Infor Supply Planning

Creating a holistic, end-to-end plan for your supply chain requires numerous interconnected decisions. Should you manufacture at site A or B? Which distribution center will be more efficient? Each of these decisions impacts others. For instance, choosing a manufacturing site influences the supply capacity and the procurement costs at that location. It can also affect the logistics and distribution network, altering the overall efficiency and delivery timelines. This interconnectedness becomes even more complex when factoring in sustainability considerations. Incorporating carbon footprint calculations, waste generation, and energy consumption adds layers of complexity to each decision.

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Infor® Supply Planning addresses these multifaceted challenges by maximizing customer performance while delivering the most cost-effective solution. Supply Planning leverages advanced algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven analytics to evaluate various scenarios, taking into account all types of constraints and capacities, including carbon generation and environmental impact. It ensures that decisions are not made in isolation but are part of an integrated strategy that considers the entire supply chain ecosystem. This holistic approach helps businesses to not only meet their operational goals but also adhere to sustainability standards and regulatory requirements.

Infor Supply Planning also provides real-time visibility into supply chain operations, enabling proactive adjustments and continuous improvement. Its robust reporting and analytics tools allow stakeholders to monitor performance metrics, identify bottlenecks, and implement corrective actions swiftly. By incorporating dynamic optimization and predictive analytics, the platform supports agile and responsive supply chain management, ensuring resilience and adaptability in a constantly changing market environment.

Notable and new capabilities

Automated supply chain optimization across the entire business: Infor Supply Planning has been built from the ground up with company-wide, automated, end-to-end planning optimization. Many other supply planning solutions and master production schedule (MPS)/materials requirements planning (MRP) plan locally—meaning that they consider the data between two or three products to determine supply, lead times, inventory, and manufacturing time. This narrow view risks missing key data from other areas of the business that could solve a component shortage or optimize production line use. Infor offers a deep integration with our CloudSuite™ Food & Beverage, Distribution and Fashion, Chemical, and Manufacturing ERPs, allowing Infor Supply Planning by default to optimize the supply chain automatically across the entire business, planning all items at the same time for improved optimization.

Root cause analysis involves identifying the underlying reasons or systemic issues that lead to disruptions, inefficiencies, or failures within the supply chain. It goes beyond surface-level problems and pinpoints the causes behind them. Supply chain managers use root cause analysis to prevent similar problems from recurring in the future. This process helps optimize the supply chain's performance, enhance resilience, and improve overall efficiency. The improved network visibility in Infor Supply Planning helps speed root cause analysis by quickly identifying problem areas. For example, in end-to-end optimization, lost sales are the most important parameter to consider. If a component shortage could impact sales, Supply Planning will automatically produce stock earlier or try to source the material from somewhere else. By graphically representing all areas where constraints are violated or nearly reached their minimum or maximum, the planner can then find causes and take action, such as raising the capacity or allowing an alternative supply or transportation connection.

Scenario modeling management helps prepare for the unknown, by understanding how any change or future event may impact their supply chain. It can help identify potential problems, such as shortages, disruptions, or excess inventory, and assess their impact so that planners can develop strategies and plans to mitigate them. A full end-to-end optimization of Supply Planning is called a scenario. The scenario contains master data (such as products and recipes), transactional data (such as stock and forecasts), and calculated plans (such as purchases). Supply Planning Optimization can compare two scenarios and provide summarized differences. For example, one scenario may provide a lower cost but a higher carbon footprint. The planner may decide to choose the other scenario if the organization's bigger priority is to reach its sustainability goals.

Infor Supply Planning combines the power of performing a constrained end-to-end optimization based on cost and penalties with visual techniques to bring the ability to focus on exceptions and see where a planner's expertise can be combined to make an existing plan even better.

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Licensing options and capabilities
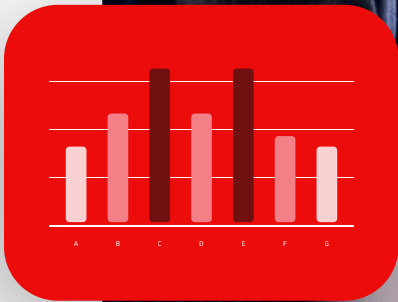
Infor Supply Planning has two license options:

1. Infor Supply Planning Replenishment license offers essential materials requisite planning. It can select one supply method in each period (so the product is either purchased, manufactured, or transferred in).
2. Infor Supply Planning Optimization license provides all the capabilities of the Supply Planning Replenishment license and additional capabilities to support advanced planning needs.

The feature chart below highlights the differences between the two license options.

Feature	Supply Planning Replenishment License	Supply Planning Optimization License*
Multi-tenant cloud-native	Eliminates upgrades and keeps you always up to date. The cloud also has the processing power to support near real-time data at mass scale.	
Ability to have constraints	Supply is unconstrained and planned against the requirement date like the functionality inside an MRP calculation.	Supply is constrained at manufacturing, distribution, and purchasing. All predefined constraints are optionally used or turned off.
Discrete constraints		Some of the constraints can be made discrete (manufacturing batch sizes, distribution volumes, or more).
Optimize on cost minimization	Costs can be used for all supply and demand, but not optimized to search for the cheapest method.	Yes, costs, penalties, or carbon generation can be minimized. Weight can be varied per element. Optionally maximizing profit can be added. The optimized plan contains the highest profit or the lowest overall cost.
Have alternative forms of supply	Each product in each location in each bucket can have a different default supply (manufacture, transfer in, or purchase).	Each product in each location can have multiple ways of supply (manufacture, transfer in, or purchase), the calculation will select the cheapest option.
Trade-off decisions		Each supply method can have multiple ways to manufacture with alternative recipes or multiple modes of transport on a transportation route. Each one with its own lead time, costs, and capacity.

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Feature	Supply Planning Replenishment License	Supply Planning Optimization License*
Optimize on penalties	Not available.	There are many penalties available inside Supply Planning to steer the result of the optimizer. Penalties such as "under safety penalty" prevent going under your safety stock levels.
Optimize on sustainability attributes	Not available.	Supports your efforts to minimize carbon generation in distribution by picking the right route to market and allocating the right resources in the supply chain. Also, it is possible to add waste generation and energy usage to the bills of material.
Safety stock setting	Includes both a fixed minimum safety stock or a stock-based on cover setting to address seasonality in demand.	Adds an additional ability to the Supply Planning Replenishment license: It will optimize supply to adhere to safety stock settings.
Manage shelf life	Offers shelf life as a maximum stock level without constraining the plan.	Goes further and offers shelf life as a maximum stock level per product and by stocking location. The optimizer will optimize the supply plan to prevent expiry leading to waste.
Network visualization*	Not available.	Network visualization graphically displays all connected nodes helping to see the connection (and any issues) from raw materials to finished products. It includes nodes on purchasing, manufacturing, distribution, inventory, and sales to customers and shows the main product flow as well as potential alternatives for suppliers, modes of transport, and production bills of material.
Root cause analysis*	Not available.	Available.
Scenario management*	Calculates various versions of the plan and presents results side by side for comparison.	Each supply plan scenario can be compared with another scenario. A scenario can be of the same time period or another planning period. Results are summarized and graphically presented. This provides the ability to publish a scenario to the ERP so it can be executed (since the ERP can only contain a single scenario).

*Root cause analysis, scenario management, and other features are only available to Infor Supply Chain Planning Optimization customers with the Infor planning engine as the back-end technology. They are not available to customers using legacy Supply+ as the back-end technology. If you don't know which version you have, contact Infor sales for more information.

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About Infor

Infor is a global leader in business cloud software products for companies in industry-specific markets. Infor builds complete industry suites in the cloud and efficiently deploys technology that puts the user experience first, leverages data science, and integrates easily into existing systems. Over 67,000 organizations worldwide rely on Infor to help overcome market disruptions and achieve business-wide digital transformation.

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Stay ahead of market shifts with Infor Supply Planning

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