic Finance Server

- *Light* use means that less than 100 users connect to the Strategic Finance Server to check-in and check-out Entities or running server-based model consolidations for structures containing less than 50 Entities or for infrequent consolidation activity
- *Heavy* use means that over 100 users connect to the Strategic Finance Server to check-in and check-out Entities or running server-based consolidations for structures containing more than 50 Entities or for intensive consolidation activity

Client Machine Specifications

All Implementations

- Windows 2000/2003/XP/Vista
- About 150 MB hard disk space for program files, plus additional space for data
- Screen settings set to a minimum of 1024 x 768

Light Use

- 512 MB RAM minimum, 1 GB or more recommended
- 2 GHz processor minimum, 3 GHz or more recommended

Heavy Use

- 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB recommended
- 2 GHz processor minimum, 3 GHz recommended

Server Specifications

All Implementations

- Windows 2000/2003
- MDAC 2.7 or higher loaded if performing relational database export (MDAC 2.8 recommended)
- Disk Storage
 - Operating system and Strategic Finance Server program files: 80 GB mirrored or RAIDed area
 - Strategic Finance data files (varies with each customer deployment): Larger RAID-protected storage area (may be directly attached disk drives or a SAN array)
 - Sufficient storage should be included to hold the actual Strategic Finance Entities, their backup Archives, an area for Strategic Finance's administrative and transaction files, and the user background-task logs such as Consolidation reports
 - Discuss your potential implementation with Hyperion Services

Light Use

- 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB or more recommended
- 1 GHz processor minimum, Dual 2 GHz processor recommended

Heavy Use

- 1 GB RAM minimum, 2 GB or more recommended
- Dual or Quad 2 GHz processor minimum

Technical Standards Employed

- Client/server application designed with an Object-Oriented Framework
- Strategic Finance Client and Strategic Finance Server were developed with the C++ programming language
- Utilizes Microsoft Foundation Classes
- Communication between Strategic Finance Client and Strategic Finance Server is accomplished through the TCP/IP transfer protocol and remote procedure calls (RPC)
- Email messaging is SMTP compliant

Data Integration

- Integration with Hyperion Planning, Hyperion Financial Management, Hyperion Essbase, Hyperion Enterprise and Excel. Data mapping configured through Strategic Finance user interface.
- Import and export of ASCII text files supported.
- Batch Import of Excel documents supported.
- OLE DB is used for communication with the external relational staging database.

User Authentication

Strategic Finance uses Hyperion's standard external authentication, which works with NTLM, Active Directory and LDAP. This is configured through Hyperion Shared Services. This configuration is required if the Strategic Finance Server is set up for batch data integration with Hyperion Essbase, Hyperion Planning or Hyperion Financial Management. SSL can be used to encrypt username and password information when in Shared Services mode.

In an alternate configuration, Strategic Finance can use Windows NT's single sign on capability to authenticate users. A user must successfully log into a Windows NT domain on their workstation. The user must be a member of a domain that has a trust relationship with the domain under which the Strategic Finance Server resides. With a successful login, network sessions the user initiates can be checked by the Strategic Finance Server to validate the initiator of the session request. The Strategic Finance Server compares the identity of the incoming connection against the authorized list of Strategic Finance Server users, matching both domain and user name. If there is a match, then the session is authorized and the request proceeds. Anonymous connections and connections from authenticated domain users that do not appear in the authorized users list are rejected immediately. The Strategic Finance server will not honor any request from a user not found in the authorized users list.

Deployment

Client Server Architecture

Strategic Finance makes use of standard Internet protocols for communications between client and server. For secure communications, several current Strategic Finance customers run successfully by connecting to the Strategic Finance Server through a VPN.

Administration and Security

Users and user groups are managed through Hyperion Shared Services. A Strategic Finance Administrator creates Strategic Finance Databases, restricts access to Strategic Finance Entities either individually or through Entity Groups, configures connections to external relational databases and controls the amount and type of data exported to relational databases. For each Entity on the Strategic Finance Server, the Administrator can determine who can access the Entity and what permissions the user or users have regarding that Entity.

Access Control

There are four levels of users that exist for each entity: Owner, Named User, User Group and Default. Each of these classifications has its own level of privilege. This list is in descending order. That is, Owner privilege is a higher level of privilege than Named User, and so on down the list.

Owner: The user who created the Entity on the Server becomes its Owner. The Owner of the Entity gets access as defined by the Administrator.

Named User: If the Administrator would like to grant access to more people, he or she may add them as Named Users. Each Named User gets its own level of privilege.

User Group: If there is a group of users who should get the same privilege on an Entity, the Administrator can create a User Group and add the User Group to the list of people who can access the Entity.

Default: If the user is not the Owner, a Named User, or a member of a User Group, then he or she gets the Default privilege. The Administrator can, by default, grant no access.

The most basic access rule on an Entity is the ability to check it out from the server. If the user can do that, then there are a series of rules about what he or she can do with the Entity. For example, the Administrator can control which Accounts can be changed, whether additional Subaccounts can be added, whether the user can input data in history and so on.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does Strategic Finance work on Citrix/Microsoft Terminal Services?

Yes. Users of the Strategic Finance client software can share a single copy and host the application on Citrix/Microsoft Terminal Services.

How does the communication between the server and the client happen?

Strategic Finance uses Remote Procedure Calls (RPC) to communicate with the server over TCP/IP.

What is the load imposed on the network by HSF?

Traffic between the client and server consists generally of infrequent, short messages. Entity check-ins and check-outs transfer the entire content of the entity between the client and server. This transfer resembles a network file copy or file transfer in terms of its load on the network. Strategic Finance incorporates compression technology that can reduce the network load for check-ins and check-outs by a factor of approximately 9 to 1. Strategic Finance works well over wide area networks (WANs) especially when compression is enabled.

Are there back-up capabilities provided with Strategic Finance?

While HSF has an internal backup capability in conjunction with an external tool (PKZip), Hyperion recommends the use of standard server backup products, such as BackupExec, ArcServe, etc. Be sure to specify the "*back up open files*" option when acquiring a backup solution for the Strategic Finance server.

Do we need a dedicated server for Strategic Finance or can it be shared with other applications?

Ideally, the Strategic Finance Server should be placed on a dedicated server. Strategic Finance can share a server with other applications if the activity is light. Entity check-in and check-out place a relatively light load on the server. Server-based consolidations, Database Export, Extended Analytics, Batch Import and Export, and Entity Change Management are CPU-intensive activities, and can result in sharply degraded performance for other applications.

Can the Strategic Finance server software coexist with other Hyperion products in the same machine?

Yes, but ideally, the Strategic Finance Server should be placed on a dedicated server. Please work with Hyperion to make sure that the versions of the Hyperion products you are using are compatible. You can find the Supported Platform Matrix at http://dev.hyperion.com/products/s9_strategic_finance/.