



# **IBM Planning Analytics in the context of an**

# Analytics Center of Excellency (ACE):

## Focus Areas, Responsibilities, and Roles

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# 1 The function of a Financial Analytics Center of Excellency (Financial ACE)

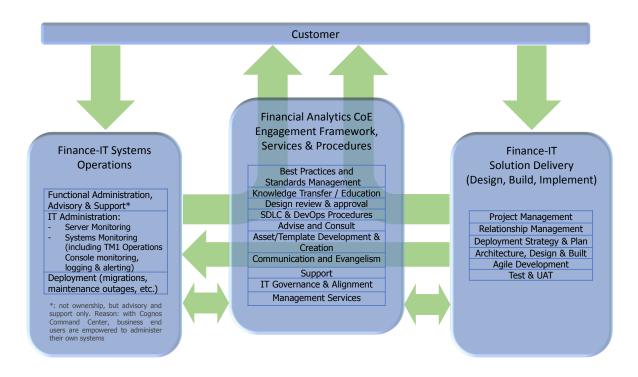
Particularly in organizations where the Financial Analytics environment has grown without the support of a corresponding enterprise architecture & strategy, Finance-IT DevOps teams mostly must resort to addressing operational challenges in a tactical, ad-hoc fashion. Subsequently such DevOps teams are operating under ever increasing time constraints while at the same time having to meet an over-proportionally increasing demand for its services due to the change brought about by increasing regulation, margin pressure, integration needs & Financial Transformation initiatives.

In such situations, DevOps becomes the bottleneck for Financial Analytics: Given the increasing demand for Financial Analytics (coming from the demand to make better business decisions by analyzing underlying business data), the DevOps bottlenecks will put a stranglehold on the implementation and rollout of Financial Analytics Solutions.

To proactively address these challenges from an organizational standpoint, IBM recommends that Customers **establish and structure a Financial Analytics Center of Excellency.** 

#### The Financial Center of Excellency is to

- provide DevOps with an organizational & strategic backbone that will result in operational efficiency, transparency & reliability and
- provide the business (the Analytics consumers) with a clear, one-stop engagement and service framework





## 2 Financial ACE & IBM Planning Analytics: Focus Areas & Responsibilities

	TM1/PA CoE Focus Areas	Theme	Specifics	possible/suggested Owners
1	Best Practices and Standards Management	Sharing experiences and standardizing operations for greater efficiency and lower risk	<ul> <li>Submission, review, approval and publication process</li> <li>Knowledge management</li> <li>Standards, business rules, methodologies, frameworks</li> <li>Compliance with industry standards</li> <li>Architecture &amp; Design Standards</li> </ul>	Chief Architect     TM1/PA Solutions &     Product Manager
2	Knowledge Transfer / Education	comprehensive & evolving Enablement and Training Program	<ul> <li>DevOps Enablement &amp; Training on guidelines, standards, practices, templates as determined by 'Best Practices &amp; Standards Management' function</li> <li>Leveraging IBM training program as starting point</li> </ul>	Chief Architect     DevOps Management     TM1/PA Solutions &     Product Manager
3	Design review & approval	Quality Control, Quality & Standards Audit	<ul> <li>Leveraging guidelines &amp; templates evolving from the 'Best Practices &amp; Standards Management' function,</li> <li>Review &amp; Approve proposed designs/architectures prior to Development</li> <li>Validate architectures &amp; design prior to QA</li> </ul>	Chief Architect
4	SDLC & DevOps Procedures	Defining a technology architecture, SDLC & DevOps processes that support the enterprise in a scalable and extensible fashion	<ul> <li>Enterprise Reference Architectures</li> <li>Capacity planning, security, version control, migration and upgrade</li> <li>Shared service center, cloud architecture, maintenance and support</li> <li>Development, UAT, QA and Production</li> <li>Performance, fault tolerance, high availability and load balancing</li> </ul>	TM1/PA Solutions & Product Manager     Chief Architect
5	Advise and Consult	Providing DevOps with guidance and knowledge transfer	<ul> <li>Enabling self-service and mentoring of analytical skills</li> <li>Advising on new technologies, concepts, capabilities and process improvements</li> <li>Demo sandbox for new technology capabilities and proofs of concept</li> </ul>	Chief Architect     TM1/PA Solutions &     Product Manager
6	Asset/Template Development & Creation	Asset Development and Curation	Creation of a reusable component repository     Standard TM1/PA Utilities/Tools/Modules/Templates	Chief Architect     TM1/PA Solutions &     Product Manager
7	Communication and Evangelism	Gaining broader support and interest in the value of information	<ul> <li>Communicating Financial analytics strategy and roadmap</li> <li>Publishing success stories and progress reports</li> <li>Supporting user forums, workshops and webinars</li> </ul>	Finance-IT leadership
8	Support	Providing readily available expertise to answer questions and resolve problems	<ul> <li>Help desk operation/alignment</li> <li>Case management, tracking and knowledge base</li> <li>Support training (troubleshooting)</li> <li>SLAs and escalation</li> </ul>	DevOps Management
9	IT Governance Alignment	Aligning with IT management and operational processes for greater efficiency and lower risk	<ul> <li>Risk management, change management and TM1/PA environment portfolio management</li> <li>Measures of success and management cadence</li> <li>Alignment with overall IT governance</li> </ul>	Finance IT Leadership Chief Architect
10	Master- & Metadata Management (MDM)	Establish a MDM strategy, framework & guidelines	MDM Strategy     MDM Procedures/Guidelines     MDM Framework & Tooling	Chief Architect     Finance-IT Leadership
11	Business Strategy Alignment	Determining business analytics strategies based on business priorities for maximum ROI and added value	<ul> <li>Aligning and mapping TM1/PA analytics initiatives and roadmap to business and corporate strategy</li> <li>Enterprise roadmap—priorities and initiatives, value determination and validation</li> <li>Driving cross-functional alignment and enabling business transformation, facilitating cultural change</li> </ul>	Finance IT Leadership