

**FACT SHEET**

# GLSense: Integrated Financial Reporting for Excel Users

Finance users have the substantial responsibility of producing accurate balance sheets and other financial statements every quarter. Although these reports are a high-level view of a business' finances, compiling them requires research at a very granular level, into thousands (or more) business transactions.

The tool finance teams use for success is Excel. Even after 35 years, it is still the tool of choice for finance departments. A trusted solution, Excel is not going away any time soon.

Excel does present challenges, however. It's easy for users to introduce errors into spreadsheets by applying an incorrect formula to a cell or by copying and pasting incorrect cells. Changes to spreadsheets tend to populate across an organization with little data governance, or require a significant amount of time to validate every time a change is made. Since Excel spreadsheets are primarily desktop-based, they are at risk for data loss or ransomware attacks.

Today, companies need better data governance than Excel can provide. They need to ensure that they have one definitive source of truth for their financial data, instead of a multitude of spreadsheets.

*“Errors can bloom because data in Excel is separated from other systems and isn’t automatically updated.”*

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/stop-using-excel-finance-chiefs-tell-staffs-1511346601>

At the same time, financial software applications that do not meet user preference for Excel are not going to be adopted by users. Eventually users will revert to working outside the solution by downloading to Excel.

## Oracle's Smart View for Fusion

Oracle's solution to the hazards of financial reporting on spreadsheets is a product called Smart View. The tool is an Oracle add-in for Excel that lets financial application users view general ledger balances and create financial statements and reports within Excel. The tool enables users to report against data coming directly from their OLAP system – in this case an Essbase cube. Essbase is a multidimensional analytic database, essentially a spreadsheet in database form that has been optimized for analytic queries. Originally developed by Hyperion Software, Essbase joined the Oracle family in 2007 with Oracle's purchase of Hyperion.

Oracle Fusion users have access to Smart View as part of their Fusion licensing. However, the product is not available for other Oracle ERP software, like E-Business Suite or NetSuite. Organizations that use E-Business Suite and want Excel integration will have to purchase a third-party solution, as well as the Essbase database. And until now, NetSuite users have not had a tool to connect to and work inside of Excel.

## Critical Smart View Shortcomings

Although Oracle Fusion users have their basic spreadsheet needs met by Smart View, the tool does have a few shortcomings worth noting:

### Staying Inside Excel

One is Smart View's drill down functionality. When a user drills down to a data point, Smart View **switches them from Excel back to the Fusion application** to display the data. This is a less than optimal experience for Excel users, who prefer to stay in the tool rather than have their activity disrupted by switching to another application.

## Access to User-Defined Fields

In Smart View users **are not able to access user-defined fields**. You cannot extend or customize Smart View to allow drilldowns to user-defined fields. Most organizations that have implemented user-defined fields want to be able to see that data, and for financial data expect to see it in Excel. This increases the likelihood that users will resort to unsafe workarounds like exporting data to work in Excel.

## Delivering Reports from Excel

At this time, Smart View's report delivery capabilities are not particularly robust. Although Fusion allows distribution of financial reports in a variety of formats, **Smart View does not support the same delivery of output**.

# Introducing Orbit's GLSense Financial Reporting Solution

Orbit's GLSense financial reporting add-in gives users access to their complete financial data from inside Excel. Whether your organization uses Fusion, E-Business Suite or NetSuite, it can use GLSense for financial reporting.

- ✓ **With GLSense, users can drill down to details without leaving Excel**
- ✓ **GLSense users can access all their user-defined fields within Excel**
- ✓ **GLSense enables direct distribution of Excel-based reports**

GLSense makes it faster and easier for finance users to reconcile period-end statements. An add-in for Orbit's self-service reporting and analytics platform, GLSense enables users of Oracle Fusion, E-Business Suite and NetSuite to continue to use Excel, their tool of choice, to create and deliver financial and other operational reports.



## About Orbit Reporting + Analytics

Orbit was designed from the ground up to meet the need for self-service reporting and analytics. Application platform-agnostic and database-independent, Orbit integrates with Oracle EBS, Fusion, NetSuite, Salesforce and many other applications, and connects to multiple data sources and applications, to let you report on your entire organizational data, wherever it is held.

With Orbit, business users can create tables, pivots, spreadsheets, charts, maps and visualizations. An intelligent query generator returns ad hoc results instantly. Users can drill down for granular detail, run reports in real time or on schedule, then share with others in a variety of formats. Fully secure, Orbit complies with your existing security and authentication, to secure access down to the row level.

**SCHEDULE A DEMO TODAY!**

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