Workday Differentiators: Finance in a Digital World

Deloitte addresses Workday differentiators for the eight digital finance predictions laid out in Deloitte's Finance 2025 article.

**Finance in a Digital World**

**Workforce and workplace**
Employees will be doing new things in new ways, in new location, some of which will make CFOs uncomfortable.

**The finance factory**
Transactions will be touchless as automation and blockchain reach deeper into finance operations.

**The role of finance**
With operations largely automated, Finance will double down on business insights and service. The skills required by finance professionals will change, likely dramatically, as new combinations of technology and human workforces permeate the workplace.

**Finance cycles**
Finance goes real-time. Periodic reporting will no longer drive operations and decisions—if it ever did.

**Self-service**
Self-service will become the norm. Finance will be uneasy about this.

**Data**
The proliferation of APIs will drive data standardization, but it won’t be enough. Companies will still be struggling to clean up their data messes.

**Enterprise resource planning**
Finance applications and microservices challenge traditional ERP.

**Operating models**
New service-delivery models will emerge as robots and algorithms join a more diverse finance workforce—think about the integration of freelancers, gig workers, and crowds. Companies will assess the benefits of automation against onshore and offshore operations.
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**The finance factory**
Workday automates accounting, including for transactions from external systems, and consolidates in real-time, helping organizations close when they want and adjust as they need. Finance can consistently coordinate their business practices, including triggering approvals, report distribution, tasks, integrations, and more as a part of a flexible business process framework. Machine learning is woven into the fabric of core processes to help further automate manual actions like customer receipt application and supplier invoice ingestion while identifying anomalies in journals and plan entries to reduce risk and support management by exception.

**The role of finance**
Workday accelerates the evolution of finance from transaction operator to strategic advisor by bringing together the critical financial, workforce, and operational data at scale, and supporting continuous and collaborative planning across the enterprise. Finance can help the business understand the "why" behind the "what" with fresh insights.

**Finance cycles**
With Workday's in-memory accounting and reporting foundation, Finance can achieve real-time consolidated financial reporting, management reporting, and ad-hoc analysis. Workday's modeling engine supports rolling forecasts with integrated scenarios so finance can identify issues in real-time, investigate the cause, and reforecast dynamically—not only at period end.

**Self-service**
Workday drives self-service engagement with a role-aware user experience that provides context and streamlines work, while simultaneously giving finance confidence and control through a single role-based security model, always-on audit capabilities, and visibility into data lineage. For self-service analysis, users have access to reporting and analytics tools that make the most sense for each user's needs, connected and secured by the same object data model, providing everyone with actionable insight without having to worry about the data integrity or assembly.

**Operating models**
Workday helps organizations apply a skills-based lens to optimize finance talent in new operating models, applying machine learning and analytics to help them understand the skills they have and the skills they need while providing the tools to support new models and career journeys, like gig work. Workday helps finance leaders equip their teams with new finance technology. Identifying the areas new innovations can have the greatest impact and weaving them into core financial processes as part of regular releases. New technology is deployed with a consistent user experience, giving flexibility, and scalability in the face of change without the risk or manual effort of bolt-on tools.

**Enterprise resource planning**
Workday was founded with the goal of creating a new experience for finance fundamentally different from legacy ERP. Workday provides financial management, workforce and talent management, collaborative planning, and comprehensive reporting in one cloud architecture, connected by the same object data model. As needs evolve, organizations can extend Workday by developing apps in the same environment with familiar experience, source of data, and security model, unlocking new value to meet their unique needs and increasing organizational agility.

**Data**
At the heart of Workday is an intelligent data foundation that allows organizations to ingest, transform, and analyze data at any level of detail, combining financial and worker transactions with data about future plans, data from other systems, peer benchmarks, and public information such as census data. Workday's data foundation provides one place to manage, secure, and distribute the most critical business data, allowing Finance to get their data house in order.

**Workforce and workplace**
The future of work is more distributed, flexible, and transparent in support of faster decision-making and execution cycles. Workday provides self-service, automated processes, makes data and analytics available to the users at critical moments, and supports high-volume scenario modeling and company-wide planning, all connected and secured in one place. Finance has more time to confidently guide new change while maintaining confidence in data security and quality.