

# The New Normal: Scenario Planning as a Core Part of Your Financial Management Process

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- Founder, Financial Insights & Analytics practice [TwoDegrees Phoenix]
- Audit Committee Chair, mCloud Technologies [TSX-V: MCLD]
- MBA in Global Finance [Stanford GSB]
- 25+ years FP&A
- Member, FP&A Advisory Council
- Early career: Finance leader in manufacturing, corporate [Honeywell]
- Since 2016: CFO and Financial Analytics advisor to smaller businesses
- Certified Anaplan Level 1 Model Builder



## **Objectives for this session**

- Learn how your organization can build effective scenario plans and action playbooks
- Understand the role of scenario planning in the planning cycle, which includes
  - 1 Financial Analysis
  - 2 Budgeting
  - 3 Forecasting

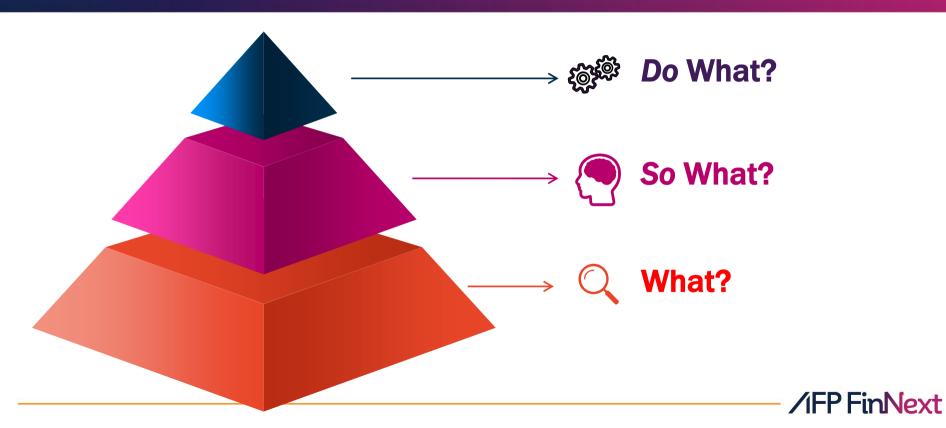


# Agenda

- Why Scenario Planning?
- Driver-Based Forecasting Best Practices
- Scenario Selection and Management
- Playbooks and Actions
- Incorporation into Regular Planning Cadence



# The 3 W's



# Forms of Planning



#### Approaches:

- Top-down
- Bottom-up
- Driver-based
- Consensus estimates



### **Driver-Based Models**

- Variability
  - By Expense Type
  - By Department
  - By Activity
- Business Drivers vs. Volume Drivers
- Productivity >> Headcount



# **Features of Scenario Planning**

- Identify a potential range of scenarios
  - Likely plus "Bear/Bull"
  - Specific situations
  - "Disaster"
  - Randomized



Source: Brett Francis, Anaplan Blog, Feb 2021

- Simulate outcomes and driver levels
- Provide a platform to test strategies / actions
- Identify positioning actions to take in advance to
  - Mitigate risk or
  - Exploit potential opportunity

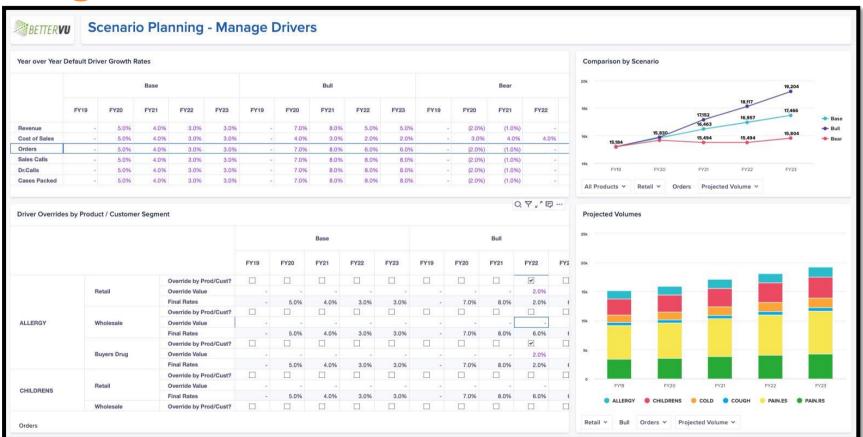


# **Building Scenarios**

- Identify key input variables
- Identify range of related variables
- Probe / simulate relationships
- Establish likelihood and weight outcomes



### **Using Drivers in Scenarios**





# **Driver Cost Variability**

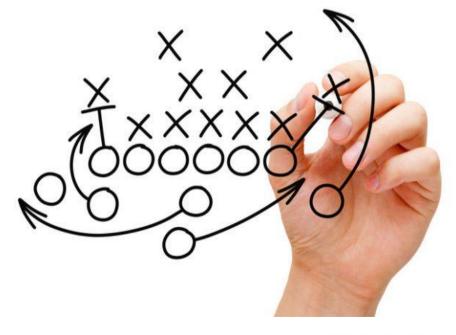




# **Insight to Action**

- So What...
- Now What?...
- Do What?







### **Actions and Playbooks**

BETTERVU	enario Planning - I	Manage Pla	aybooks and Actions			
Mange Playbooks		Manage Actions in Playbooks				Add New Action
	Active?		Action	Active?		4 of Spanish States
Productivity		Productivity			Manage Actions	
Cust Focus		1 New	1 New Packaging Equip	V		
Product Focus	•	2 Pack	2 Packaging HC Reduction	~		Notes
		Cust Focus				Notes
		3 Trim	3 Trim Low Profit Customers		1 New Packaging Equip	add new Equipment in Packaging dept; CapEx, Depreciation
		4 Field	4 Field Sales HC Reduction		2 Packaging HC Reduction	Improvement in Productivity drives lower Packing Headcount
		5 Add P	5 Add Per Order Charge		3 Trim Low Profit Customers	
Add Playbook		8 Targe	8 Targeted Sales Growth on Tier2		4 Field Sales HC Reduction	
S		Product F			5 Add Per Order Charge	
		6 Exit C	6 Exit Cough/Cold Products	✓	6 Exit Cough/Cold Products	Elim Revenue; Elim product costs
		7 Redu	7 Reduce Cough/Cold Medical Sales HC			. Elim Med Sales for Cough/Cold products
Select Playbook and Add Action					8 Targeted Sales Growth o	



### **Assigning Driver Values in Actions**



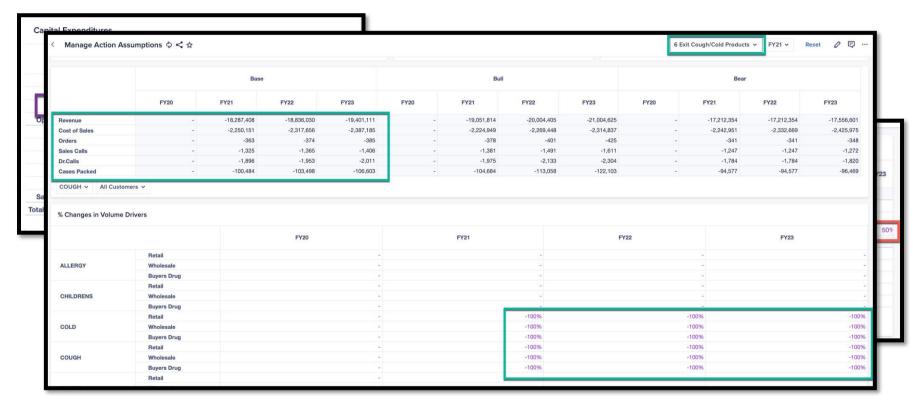


### **Assigning Driver Values in Actions**



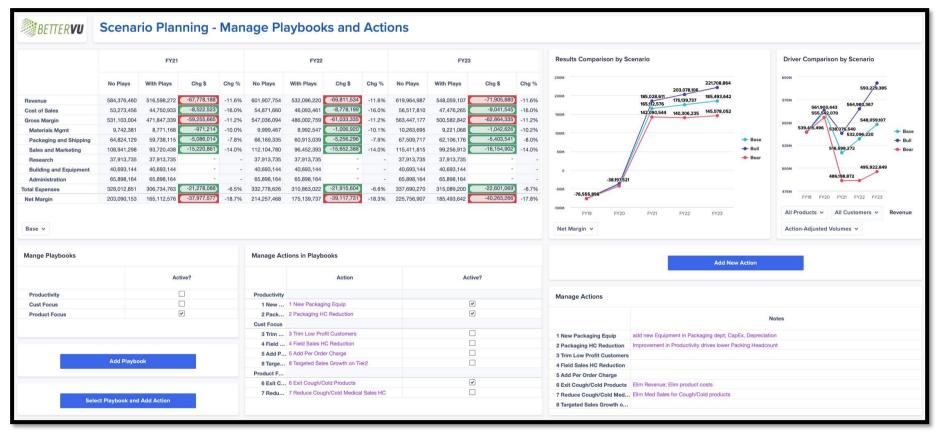


### **Assigning Driver Values in Actions**





### **Actions and Playbooks - Outcomes**





### **Best Practices**

- Evaluate driver sensitivity
- Validate correlations and relationships
- Use ABC models
- Consider capacity
- Assess risk/probability; use statistical models



### Where does this fit in?

- Not a replacement for planning or forecasting
- Validate plans
- Ongoing activity
- Test against major investment/divestment decisions



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