



Projects Out of Control? Call the C.O.P.S.

Gary Patterson, Ideametrics, LLC Jason Cramer, Comcast Cable







Business Issue

 Need to control decentralized Capital Expenditure (Capex) spending across a broad geography





Original Solution

- Oracle Encumbrance Accounting feature
 - At submission of Purchase Requisition or Purchase Order, Encumbrance checks funds available by GL accounting flexfield
 - Error condition: if the PO or Req will result in the account becoming over-budget, the submission will fail with an error message





Problems with Encumbrance

- Unexpected delays in purchasing cycle throughout the system
 - Material requisitioners do not have ongoing visibility to budget
- Inconsistent Actual-to-Budget Reporting
 - Budget \$\$ moving during the year, so year-end budgets not meaningful
- Not applied to Inventory issues or ADI
 - Customizations required for these expenditures





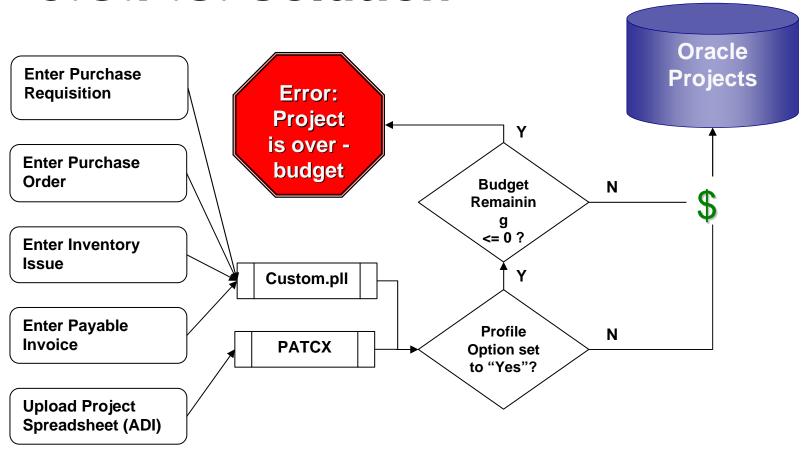
2008 Capex Solution

- Begin with greater management accountability
- Support with better reporting
 - Improved Reporting
 - Simplified Account Structure
 - Cash basis reporting
- Allow for local control of system hard limits
 - C.O.P.S. Solution





C.O.P.S. Solution







C.O.P.S. Components

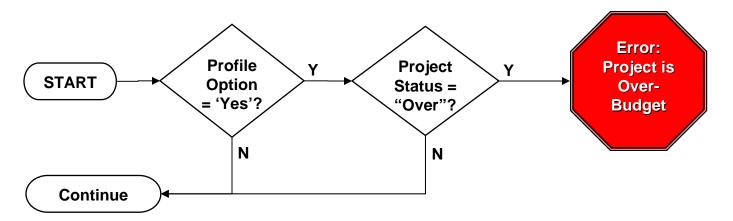
- Concurrent Program "CCBL: Set Over-Budget"
 - Parameter for Entity, parent or child value
 - Evaluates Actual v. Budget, if Var <= 0, sets Project Status"Over-Budget"
- Custom Profile Options: XXPA: Prevent _____ on Over-Budget Projects:
 - Purchase Order
 - Requisition
 - AP Invoice
 - Inventory Misc. Transaction
 - PA Misc. Transaction (ADI)





C.O.P.S. Components (cont.)

- 3. C.O.P.S. controls built into CUSTOM.pll and PATCX
 - Uses custom PL*SQL package, common to project reports
 & COPS to check budget status
 - Logic repeated 5 times, one for each transaction type







C.O.P.S. Process

- Daily: Run Concurrent Program "CCBL: Set Over-Budget"
 - Separate schedule by Division parent
 - Sets "Over-Budget" on projects
- Ongoing: C.O.P.S. controls evaluate transactions, preventing transaction if:
 - Project Status = "Over-Budget"
 - Profile Option = "Yes"





More C.O.P.S. Ideas

- Set profiles at Responsibility or User level
 - Would allow an override to the process
- More parameters on the "Set Status" concurrent program
- Set "Error" or "Warning" profile options instead of Yes/No

Your ideas?







System vs. Management Controls

- System
 - Rigid
 - Automatically enforced
 - IT Accountable

- Management
 - Flexible
 - Enforced by process or culture
 - Mgt. Accountable

Ideal: Management w/System-support

- Less Rigid / More Flexible
- Warning vs. Error; selectively enforced
- Mgt. Accountable / IT Assist







Gary Patterson (803) 518-4256

patterson_gary@emc.com

Jason Cramer

jason_cramer@cable.comcast.com