Autodesk Inc. is the world leader in 2-D and 3-D design software for companies in the manufacturing, building and construction, and media and entertainment markets, with global sales and distribution in 42 countries. When Autodesk migrated to the new SAP® General Ledger application, it established a center of excellence with standardized processes and support for local statutory reporting. Autodesk also perfected a new phased data-migration technique, which minimized business disruption.

**Implementation Best Practices**
- Thoroughly test all data and general ledger configuration
- Phase migration of large data volumes to avoid business disruption
- Allow adequate time for the design and development of detailed account-splitting rules
- Tightly manage project scope
- Host a migration assessment session early in the project to gain a full understanding of the project scope

**Financial and Strategic Benefits**
- Better standardization of posting rules and processes, allowing centralization of accounting functionality and reduction of local statutory and tax auditing fees
- Greater data transparency and auditability
- Faster reconciliations and improved on-time closings
- Simplified process for entering local adjustments throughout the year
- Increased use of standard country reports
- Better able to support multiple fiscal years to meet the accounting and reporting requirements of different countries

**Why SAP Was Selected**
- Provides expert consulting resources coupled with a migration back-office support team
- Enables the leveraging of investment in SAP® software and lays the foundation for future reporting functionality
- Quickly satisfies a wide range of internal and external reporting requirements
- Unites all general ledger and subledger functions in a single lead ledger application
- Adapts to country- and industry-specific reporting requirements

**Key Challenges**
- Migrate very large data volumes with minimal system downtime
- Standardize and automate offline, spreadsheet-based local statutory accounting processes
- Enhance ability to maintain local statutory and tax compliance through standard integrated reporting

**Low Total Cost of Ownership**
- Minimal customization required
- Reduction in number of applications and interfaces to support local reporting requirements
- Leveraging of existing infrastructure
- Use of internal SAP-knowledgeable IT resources

**Operational Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time spent preparing local statutory financials (hours per year)</td>
<td>-20%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time spent on local tax filing (hours per quarter)</td>
<td>-15%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to file local statutory statements with authorities (days after quarter- or year-end close)</td>
<td>&lt;90 days*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Estimated
“By moving to the new SAP General Ledger, we were able to accomplish several process efficiency goals for our Finance group – standardize our processes globally, make them more scalable, and reduce our time spent on local accounting preparation and statutory filing.”

Ross Wilson, Director, Finance Processes and Systems, Autodesk Inc.

A New Phased Approach to Migration

To improve its local statutory accounting and reporting processes and enhance its ability to maintain local compliance, Autodesk Inc. wanted to migrate its legacy general ledger (G/L) accounting functionality to the SAP® General Ledger application, referred to by most customers as “new G/L.” Autodesk engaged the SAP Consulting organization to assist with the upgrade, relying on one platinum consultant to support its in-house team of 10 developers, programmers, and quality assurance experts.

The project required the migration of key financial data to SAP General Ledger, including all open items and account balances from the prior fiscal year and all financial postings from the current fiscal year. A major concern was the very large data volumes contained in the classic G/L tables. “Based on early assessments, the system downtime during the migration would have exceeded our allowable time limit,” says Ross Wilson, Autodesk’s Director of Finance Processes and Systems. “With the help of SAP Consulting, we tested and validated a new phased-migration technique that reduced our downtime window so the project could proceed. As a result, we met the downtime requirements. By preparing the transports and data in advance, we were able to migrate the data in one weekend and validate it in another.”

Greater General Ledger Functionality

Prior to the upgrade, Autodesk had maintained a 15% growth rate with global sales and distribution in 42 countries. The company’s financial processes, however, were not keeping up with its growth. As the company expanded internationally, it augmented its G/L functionality with a number of disparate special ledgers, offline software packages, and spreadsheets to keep track of country-specific adjustments and reporting information. These components were not reconciled automatically in the general ledger and required a lot of manual effort during closing and reporting activities. “Our goal was to standardize our processes and make them more scalable,” Wilson explains. “We wanted to be able to perform financial reporting in parallel to reduce the time spent on local accounting preparation and statutory filing. Migration to the new G/L software provided a means to accomplish our goals.”

Faster Reconciliations and Closings

Autodesk is now realizing the many benefits afforded by the new G/L software. The company has established a center of excellence in its headquarters office to maximize efficiencies and standardize its U.S. GAAP and local reporting processes. The company can now utilize the application’s single, unified database, which includes subledgers, and can access standard country reports to meet both internal and external reporting requirements more efficiently and accurately. Autodesk has also gained greater transparency and auditability and can perform faster reconciliations and closings.

“Now we can make adjustments and perform audits throughout the year,” Wilson adds. By reconciling each quarter, Autodesk knows what adjustments to make at the year-end close. “We estimate that will reduce our time spent annually on preparation of local statutory financials by 20% and by 15% on local tax-filing hours per quarter,” Wilson explains. “By getting through an audit more quickly, we can focus on analysis.”

A Foundation for the Future

Autodesk will build on the solid reporting foundation it has established by implementing enterprise performance management applications. As Wilson explains, “Eventually we plan to implement the SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation application. The new G/L software gives us a broader, more stable reporting platform so we can develop a strong foundation to plan, budget, forecast, analyze, and report more effectively.”