

makeplain™

Forecasting Solutions

Competitive businesses are increasingly focused on improving operational efficiency and agility through the use of high-quality forecasts. This capability enables your valuable capital and resources to be more effectively aligned with market demand and actual supply-chain behavior. While a capacity to efficiently generate accurate forecasts represents a key of competitive advantage, forecasting can nevertheless prove to be a significant challenge. Many organizations

“If you have to forecast, forecast often”

Edgar R. Fiedler

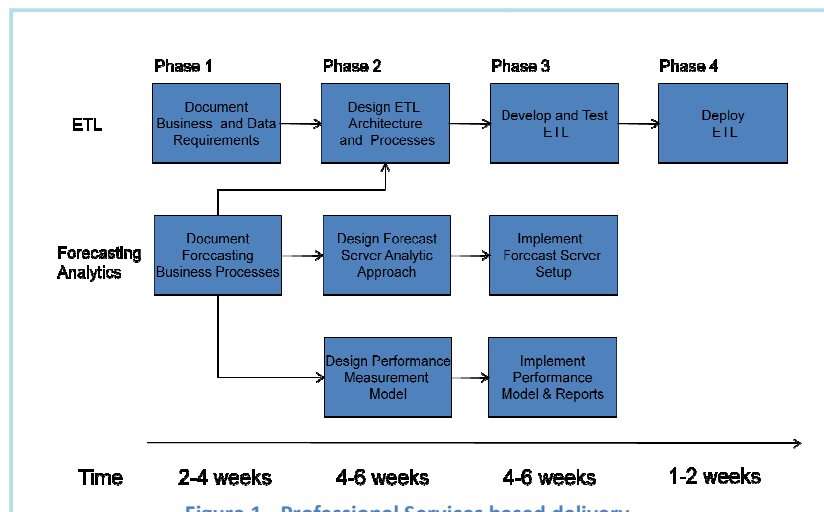
get bogged down in the implementation of forecasting toolsets that are ill-suited to their business - or they get caught up in the technical details of forecasting statistics and modeling – all the time failing to fully realize the sustained, competitive advantage and business benefit expected of their investment in forecasting technology.

The forecasting tools from SAS form the most fully automated

and statistically rich toolset available today.

High-performance Forecasting technology from SAS evaluates your data and automatically selects the set of statistical

code (ETL), reports and operational data management processes that enable our customers to configure and apply SAS Forecast Server and Forecast Studio in record time.



modeling methods best suited for producing accurate forecasts of your sales or production demand. A fully featured and easy to use solution, the resulting models take account of seasonality, key holidays and events, product hierarchies and other factors unique to your business.

In collaboration with SAS, makeplain™ has packaged together a set of essential data integration assets including the data models, data integration

makeplain™ offers customers the two alternative delivery formats – the *professional services based* approach in which makeplain™ installs, configures and integrates the forecasting solution to suit your existing server infrastructure and business operation; or the *Managed Forecasting Appliance* approach. Our convenient and innovative appliance approach delivers an integrated turn-key forecasting system deployed on specially tuned IBM hardware

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and database engine remotely monitored and managed by makeplain™ - everything your team requires to be up and running in 30 days.

on-schedule. Your hardware and databases are configured for performance and you can rest assured that your organization is applying the

and cost-effective technology partner working with organizations that demand

www.makeplain.com/what_forecasting.html

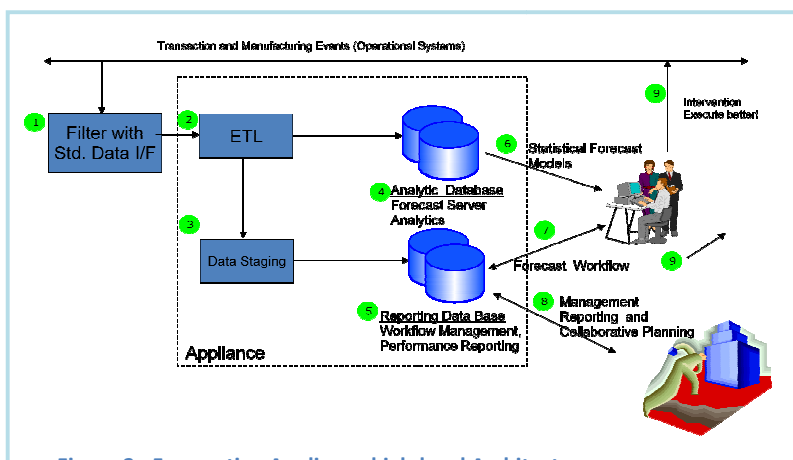


Figure 2 - Forecasting Appliance high-level Architecture

The Forecasting Appliance from makeplain™ employs the IBM Balanced Warehouse platform and integrates SAS Forecast Server software into one rack mounted configuration that can be located at your site or hosted at our data centre.

Our convenient and cost-effective Managed Forecasting Appliance includes remote operational support whereby our staff monitor your appliance to ensure that data gets movement, transformation and loading operate properly and

system performance and up-time required to satisfy every forecast analyst's busiest forecasting cycles.

If you have yet to learn about the market-leading forecasting technology from SAS – or want to learn how professional services and managed appliances from makeplain™ can simplify your forecasting deployment, please contact us today to schedule a web seminar and learn more.

Makeplain™ is internationally recognized as an innovative

best forecasting analytics with the cleanest, most complete input datasets and achieving the level of

systems and service excellence in addressing complex data warehousing, ETL, Business Intelligence, Advanced Analytics, Data Mining and Business System Development requirements.

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