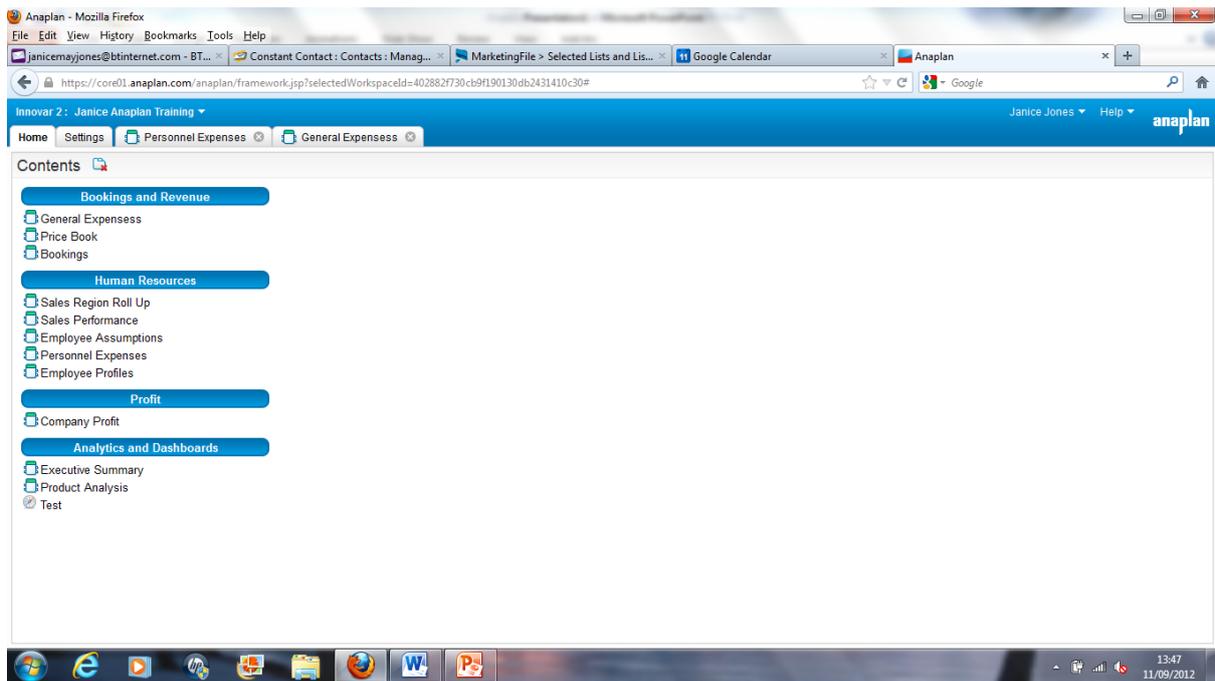


Anaplan - View Your Data with Confidence

Imagine you have taken the plunge into the world of Cloud Computing. Or maybe you already have. What benefits do you expect? Would you enjoy being able to manipulate and view your data under different scenarios with just a few clicks and know that you are looking at the same source data? One cloud based product that allows this in a very simple and user friendly manner is Anaplan and here we look at some of the ways you can view and manipulate your data. We also look at how Anaplan is different Excel in this respect.

Once you have created an Anaplan model, the first view of your model is under the 'Home' tab. An example view is shown below:



As you can see this view allows you to place the components (modules) of your model into Functional Areas (Shown in blue with white writing). The user can define the functional areas and which module goes into which area. The order in which items appear are user defined. So they are not restricted to alphabetical or date order as in Windows Explorer, if you were trying to do something similar using spreadsheets and folders. Therefore with Anaplan the view of your model can be much more logical with inputs at the top, calculations in the middle and outputs at the bottom.

The following two screenshots show how you can change the detail of your view with just a few clicks. The first screenshot shows the Personnel Expenses Module with the Total Company (ringed in red) and the Personal Expense figures for all employees.

The screenshot shows the Anaplan Personnel Expenses view. The 'Personnel Expenses' dropdown menu is open, and 'Total Company' is selected and highlighted with a red circle. The table below shows the following data:

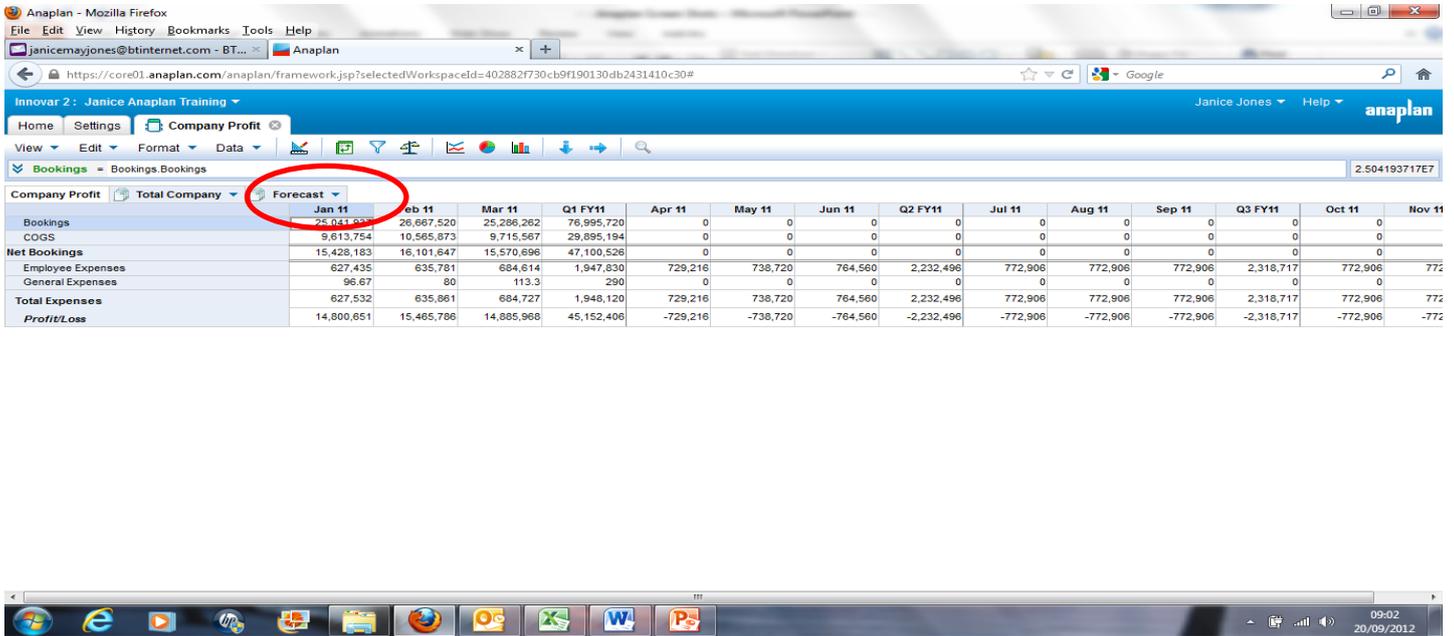
Personnel Expenses	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Q1 FY11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Q2 FY11	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Q3 FY11	Oct 11	Nov 11
Active Employee Headcount	73	74	79	79	85	86	89	89	90	90	90	90	90	90
Salary	496,431	505,515	543,566	1,547,544	579,140	598,223	607,181	1,772,544	614,265	614,265	614,265	1,842,794	614,265	614
Bonus %	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.2778%	20.27
Bonus	102,254	103,316	111,466	317,036	118,377	120,147	123,829	362,353	124,891	124,891	124,891	374,673	124,891	124
Medical	6,750	6,800	7,500	21,050	8,100	8,300	8,600	25,000	8,650	8,650	8,650	25,950	8,650	8,650
Dental	6,750	6,800	7,500	21,050	8,100	8,300	8,600	25,000	8,650	8,650	8,650	25,950	8,650	8,650
Vision	6,750	6,800	7,500	21,050	8,100	8,300	8,600	25,000	8,650	8,650	8,650	25,950	8,650	8,650
Travel & Entertainment	6,500	6,550	7,050	20,100	7,400	7,450	7,750	22,600	7,800	7,800	7,800	23,400	7,800	7,800
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	627,435	635,781	684,614	1,947,830	729,216	738,720	764,560	2,232,496	772,906	772,906	772,906	2,318,717	772,906	772

However by clicking on the drop down menu arrow next to Total Company it is possible to change the view detail. In the example below the view is for a single Employee – Simon Tucker (ringed in red). The update is instantaneous and the user can change views to show departments, regions etc., depending on how your model has been structured. To do something similar in Excel would probably depend on having a set of spreadsheets and the issues that poses on synchronising data. As mentioned above with Anaplan there is only one single source of data.

	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Q1 FY11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Q2 FY11	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Q3 FY11	Oct 11	Nov 11
Active Employee	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Headcount	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Salary	7,083	7,083	7,083	21,250	7,083	7,083	7,083	21,250	7,083	7,083	7,083	21,250	7,083	7,083
Bonus %	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
Bonus	1,771	1,771	1,771	5,313	1,771	1,771	1,771	5,313	1,771	1,771	1,771	5,313	1,771	1,771
Medical	10	10	10	30	10	10	10	30	10	10	10	30	10	10
Dental	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Travel & Entertainment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	8,864	8,864	8,864	26,593	8,864	8,864	8,864	26,593	8,864	8,864	8,864	26,593	8,864	8,864

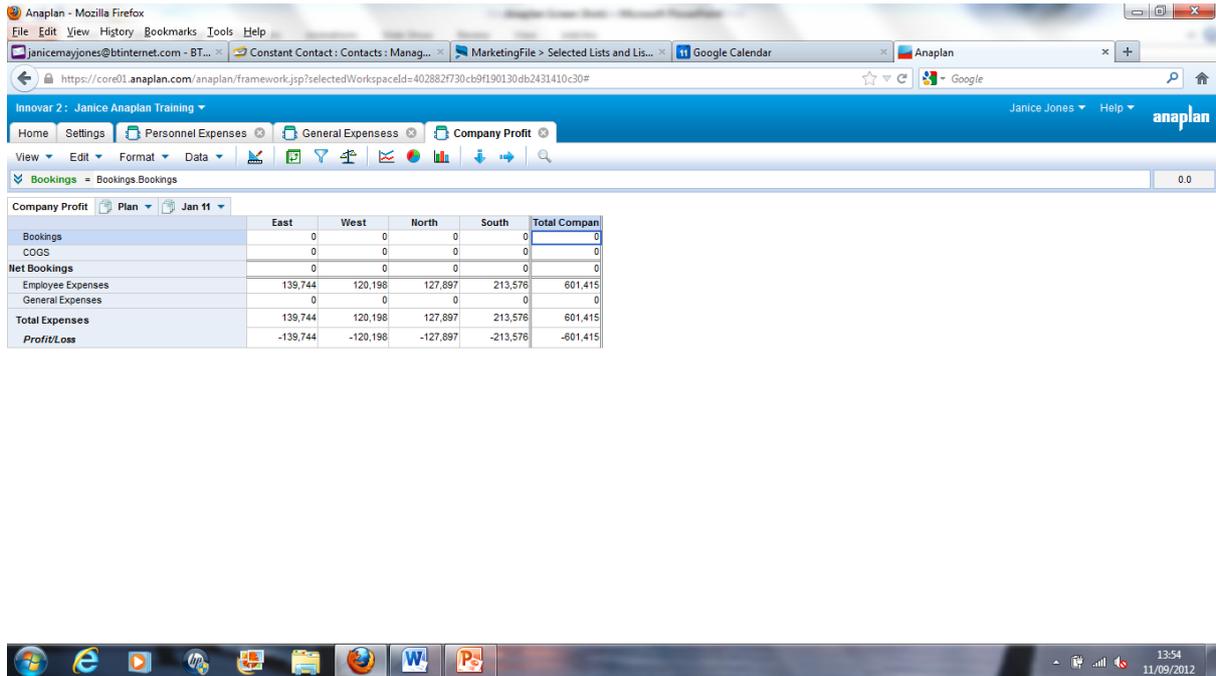
In a similar way the user can toggle between different versions of their data. The example below shows the Plan and Forecast view of the same module. Keeping these views synchronised using spreadsheets would be an enormous task. As every time a change is made on your Forecast spreadsheet, the same would need to be done on your Plan spreadsheet. Therefore a monitoring and updating mechanism would need to be put in place, which adds a huge overhead to the maintenance of your spreadsheet. With Anaplan you do not have this problem.

	Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Q1 FY11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Q2 FY11	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Q3 FY11	Oct 11	Nov 11
Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Bookings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employee Expenses	601,415	609,571	655,854	1,866,840	698,366	707,230	731,900	2,137,496	740,056	740,056	740,056	2,220,167	740,056	740,056
General Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	601,415	609,571	655,854	1,866,840	698,366	707,230	731,900	2,137,496	740,056	740,056	740,056	2,220,167	740,056	740,056
Profit/Loss	-601,415	-609,571	-655,854	-1,866,840	-698,366	-707,230	-731,900	-2,137,496	-740,056	-740,056	-740,056	-2,220,167	-740,056	-740,056

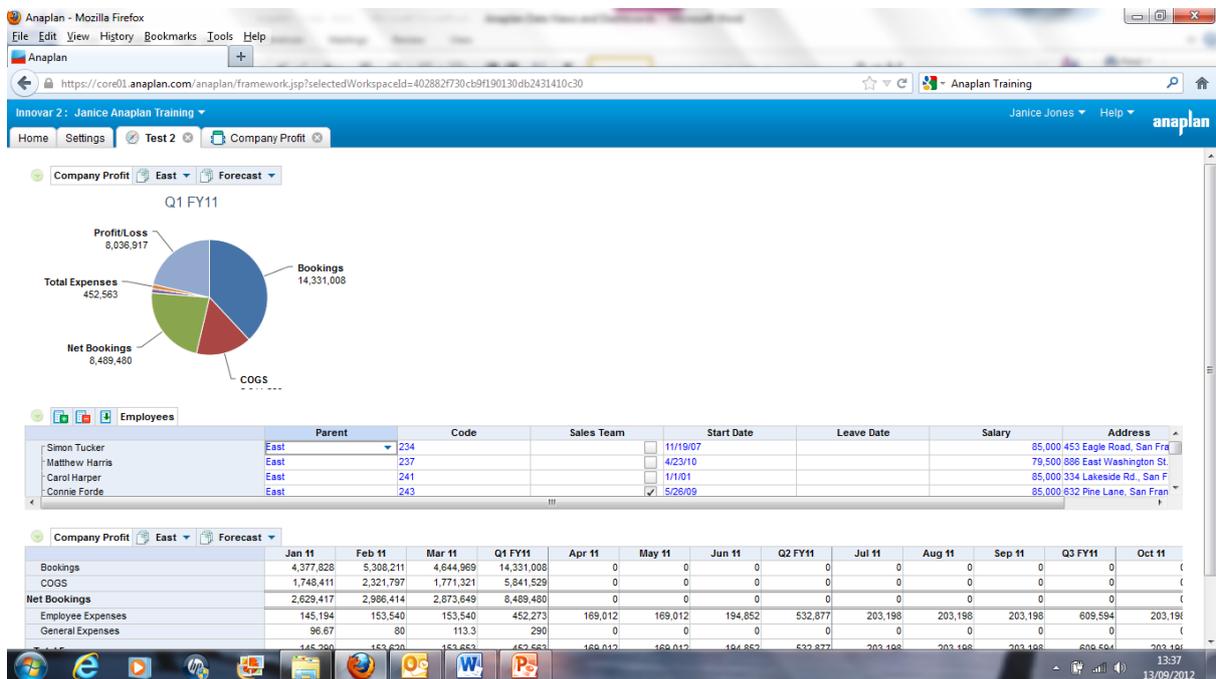


Another easy way to change the view of your module is to Pivot Data. This can be done by clicking on the Pivot Symbol. This allows the user to determine what appears, in rows, columns and tabs. The user has complete flexibility how they arrange their data. The screenshot above shows Company Profit for each month. However below this has been changed so that the data is shown for each region.

Pivot can be performed in Spreadsheets but only by rows and columns i.e. 2 dimensionally. Anaplan is multi-dimensional and allows the user to Pivot data however they wish, giving much more flexibility to the user.



Finally we will have a look at how to display your data graphically or in a report using a dashboard. An example dashboard is shown below:



In this dashboard we have shown a graph of the Company Profit for the East Region of the company for Q1FY11. We have also shown who the employees in the East Region of the company and listed the data for the Company Profit for the East Region of the company. In this way the data can be analysed with all information in one place. The data can be set up specifically for the person that needs it and can be put in a format that is appropriate for them. Additionally the dashboard will always reflect the current data in the Model, even if the data changes after you have created your dashboard.

To create the same set of Graphs using spreadsheets would require multiple spreadsheets and again there would be the problems associated with synchronisation and version control.

Of course what we have shown here is just a sample of some of the ways data can be manipulated and viewed within Anaplan. Hopefully this article has given a flavour for the flexibility and ease with which this can be done in Anaplan. There are many other ways to manipulate and view data. To learn more about Anaplan please come and speak to an [Anaplan](#) expert at [Innovar Ltd.](#)