Forecast Manager™

Sales & Customer Forecast Management Solution

STREAMLINE FORECASTING PROCESS

Itron's Forecast Manager brings together sales forecasting, data management, and reporting into a single integrated application. All the sales, customer, and weather data required for forecasting and variance analysis are incorporated into a single database. Forecast Manager automates the input of key data for forecasting and analyzing sales trends. Your MetrixND® forecast and weather impact models then link directly to the Forecast Manager database.

Forecast Manager Applications:

» Manage multiple weather databases

» Calculate calendar and revenue-month HDD and CDD

» Calculate normal HDD and CDD

» Export sales, customer, revenue, and weather data to Excel

» View sales and customer trends

» Run and store multiple forecast scenarios

» Calculate weather impacts

» Generate detail forecast, sales statistics, weather, and monthly variance reports

STREAMLINE FORECASTING PROCESS

Itron's MetrixND is a flexible modeling tool, widely used by the top energy forecasters at leading utilities and energy providers throughout the world. During the implementation process, Itron's forecasting experts take your data and create the best models possible using the most advanced modeling techniques that are available in MetrixND, including:

> Exponential Smoothing

Ideal for projecting customer growth trends that support monthly sales and peak forecasting applications.

> ARIMA

For seasoned time series professionals who want to visualize how historical data patterns extend into the future.

> Regression

The workhorse of the energy forecasting professional. No other tool lets you build multi- variate models faster.

> Neural Networks

Essential for short-term forecasting where modeling the nonlinear response between loads and weather matters the most.

Your final system is delivered with customized forecast models. MetrixND allows the user to review and change models at any time. Users can be trained to maintain models or contract with Itron to do routine maintenance and modifications as needed.

UNPARALLELED CAPABILITIES

Forecast Database

The core of Forecast Manager is the forecast database. All the elements used in generating forecasts, calculating weather impacts and reporting are incorporated into the forecast database. The database is linked to external data sources that can be refreshed automatically, ensuring the data is always current.Data can also be reviewed online. Forecast Manager is implemented using Microsoft SQL Server.

Sales, Customers and Revenue Data

Data import is automated through the Forecast Manager user interface. Forecast Manager is configured to import sales, customer, and revenue data from billing system output files. Data can be stored by rate code, revenue code or other classification. Forecast Manager is designed to manage data covering multiple companies or service districts.

In terms of processing, reporting and distributing billing data and invoices, MV-PBS can be configured to meet a utility's specific needs. Additionally, MV-PBS can eliminate the manual correction of past invoices by regenerating selected invoices with new data or billing determinants, automatically calculating a 'delta' adjustment item for each charge on the invoice, and self-applying these adjustments to one or more invoices.

Weather Data

A special module is used for managing weather data. Forecast Manager calculates both calendar-month and revenue-month (based on billing cycles) heating degree days (HDD) and cooling degree days (CDD). Revenue-month HDD and CDD are generated by combining the daily weather data with meter read schedules. Daily weather data and meter read schedules are imported and stored in Forecast Manager.

Forecast Drivers

Forecast drivers are stored in other external databases. Data such as economic and demographic projections, as well as end-use saturation and efficiency trends are generally stored in Excel or Access. This allows the analyst to quickly update drivers and execute and store alternative scenarios in Forecast Manager.

Calendar Month Forecast and Weather Normal Sales

Through MetrixND simulations, Forecast Manager can also be configured to generate calendar-month sales forecasts from revenue-month forecast models. Similarly, Forecast Manager can be configured to generate and report calendar-month weather normal sales.

Reports

The system provides a variety of default forecast reports, including sales forecast, statistics, and variance reports. These reports can be extended, customized or replaced with alternative formats to meet specific needs.

EXPORT TO EXCEL

Forecasts of monthly sales, customers, and average use along with weather data, weather forecasts, and weather normalized sales can easily be exported to Excel by pushing a button.

Integrates with Existing Databases

Forecast Manager works with Excel spreadsheets and a variety of databases and formats, including Access and SQL Server.

A KNOWLEDGEABLE USER COMMUNITY

Hundreds of utilities, ISOs, municipals, cooperatives and other energy service providers use Itron's MetrixND. Licensed users have unique access to industry experts in energy forecasting. Additional benefits include a quarterly newsletter that keeps you abreast of the latest forecasting techniques, and an annual meeting that covers the latest trends in energy forecasting and brings you together to network with industry peers.

For additional information or to view a demo, visit www.itron.com/forecasting, call 1-800-755-9585 or email forecasting@itron.com.

Itron is a global technology company. We build solutions that help utilities measure, manage and analyze energy and water. Our broad product portfolio includes electricity, gas, water and thermal energy measurement and control technology; communications systems; software; and professional services. With thousands of employees supporting nearly 8,000 utilities in more than 100 countries, Itron empowers utilities to responsibly and efficiently manage energy and water resources.

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