

Develop effective operating plans with accurate funding and allocation forecasts

What if you could have reliable funding and allocation forecasts? Would you be able to create better annual operating plans for better organizational efficiency?

Funding and allocation forecasts are the foundation of government agencies' annual operating plans. Accurate funding and allocations forecasts enable you to:

- Maintain critical programs and services
- Determine appropriate staffing levels
- Develop effective recruiting campaigns
- Ensure the right number of personnel
- Build budgets that match operating expenses and funding

For example, a military agency forecasts recruitment levels with DecisionTime. Then, decision makers use WhatIf? to see how different recruitment campaigns will affect recruitment levels. With the resulting information, they are able to determine how much of the budget to allocate to recruitment campaigns.

Get sophisticated forecasts in less time

DecisionTime gives you the critical information you need for planning, without the drawbacks of traditional forecasting methods. Unlike spreadsheet programs, DecisionTime uses complex, powerful statistical methods to quickly create forecasts. And unlike many forecasting programs that require specialized training, you don't

have to be an expert to get effective results with DecisionTime. Even novice users can create sophisticated funding and allocation forecasts, using features such as the Forecast Wizard. Just answer preset questions about your data — the Forecast Wizard automatically chooses the most appropriate model for your analysis. You get the information you need, because DecisionTime makes it easy.

Improve operational efficiency with interactive, Web-enabled forecasts

With DecisionTime and WhatIf?, you can spread the power of forecasting throughout your organization. Create forecasts with DecisionTime, then make them available to decision makers via the Web or your organization's intranet. Then, they can instantly see alternate possibilities by changing variables — without requesting or creating new forecasts. Revisions are easy because all of the tools and features are located in one place. Even users with no statistical experience can easily work with complex funding and allocation forecasts.

For example, a government social services agency uses DecisionTime to forecast the effects of policy changes on funding. The agency creates an initial forecast with DecisionTime, then sends it to department managers using WhatIf?. The managers easily revise the forecasts to reflect budgetary information specific to their departments, then send them back to the central office to be rolled into one forecast for annual planning.



“Removing both the error and the need to rely on specialists, DecisionTime helps... users automatically find the most reliable forecast for the data and identify and explore different forecast predictors that should underpin an insight or fact-based decision.”

— Bob Moran, Vice President
Decision Support Research,
Aberdeen Group, Inc.

Improve operational efficiency with DecisionTime and WhatIf?

- Ensure continued funding by acting and reacting quickly: easily create forecasts without expert statistical skills and get precise results you can use to take action
- Find answers to tough questions: change variables and discover in seconds how your decisions will affect outcomes
- Rely on the unparalleled combination of forecasting and collaboration: build powerful forecasts with DecisionTime, then send them to decision makers for interactive viewing with WhatIf?
- Build accurate forecasts quickly with the DecisionTime Forecast Wizard: just answer preset questions about your data and DecisionTime automatically chooses the most appropriate model for your analysis
- Enable more confident, well-informed decisions by sharing results instantly: use WhatIf? to distribute forecasts for better, faster collaboration
- Solve your biggest challenges: enable multiple users to access large databases using DecisionTime Server's distributed architecture. With DecisionTime Server, you can perform powerful calculations without tying up personal computers.

DecisionTime and WhatIf? in funding and allocation forecasting

Situation

A federal housing agency needs to forecast national allocations in order to develop its annual budget request. To develop the national forecast, the agency needs accurate regional forecasts.

Critical issues

The agency needs an easy way to distribute the regional forecasts to the appropriate managers for approval. The regional managers want the flexibility to change variables and view alternate scenarios without recreating the forecasts. And once the regional forecasts are approved, the agency needs an efficient way to combine them into one national allocation forecast.

Solution

The company uses DecisionTime to create forecasts for each region. Variables include economic indicators such as unemployment, as well as community-specific variables such as faith-based housing programs and charitable contributions. The forecasts also take into account business closings and openings in the area, which affect housing needs. The forecasts are sent to regional managers using WhatIf?. Managers are able to create and view alternate possibilities until they reach the desired result. The revised regional forecasts are sent back to agency headquarters, where they are approved and automatically rolled up into one national allocation forecast.

Results

Using DecisionTime and WhatIf?, the agency:

- Saves time and prevents errors by automatically distributing and aggregating the regional allocation forecasts
- Develops an annual budget request based on accurate regional allocation forecasts