

## Revolutionizing Financial Reporting and Budgeting at Desert Schools Federal Credit Union

**Desert Schools Federal Credit Union** is a major financial institution based in the Phoenix, Arizona area. With over \$4 billion in assets, 50+ branches, and 120 supporting departments, the credit union provides a wide array of financial services to its members. Managing such a large operation required a sophisticated solution for financial reporting and budgeting — one that would reduce manual effort, increase accuracy, and empower teams with meaningful insights.



**INDUSTRY**  
Credit union

**ERP**  
Corelation KeyStone

“ The tool is extremely simple and easy to train. It makes our entire reporting and budgeting process seamless. ”

—Ann Prettyman, Desert Schools

### THE CHALLENGE

Prior to implementing SOLVER, Desert Schools faced several pressing operational and analytical challenges:



- **Outdated Reporting Tools:** The organization was using FRX, which offered limited formatting capabilities and made custom reporting cumbersome.
- **Excel Dependency:** Their budgeting model heavily relied on Excel, which pushed the software to its limits. Manual data compilation led to significant time investment and increased the potential for errors.
- **Lack of Analysis Time:** Due to the overwhelming amount of time spent gathering and formatting data, there was little time left for actual analysis or decision-making support.
- **Fragmented Data Sources:** Data was scattered — often received via emails or spreadsheets — and had to be entered manually, leading to inefficiencies and inconsistent reporting

## THE SOLUTION

The credit union implemented SOLVER to streamline their financial and operational reporting environment. This transformation involved several key components:

**1. Excel-Based Interface:** SOLVER maintained a familiar interface, easing the learning curve and accelerating adoption across departments.

**2. Data Warehouse Integration:** They utilized SOLVER's data warehouse to:

- Store both financial and non-financial data (e.g., headcount, square footage).
- Enable comprehensive, multi-dimensional reporting.



**3. Automation of Board and Regulatory Reporting:** With SOLVER, the team could generate complex board reports and statistical summaries at the click of a button.

**4. Advanced Reporting Capabilities:**

- Detailed P&L reports by branch and department
- Variance analysis
- Ratio calculations using custom fields
- General ledger drill-downs for full transparency

**5. Drill-Down Functionality:** Managers gained the ability to drill into report numbers to see exact GL transactions and even asset-specific depreciation details — vastly improving accountability and ownership.

## Benefits and Outcomes

Desert Schools Federal Credit Union saw immediate and measurable benefits after adopting SOLVER:

- **Processing Time Reduced by 50%:** Financial consolidation and reporting cycles were cut in half, even across three separate entities with varying metrics.
- **Enhanced Accuracy:** Automated data integration significantly reduced input errors and inconsistencies.
- **Empowered Departments:** Each responsibility center could now:
  - Run ad hoc reports
  - Perform their own variance analysis
  - Drill into data without needing IT support
- **Scalable & Centralized Reporting:** Centralizing data in the warehouse meant:
  - Fewer emails and spreadsheets
  - A single source of truth for all reports
  - Simplified future expansions into global data warehousing and regulatory reporting
- **Future-Proofing Finance Operations:** SOLVER's extensibility allowed plans for:
  - Integration into the global data warehouse
  - Automated regulatory reporting
  - Implementation of workflows and internal controls for budgeting and financial processes

## Return on Investment (ROI)

The adoption of SOLVER delivered a high return on investment by:

- **Reducing manual labor** and increasing the speed of budget/report generation
- **Improving decision-making** through real-time insights
- **Lowering error rates** and enhancing reporting transparency
- **Increasing departmental autonomy**, leading to a more empowered and efficient workforce

## THE RESULTS

Desert Schools Federal Credit Union successfully modernized their budgeting and financial reporting infrastructure with SOLVER. By eliminating manual processes, integrating disparate data sources, and empowering staff at all levels with robust self-service tools, the credit union not only achieved substantial operational efficiencies but also laid the groundwork for scalable, data-driven decision-making across the enterprise.

