



iplicit

SIMPLIFYING GROUP ACCOUNTING

HOW TO REDUCE COMPLEXITY AND INCREASE VISIBILITY

iplicit.com

INTRODUCTION

HOW THIS GUIDE CAN HELP YOU

Organisations often grow to a size and complexity, that requires far more capability than the original finance system can provide.

That's particularly true when organic growth or acquisitions have created a web of connected companies.

iplicit has a lot of experience helping organisations simplify the task of group accounting.

In fact, we've worked with businesses which consisted of 300 or more entities, all using separate software packages which didn't speak to each other.

iplicit brings together those entities into a single, cloud-based accounting platform, saving large amounts of time and frustration, while giving leaders the real-time data they need to facilitate effective decision making.

iplicit's team brings together software experts (including the founders of Exchequer in the 1980s) and accountants. The product was created by people who knew exactly what medium-sized businesses needed from their accounting systems and were not getting from the established brands.

In the following pages, we offer a guide to reducing complexity in group accounting and increasing visibility over your finances.

In doing so, we've drawn on the decades of real-world experience that went into creating iplicit.

GROUP ACCOUNTING

IT'S COMPLICATED...

Nobody changes accounting systems for the love of it.

They tend to do it because their existing systems are really not up to the job – and are leaving the finance team to deal manually with a host of labour-intensive chores.

You'll know it's time to upgrade your software if you're encountering several of the following headaches.

- Different parts of your group have different accounting software, or separate instances of the same software.
- Compiling group accounts involves pulling data out of the system and manipulating it in spreadsheets.
- You find yourself logging in and out of multiple finance packages to pay invoices.
- Human error crops up a lot and is hard to find and correct.
- Your group has entities with different year-ends, or which deal with different currencies or tax regimes.
- Bank reconciliation is done manually.
- Tracking aged debts and chasing them is a manual process.
- Month-end and year-end are time-consuming, so that leaders are never working with up-to-date information.
- Audit is a thing to dread.

OUTGROWING YOUR SOFTWARE

If some of the pain points listed above are familiar, it's a sign that your finance system is no longer coping with your requirements.

While they may have served you well in the start-up years, entry-level systems are not equipped to handle group accounting. If you're using multiple copies of those systems, you have no easy way to see the group's overall finances, and your life is harder than it needs to be.

Implicit hears from businesses whose finance teams work long hours at month-end trying to pull data from multiple software systems. They laboriously calculate the impact of currency exchange rates. They wrestle with incompatible year-end dates. The result tends to be a giant spreadsheet created through much blood, sweat and tears.

It doesn't need to be that hard. There is a way to simplify the process of group accounting, so the key people in your organisation can obtain a clear and complete view of the whole group's finances – and can drill back down to the level of detail of a single part of the group when they need to.

It starts with bringing all your data together in one place.



TAKING THE PAIN OUT OF MULTI-ENTITY ACCOUNTING

iplicit addresses all the pain points associated with multi-entity accounting – enabling time savings that can easily add up to days every month.

Here are some of the ways iplicit helps:



Data entry and processing is reduced & simplified

Employees claim expenses via a mobile app. Managers authorise expenses and invoices the same way. Apart from saving time, this ensures the finance system gives a real-time view of the cash position.



Inter-company eliminations

There is no need to manually find and eliminate all the transactions taking place between entities in the group to avoid artificially inflating turnover. iplicit can do this in moments.



Consolidation mapping

If different entities in the group have different year-ends, that's not a problem. Group consolidation functions will easily compile information for the correct periods.



Settling bills

iplicit can pay a supplier swiftly on behalf of the group and then move money around internally between entities as required.

Continued below 

TAKING THE PAIN OUT OF MULTI-ENTITY ACCOUNTING



Multiple currencies

Different entities might be dealing with different currencies, but iplicit can easily consolidate the group's accounts and present the figures in the currency you prefer. Automated exchange rate feeds make the process straightforward.



Tax jurisdictions

If you trade under more than one tax authority, the software can factor that in as soon as you select the local jurisdiction from a drop-down menu.



Partial VAT

If you've agreed a partial rate of VAT with HMRC, there's no reason things should get more complicated after that. As soon as a purchase invoice goes into the system, iplicit can work out the reclaimable element and update the books accordingly.



Bank feeds

iplicit removes the need to manually reconcile your bank accounts across the group. UK and international bank statement feeds are used to do the reconciliation automatically.



Fixed assets

Managing the group's fixed assets, and their depreciation, is easy. Input the asset, pick the preferred way to apply depreciation, and the system will take care of it.

Continued below 

TAKING THE PAIN OUT OF MULTI-ENTITY ACCOUNTING



Debtor tracking

Tackling aged debt is a great deal easier, with a clear view of a customer's indebtedness to the whole group. iplicit can automatically generate the appropriate reminder, from a gentle nudge to a warning of legal action.



Workflow approvals

Each transaction, payment or expense is reviewed correctly in the system prior to being actioned, with the relevant invoices or receipts attached.



Budgets and forecasting

Setting and managing budgets is simplified to help each entity keep to budget and track variances and performance against targets.



Project accounting

Project accounting features make it easy to allocate spending and income to particular business activities, enabling you to quickly assess how those projects are performing.

SOUND FINANCIAL REPORTING

Saving time and simplifying a host of accounting functions is essential – but the benefits shouldn't stop there!

The real purpose of all this effort is to provide a clearer picture of the group's finances to anyone who needs it.

With iplicit, there is one version of the truth – one single database that brings together all the entities within the group.

Thanks to iplicit.

- The chances of human error corrupting the data are drastically reduced – and if mistakes do occur, they can be found and corrected much more easily.
- Dynamic accounting structures present your figures in the formats required by different audiences – for example, regulators, investors or internal stakeholders.
- Users can drill down into individual transactions, seeing who authorised them and viewing related documents such as invoices and purchase orders.
- Closing the books at month-end becomes much quicker – in keeping with the principles of good financial governance that say a month-end close should be done in 5-10 days. You can see and manage the cash position both at month-end and in real time.
- Business leaders work with accurate and current information, ensuring decisions are based on the best data possible

SOUND FINANCIAL REPORTING

If you've been used to multiple copies of entry-level or desktop software, moving to a feature-rich cloud accounting system will be a hugely positive step change.

With intercompany transactions eliminated, currency and tax differences smoothed out, financial periods aligned and the information presented to your requirements, you will be looking at the perfect set of accounts.

[Click here to see our multi-company accounting software.](#)



CUSTOMER STORIES



"iplicit is probably the most flexible system I've ever used. It saves masses of time."

Narinder Uppal, Finance Director



[**READ THE CASE STUDY**](#)

The Recruitment Group

Moved from Sage 50 to iplicit for better reporting and increased efficiencies

The Recruitment Group was founded to buy smaller recruitment agencies and build them as a single brand. Narinder Uppal, FD needed a system which offered in-depth analysis, so that he could see how individual cost centres and divisions were performing. How was the industrial division within the Loughborough branch doing, for example?

"All the finance team have said to me, at one point or another, that the best thing I've ever done was bringing in iplicit," says **Narinder Uppal, Finance Director of The Recruitment Group.**

One of the biggest time savings has been in invoicing – which used to take six people around 1.5 days to complete. Now, it takes four people two hours.

"iplicit is probably the most flexible system I've ever used. It saves masses of time," says Narinder.

"The ability to run consolidated accounts at the touch of a button turns a previously daunting task, where normally a lot of data extraction and manipulation is required, into something very straightforward."

CUSTOMER STORIES

A-One Insurance Group Moved 4 finance users & 84 team users to iplicit from 9 copies of Sage 50 to solve group consolidation problems

A-One Insurance is a group of nine companies with more than 150 staff along the south coast.

"With Sage 50, the pain we went through was horrendous," says **Group Operations Director Sarah Smith**.

"Information wasn't being consolidated. There were replication conflicts. We were driving the business blind – and when Covid hit and we were going hybrid, nothing worked.

"Xero was too basic for what we needed and the bigger players in the market, NetSuite, Intacct and Dynamics just seemed too complex and too expensive. Then someone said, "why don't you try iplicit?"

"The real-time reporting has been business-changing. We've been able to consolidate all the businesses at once so we can grab very realistic and up-to-date snapshots at a moment's notice."



**"The real-time reporting
has been business-
changing"**

Sarah Smith,
Group
Operations
Director



[**READ THE CASE STUDY**](#)

CUSTOMER STORIES



"With our old system, each donor report would take three weeks to produce. With iplicit, a report can be done in less than two days."

Sandra Tcheumeni Boschet, Head of Finance & Administration



[**READ THE CASE STUDY**](#)

Health Poverty Action

Moved 35 finance users & 300 other users in 14 countries to iplicit from multiple versions of QuickBooks / Sun

Health Poverty Action saved six weeks of staff time when preparing its first year-end process with iplicit, compared with consolidating project balance sheets from various copies of QuickBooks in the past.

"It's essential we have transparency and can report back to donors on how and when their funds have been spent," says Sandra Tcheumeni Boschet, Head of Finance and Administration.

"With our old system, each donor report would take three weeks to produce. With iplicit, a report can be done in less than two days."

She adds: "Understanding our expenditure by territory, project and by donor are just some of the constant demands placed upon the system. Dealing with Foreign Exchange is also an added complexity for our system.

"We also have to be able to see financial reporting by entity and for the entire group, at the touch of a button, with a high level of confidence that the information is always accurate and in real-time.

"I am very pleased with the decision to choose iplicit. It continues to evolve to meet our needs."

WHEN IT'S TIME TO MIGRATE

iplicit helps multi-entity organisations every step of the way as they move on from their old software.

Its team can support you through the transition from platforms such as Exchequer, Access, Sage, Pegasus, Xero and QuickBooks – or even a combination of those names.

The implementation process can take as little as 16 consulting and training days, compared with the months that some competitors insist on as standard.

iplicit's migration process includes the chance to import data from old accounting systems and keep it safely in an archive inside the new system. That means you don't have to continue paying the provider of your old software for a "right to use" licence.

During the migration, you can also remove unnecessary data that's cluttering your system. You can remove any workarounds and reporting fudges that might have been added over the years.

The iplicit team is experienced in accounting, technology, implementation and support and can work with your team to develop a comprehensive implementation plan. Training is offered for your team before and after the "go live" date, with access to ongoing UK-based technical support.

The investment of time and money should pay off rapidly as your team enjoys the benefits cloud technology can bring to the most complex accounting arrangements.

Discover iplicit for yourself and see how it can save time and stress in your organisation while providing you with better information.

[WATCH THE QUICK TOUR VIDEO](#)

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