

Motran

AI and the Finance Function.

Finance is being transformed from a reporting function into a real-time intelligence engine. The CFOs who get this right will redefine what finance contributes.

2026 / THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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From Reporting to Intelligence.



FINANCE'S MOMENT OF REINVENTION

The traditional finance function spends the majority of its time producing backwards-looking reports — capturing what happened, not informing what to do next. AI flips this equation. Routine reporting becomes automated; finance professionals redirect their capacity to forward-looking analysis and real-time decision support.

Traditional finance

✗ 60-70% of time on reporting

Month-end closes, variance analysis, and management packs consume most of the function's capacity.

✗ Analysis always retrospective

By the time reports are produced and distributed, the period has ended and the opportunity to act has passed.

AI-augmented finance

✓ Reporting automated end-to-end

AI handles data aggregation, variance flagging, and report generation — freeing finance professionals for interpretation and advice.

✓ Analysis shifts to real-time

AI-powered dashboards and anomaly detection turn finance into a live intelligence function, flagging issues and opportunities as they emerge.

THE FINANCE OPPORTUNITY

Finance functions that automate the past can spend all their capacity on shaping the future.



AI in Finance: Where to Start.

HIGH IMPACT, LOW DISRUPTION

Finance AI transformation is most effective when it starts with the highest-volume, most rules-based processes — freeing capacity quickly and building the data infrastructure that enables more sophisticated AI applications over time.

Three Starting Points

01

Automate the close process

Month-end close is the highest-volume, most repetitive process in most finance functions. AI automation here produces the fastest, most visible capacity release.

02

Build real-time anomaly detection

AI that monitors financial flows continuously and flags anomalies — overspend, unusual transactions, forecast variance — shifts finance from reactive to proactive.

03

Deploy predictive forecasting

AI forecasting models that incorporate operational data alongside historical financials produce significantly more accurate forward-looking views than traditional approaches.

THE FINANCE PRINCIPLE

The best finance functions in 2026 are intelligence functions that happen to manage the numbers.

Finance in the AI Era.



AI transforms not just how finance operates but what it contributes — shifting from a control and reporting function to a real-time strategic partner.

IMPLICATION 01

The CFO role is evolving

CFOs with AI-augmented finance functions can provide real-time intelligence to business decisions at a level of speed and granularity previously impossible. The strategic contribution of finance multiplies.

01

IMPLICATION 02

Finance talent requirements change

The skills premium in finance shifts from technical accounting proficiency to data interpretation, AI fluency, and business partnership. Finance teams need to develop these capabilities now.

02

IMPLICATION 03

Compliance and control improve

AI monitoring of financial flows detects anomalies and control failures faster and more consistently than human review — making AI-augmented finance simultaneously more strategic and more controlled.

03

Finance That Leads.



The finance functions we see having the most strategic impact are not the ones with the most sophisticated models — they are the ones that have freed their people from backward-looking reporting and redirected that capacity to forward-looking intelligence. The technology makes this possible. The leadership decision makes it happen.

Questions to Ask Your Team

- 01 What percentage of your finance function's capacity is consumed by reporting that AI could automate?
- 02 If your finance team had 40% more capacity, what business questions would they be answering?
- 03 How quickly does your organisation currently detect financial anomalies — and what would real-time detection change?
- 04 Is your finance function positioned as a strategic intelligence partner, or primarily as a reporting and control function?

MOTRAN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

We help finance functions make the transition to AI-augmented intelligence.

From backward-looking reporting, to forward-looking insight.

Motran

AI Solutions & Advisory

**Ready to transform your finance
function with AI?**

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