Amnesty International Saves Weeks on
Budgeting with Excel-Based Reports

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Yearly budgeting can be a time-consuming activity, eating up weeks of employee productivity. What if this process could be standardized and streamlined inside of a familiar product like Microsoft Excel? When Amnesty International, UK Section went to replace their old reporting system, the search was on for something that could deliver tangible value.

Global human rights organization Amnesty International works tirelessly around the clock to protect universal freedoms.
Spending excessive time on year-end budgeting was keeping employees from focusing on their true goal of fighting global injustice, but they needed to find the right tools for the job at hand.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Darren Rifat,
Systems & Reporting Manager

The Challenge
Enhance productivity with a new reporting system

Darren Rifat, Systems & Reporting Manager for Amnesty International, UK section said working with Microsoft Dynamics® GP and their legacy reporting system was comfortable for the organization as many employees had used the combination for over 10 years. However, their reporting system was nearing the end of its lifecycle. The search was on for something better.

"We set ourselves a target, to get some information on different products over three months and we consulted with our software supplier to ask them about the different products on the market," said Darren.

The Solution
The right tool for more flexible reports

Microsoft partner m-hance helped Amnesty International's UK Section find the right solution primarily because they had such a deep understanding of the group's complex business processes. Darren said this knowledge and expertise led to a wholehearted recommendation of Jet Professional because of the flexibility it brought to the table.

"We moved to Jet, having looked on the market for other things. We wanted something that would help us be more flexible, which I think Jet Reports enabled us to do. We looked at things like Qlikview, IBM Cognos, and they just didn't suit our purpose like Jet did," Darren said.

During a trial period, Darren gathered experienced team members to test the software by running versions of their old reports through the new Jet Professional system. What he heard was great news. They immediately understood the value of Jet Professional because they knew how complicated it had been to create their reports with the legacy system.
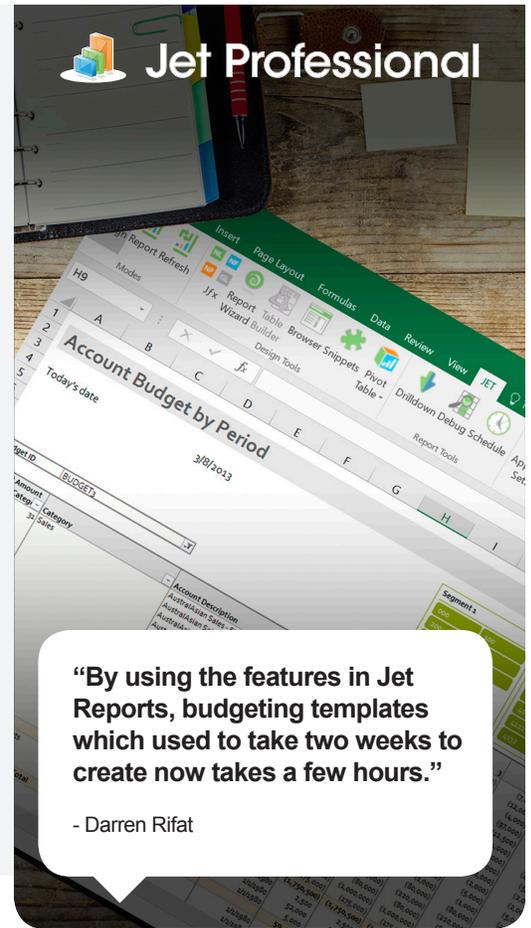
The Results
Game changing support for real business processes

After implementing Jet Professional, Darren's team has been able to recognize key features that have helped them simplify reporting. In addition to the time savings from using Jet Professional, Darren points out another key advantage of the Excel-based interface — standardization.

"The biggest one is Excel formatting. We can set up the report in a standard format and the way that we use Jet, it will insert lines, rows and columns and the format will remain the same, which is a big one for me," Darren said.

One of the more resource-intensive reporting processes at the Amnesty International, UK Section was the budgeting process. By using the features in Jet Professional, budgeting templates which used to take two weeks to create now takes a few hours.

> **"By using the features in Jet Reports, budgeting templates which used to take two weeks to create now takes a few hours."**
>
> - Darren Rifat

"When we set things up with Jet, we get it to look at a master document using Excel formulas.
When it creates all these sheets, it tells you the department, the department name, the project, the project name, the budget holder, the authorization limits, etc. — it just does it all for us. Just click a button and away it goes, I can set up the templates in a couple of hours," said Darren.

Organizations carefully select and implement ERP systems to store and organize their data. It's equally important to choose the right reporting solution to output that data in a meaningful way. Amnesty International found that using Jet Professional brought their reporting to a new level.

To learn more about Jet Reports, please visit us online today.
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Jet Reports delivers unparalleled access to data through fast and flexible reporting and business analytics solutions that are cost effective, provide rapid time-to-value and are built specifically for the needs of Microsoft ERP users.

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