Anaplan Cloudworks™

Orchestrate agile, intelligent integrations

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Executive Summary

Creating access to the data they need most is the crucial first step in empowering business users to make highly informed decisions. That means integrating data wherever it may reside—across the cloud or via third-party service providers—with internal Anaplan data via Anaplan. In addition, business users must be able to quickly and easily access these data integrations in order to speed operations and analysis. Typically, integrating with multiple sources of data and services of this nature requires a significant amount of time and manual effort from technical resources and IT teams.

Anaplan CloudWorks eliminates the complexity and manual efforts required by traditional integration methods. CloudWorks simplifies the integration process, making access to new data sources and services fast and intuitive. With CloudWorks, business users can leverage an easy-to-navigate application user interface (UI) to access a wider set of data to help make more agile, informed plans and decisions.

Anaplan Cloudworks™ overview

CloudWorks orchestrates data integration with a variety of external and internal sources. These include external cloud-based data and service providers and internal Anaplan models. CloudWorks uses an intuitive application user interface and, in the future, will work seamlessly with PlanIQ to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) services, enabling intelligent planning. CloudWorks simplifies the data integration process and will soon introduce 'data orchestration', a feature that will automate and simplify multiple data integration steps across models and workspaces into a straighforward workflow. CloudWorks is interoperable, intuitive, and automated, allowing business users to easily integrate data from multiple sources with the Anaplan platform to enhance decision-making.

Interoperable

CloudWorks allows users to seamlessly interoperate and integrate with multiple third-party cloud systems. This allows business users, analysts, and administrators to easily leverage capabilities from leading third-party systems in addition to Anaplan.

These teams can smoothly integrate with various cloud platforms and services by leveraging pre-built connectors and RESTful APIs. In addition, users can combine intelligence capabilities from third-party platforms with Anaplan data for more informed forecasts. The interoperability features of CloudWorks ultimately help improve data flows, improving efficiency and productivity across the enterprise.
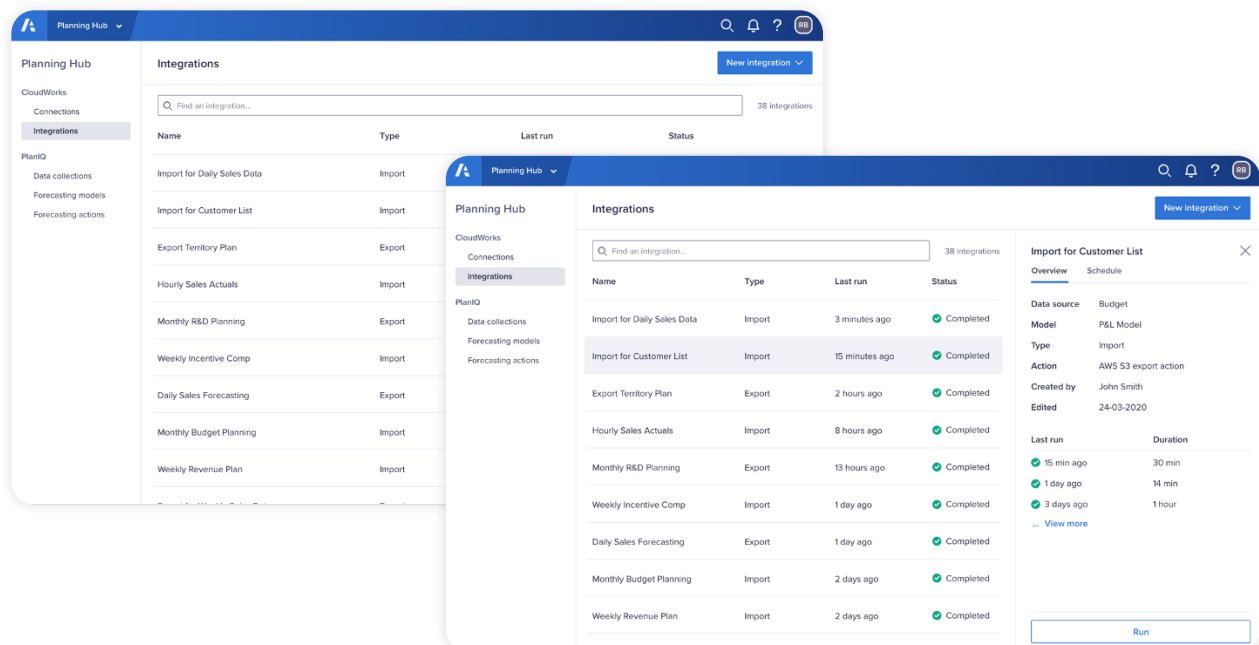
Intuitive

Empower more business users across the entire enterprise to easily run integrations without requiring technical support. Configuration and management of integrations is highly intuitive with CloudWorks, eliminating reliance on technical expertise, so users can get up and running fast.

Business users can take data into their own hands by autonomously integrating external and company data to speed informed decisions. Teams can also easily check their integration status, ensuring that Anaplan models are up to date. Further, by maintaining a consistent audit trail of their integrations, they can achieve a transparent view of their data.

Automative

Schedule and automate standalone integrations and processes with CloudWorks for agile planning. Users can automate processes and tasks, as well as external and internal data imports and exports. Automation saves valuable time so users can worry less about importing data and focus more on conducting in-depth data analysis to understand their data. In addition, they can schedule and trigger integrations and workflows, including model-to-model imports, to keep data and processes automatically updated.

CloudWorks, in the future, will also integrate with AI, machine learning (ML), optimization, and natural language processing tools and services. Not only will these capabilities be able to quickly determine accurate forecasts, but they can help accelerate solving for challenging business problems.

Key benefits

Cloudworks™
Integrate bi-directionally with cloud-based sources to drive more informed decisions.

- Integrate Anaplan with Amazon Web Services (AWS) S3 and Google BigQuery with an intuitive UI for import, export, and processes.
- Schedule import/export integrations to run hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly.
- Receive notifications and view status/audit logs for integrations.
- Automatically move data from one model to another based on a specific schedule with model-to-model import.
- Schedule and automate Anaplan processes containing multiple integrations with AWS S3 and Google BigQuery directly in CloudWorks.
- Coming Soon: Automate and daisy chain multiple integrations across models and workspaces with 'data orchestration.'

Automate integrations for faster analysis

CloudWorks enables integration administrators and business analysts to work together more smoothly so they can streamline processes and outcomes. Users across both roles can easily leverage CloudWorks to access the particular components they need to speed operations without compromising data integrity.

Integrations administrators

Integration administrators can speed processes with CloudWorks by using it to quickly set up connections with cloud sources such as AWS S3 and Google BigQuery. Then, they can create a connection between their cloud source and the desired Anaplan model. Lastly, they can set a reoccurring schedule to automatically execute integrations and Anaplan processes so models are always synchronized with the latest data sets. All of these steps are done via an intuitive UI, allowing integration administrators to bring this data into Anaplan fast, without tedious configuration efforts.

Business analysts

As soon as the integration administrator has configured a new integration, the business analyst can begin exploring the new set of data. They can leverage the UI to look at new data in their Anaplan models and begin building out new scenarios and analyses with a wider set of data for more informed forecasts.

Speed accurate plans across industries

CloudWorks solves a variety of use cases across multiple industries. Enterprises across finance, human resources, sales, and supply chain leverage the automated integration capabilities to access a wider set of data for more informed analysis.

Finance: Financial planning

Financial planning often consists of numerous manual processes including collecting data from operational expenditure, capital expenditure, account receivables, and more. It is all too common that these processes result in inaccurate data collections, which in turn leads to inaccurate financial plans.

CloudWorks removes the manual steps required to access and integrate financial data. It enables teams to schedule and automate data refreshes, ensuring accurate daily financial planning.

Human resources: Workforce Planning

Effective workforce planning and processes must take into consideration a wide range of people, skills by geography, work shifts, and channel. With so many variables that are constantly shifting and in flux, data can quickly become out of sync.

CloudWorks automates planning for personnel demand. Human resources teams can plan for both temporary and variable workforces with the peace of mind that they are accessing accurate data each day in workforce planning activities.

Sales: Sales and revenue planning

Sales and revenue planners often struggle with forecasting accurate deal commits that will convert to actual sales. Tasked with sifting through complex and outdated data across disparate systems, in traditional systems, these teams often require ongoing support from technical resources. By the time they receive the data they need, it can be outdated, forcing an exhaustive cycle to restart.

CloudWorks enables greater accuracy in predicting sales by a number of dimensions including product, geography, segment, or a combination. Users can configure the predictions they want to see from the UI and automate them on a daily basis for always-accurate forecasts.

Supply chain: Demand planning

Demand is constantly shifting across channels, geographies, and SKUs—often all at the same time. To keep up with ever-changing data, multiple manual efforts are required that often result in long cycle times that create outdated demand plans upon release.

CloudWorks can automate demand planning down to the SKU-location level daily. By pulling in data from external sources and refreshing plans each day, CloudWorks can shorten cycle time, delivering more agile planning.

CUSTOMER STORY

Large-scale retail customer

Sales reporting

Billion-dollar retailer achieves daily store-level reporting at 600 locations

This large-scale retailer with a portfolio of brands had no way of reporting at the individual store level. With CloudWorks, each of the 600 locations can now report across sales, gross profit, and cost every day. Managers can compare performance across locations and develop plans to boost their sales.

CUSTOMER STORY

Automotive customer

Sales planning

Large automotive company achieves informed quota planning for sales

To boost sales performance management, this automotive company implemented CloudWorks to pull in data from multiple locations. By integrating customer revenue transactions by customer, product, commission category, and month into quota models, sales teams can better understand and achieve quotas.

Key benefits

Cloudworks™ benefits across functions
Integration administrators:

- Easily integrate data into Anaplan.
- Eliminate resource bottlenecks.
- Schedule integrations and processes

Business analysts:

- Faster time-to-value with quicker access to new data sources.
- Build more informed scenarios to quickly spot trends and reflect changes.

Video publisher customer

Sales forecasting

Cloudworks™ with AI and ML for intelligent forecasting

Using CloudWorks to integrate Anaplan with their own AI/ML algorithms, this video publisher is leveraging intelligent sales forecasting. Planners can perform "what-if" analysis by exporting data from Anaplan models to AWS S3 using CloudWorks.

Media customer

Marketing planning

CloudWorks simplifies planning marketing spend for thousands of media titles by country and region. With budgets and the actuals data imported from AWS S3, the Anaplan model provides a weekly updated forecast.

Key use cases across industries

Finance
- Financial planning

Sales
- Sales and revenue planning
- Sales reporting
- Sales forecasting

Supply chain
- Demand planning

Marketing
- Market planning

Conclusion

The key to driving informed, accurate business plans and decisions is data. With a range of systems and data dispersed across the enterprise, it can be difficult for business users to easily access what they need to act swiftly and with confidence.

CloudWorks, an agile, intuitive tool that enables bi-directional integrations across systems can empower more users to access a wider set of data. It reduces manual efforts and complexity related to configuring data integrations, so users can access data quickly and easily. CloudWorks allows users and teams across the entire enterprise to have instant access to the specific data they need to speed more informed, accurate business decisions.

About Anaplan

Anaplan is the only scenario planning and analysis platform designed to optimize decision-making in today's complex business environment so that enterprises can outpace their competition and the market. By building connections and collaboration across organizational silos, our platform intelligently surfaces key insights — so businesses can make the right decisions, right now.

More than 2,400 of the world's best brands continually optimize their decision-making by planning with Anaplan.

To learn more, visit www.anaplan.com

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