



## Automating the financial close

### Unlock your digital potential

Increasing demand is being placed on financial controllers to reduce costs, deliver faster more accurate financials, and leverage big data and analytics through a process that is efficient and does not compromise integrity. However, by adopting 'continuous accounting', or the ability to smooth completely routine accounting activities throughout the period, the requirement of a time-intensive brute force period-end effort can be removed.

Technology is an enabler for high performing finance functions. When humans work with technology, finance has more time and resources to focus on providing value added services to the business.

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#### The financial close

##### Common challenges



##### Data quality and volumes

Increasingly fragmented financial data due to disparate and antiquated ERP and consolidation systems, which are not integrated



##### Financial controls

Decreased transparency and visibility to the chart of accounts and less time for critical reviews due to constrained close periods



##### Manual efforts

Inconsistent or immature manual approaches to balance sheet reconciliations are requiring significant effort and frequent remediation



##### Fragmented processes

Difficult to expand oversight and governance to ensure accuracy through checklists, review, reconciliations, and balance tie-outs









# The BlackLine solution

We partner our expertise in close, consolidation and reporting with BlackLine's enhanced financial automation software to manage the risks in the financial close process and minimise the risk of financial misstatement. BlackLine's digital platform addresses these risks via automation, standardisation, embedded controls and defined workflows, to deliver the visibility, traceability and segregation of duties necessary in closing the books.

## Who is BlackLine?

BlackLine is a leading cloud-based financial corporate management solution, focused on delivery technology that automates and controls the financial close process. The solution supports finance in optimising the financial close through 'continuous accounting' whilst also enabling finance to better manage risk and reporting with enhanced visibility into financial results.

## Solutions

 <b>Account Reconciliation</b> Streamline the financial close by simplifying the account reconciliation process with automated, rules-based workflows with embedded controls, and touchless certification	 <b>Intercompany Hub</b> Transform intercompany accounting by creating one global, centralised repository for initiation, validation, approval and reconciliation of intercompany transactions
 <b>Task Management</b> Improve visibility and execution by centralising close tasks, establishing dependencies and accountability, and enabling real-time dashboard reporting of global close status	 <b>Journal Entry</b> Automate manual journal initiation, approval, and posting with a transparent audit trail and native integration with reconciliations and tasks
 <b>Consolidation Integrity</b> Reduce risk of reporting errors by automating the agreement of consolidated financials to underlying, reconciled ledgers	 <b>Variance Analysis</b> Discover discrepancies and fluctuations in balances quickly through automated alerts and timely notifications when further action is required
 <b>Smart Close</b> A native solution for SAP. Automate SAP tasks, job scheduling, execution, monitoring of close tasks, and outcome verification and escalation...a robotics-led approach to the close	 <b>Transaction Matching</b> Match and reconcile high-volume data across multiple systems and datasets with business rules to rapidly identify and resolve or explain exceptions

## Platform features

### Industry Leading Security

State-of-the-art security ensures customer data is protected – BlackLine is the only ISO27001 Certified Financial Close Platform. Security controls are validated by achieving internationally recognised auditing standards – SSAE 16 SOC 1/2/3 Type II, ISAE 3402 and the ISO/IEC 27001 certification.

### Global ERP Integration

BlackLine is ERP and systems agnostic, with the ability to work with any single system or multiple systems at once. It is a comprehensive financial controls and automation platform built on a single codebase and delivered anywhere via the Cloud.

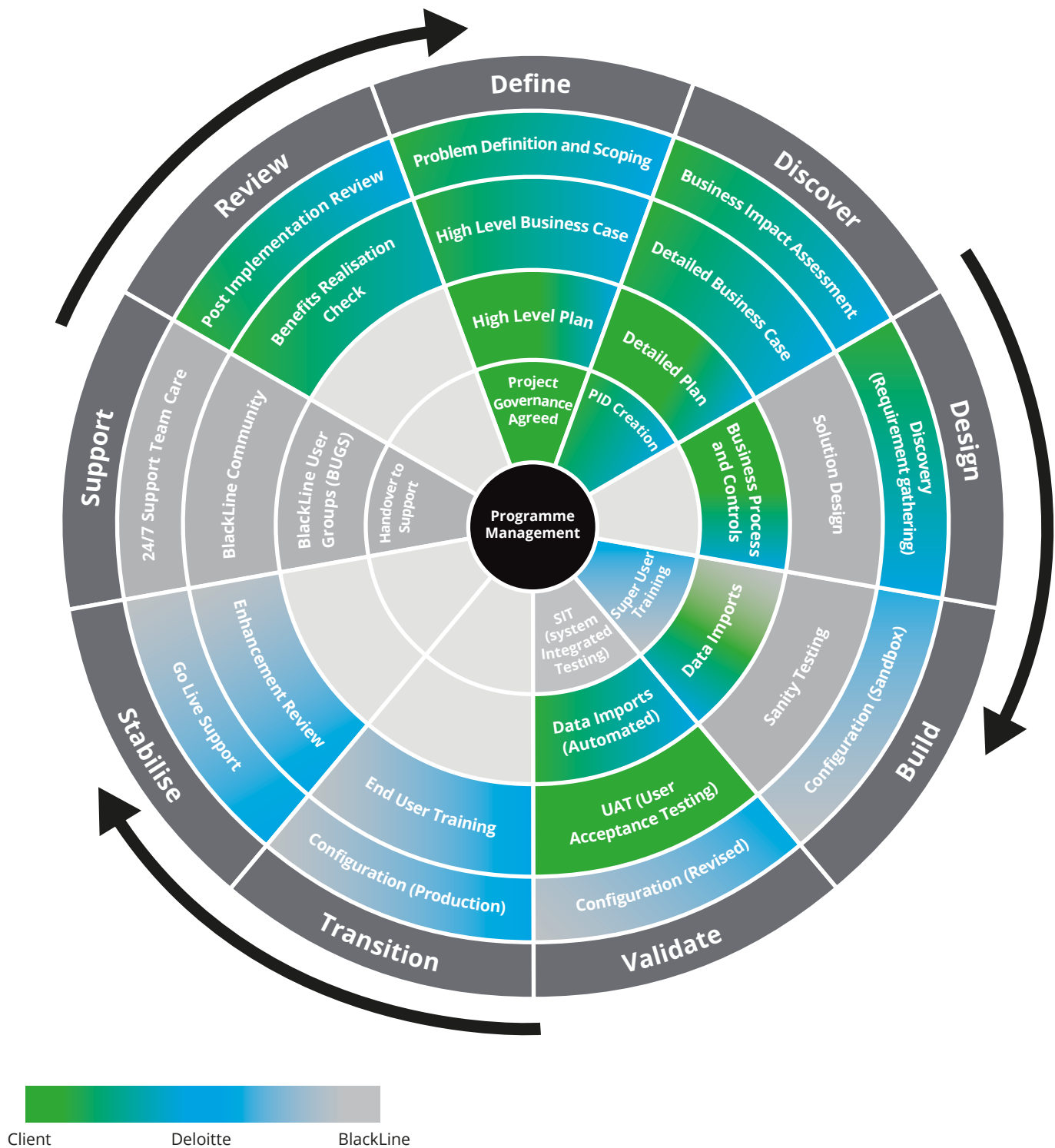
### Enhanced Insights, Analytics & Benchmarking

Optimise and improve using real data from BlackLine's anonymised user base. The platform enables comparative analysis and benchmarking against other organisations based on industry, region, size and more.

# The journey together

We have developed a tried and tested approach to accelerate benefit realisation and ensure a successful implementation. Whilst each implementation is bespoke, the development lifecycle below provides a summary of the key project phases as well as an indicative example of how our clients are deciding to resource project phases using a combination of client, Deloitte and BlackLine resources.

## Development Lifecycle



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