

SYSTEMATICALLY IMPROVING SALES FORECAST ACCURACY

Bob Apollo | Inflexion-Point | 12-May-2016



50+ PROJECTS





SALES FORECAST ACCURACY

NO BETTER THAN A COIN FLIP?

Average win rate of forecasted deals remains stubbornly stuck below 50%

CSO Insights



LAYERS OF UNPREDICTABILITY



Overall Forecast

Sales Teams/Regions

Individual Salespeople

Individual Opportunities

THE CLASSIC SYMPTOMS





DISCIPLINE PROCESS RIGOUR



DISCIPLINE PROCESS RIGOUR



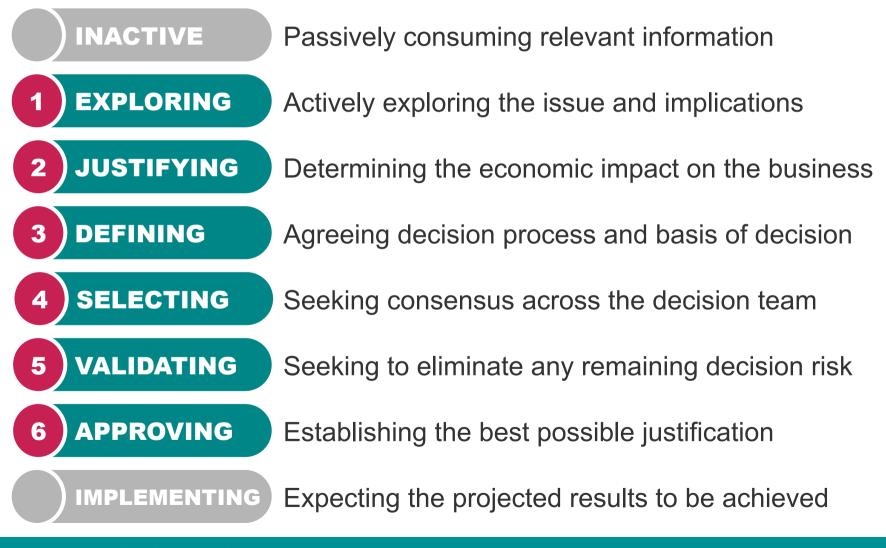
"If you can't describe what you are doing as a process, you don't know what you're doing."

W Edwards Deming

BUYING-ALIGNED SALES PROCESS



CLEAR STAGE DEFINITIONS



WITH UNAMBIGUOUS MILESTONES



CLEAR GUIDANCE TO SALESPEOPLE

INACTIVE

) EXPLORING

JUSTIFYING

) DEFINING

4) SELECTING

5) VALIDATING

6) APPROVING

IMPLEMENTING

EXAMPLE:

DURING THE JUSTIFYING STAGE

Things you are expected to know:

- Have you uncovered (and have they agreed) a compelling case for change?
- Have they agreed that our solution is a good fit against their needs?
- What is the likelihood they will take action (and why)?
- Things you are expected to do:
- ☑ Complete Solution Fit checklist
- ☑ Complete Cost of Inaction model
- ☑ Qualify and document intent

ONE-PAGE B2B COMPLEX SALES PROCESS FRAMEWORK

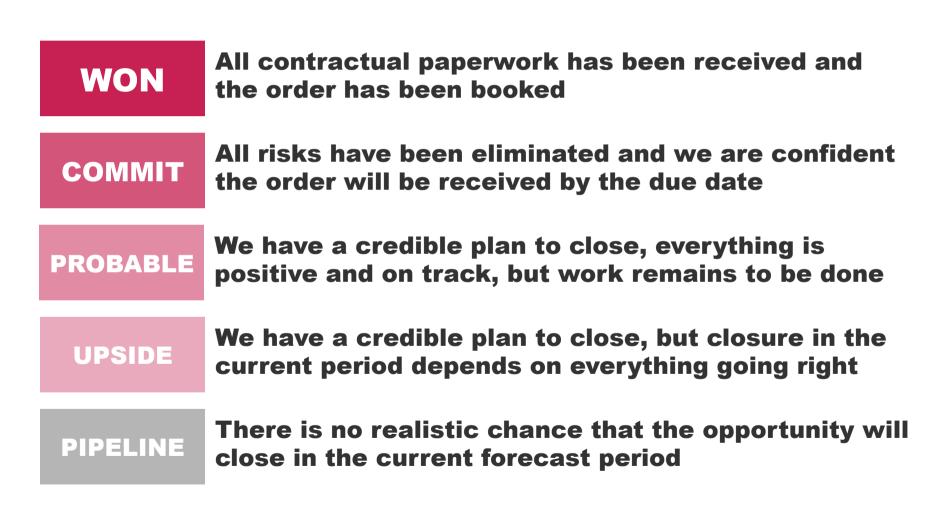
INACTIVE	1: EXPLORING	2: JUSTIFYING	3: DEFINING	4: SELECTING	5: VALIDATING	6: CONFIRMING	IMPLEMENTING								
	HOW OUR PROSPECT'S PRIORITIES TYPICALLY EVOLVE FROM STAGE TO STAGE														
The prospect appears to be satisfied with their current situation and is not currently in the market for new solutions	tisfied with their nt situation and is urrently in the to disturb the status quo and draw the prospect's attention to a potentially		The prospect has decided to act and are in the process of defining their requirements, priorities and decision criteria	They are evaluating their shortlisted options against their defined criteria and selecting their preferred vendor	They are conducting due diligence, negotiating commercial and financial terms and finalising their internal business case	They are submitting the recommended solution and associated internal business case for final formal approval	They are implementing their chosen solution and expecting to achieve the predicted results and benefits								
TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR	TYPICAL BEHAVIOUR								
Passively consume relevant information	Actively explore the issue and implications	Determine the economic impact on the business	Agree decision process and basis of decision	Seek consensus across the decision team	Seek to eliminate any remaining decision risk	Establish the best possible justification	Expect the projected results to be achieved								
CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION	CRITICAL QUESTION								
What issues and trends do I need to be aware of?	Does this issue require serious investigation?	Is there a sufficiently compelling reason to act?	How are we going to choose the best solution?	Are we all agreed on our preferred solution?	Have we negotiated the best possible outcome?	Do we have formal approval to proceed?	Would I recommend the solution to others?								
	HOW WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND DO EVOLVES FROM STAGE TO STAGE														
We need to identify our most valuable prospects, educate them on critical issues and establish a reputation as experts	We need to learn more about the prospect's situation, shape their thinking and start the qualification process	We need to confirm technical and commercial fit and decide whether opportunity is real and winnable	We need to shape their requirements, influence their decision criteria, identify our competition and get on their shortlist	We need to develop a compelling proposal, become their preferred solution, and eliminate all other available options	We need to eliminate all remaining issues, agree mutually acceptable terms, and get ready for final formal approval	We need to fully support our sponsor(s) in their submission of the project to the final formal approval process	We need to ensure that the project delivers the expected benefits and that the customer will recommend us to others								
NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW	NEED TO KNOW								
 How do we identify our ideal prospects? What critical issues should we focus on? How can we detect indications of interest? 	 How did they become aware of the issue? What impact is the issue having on them? Who else is likely to be affected by the issue? 	 Is there a compelling case for change? How good is our solution fit? What is the likelihood they will take action? 	 What other options are they considering? Who is on the decision making team? How will they decide which one to adopt? 	 What do we need to do to get selected? Have we established clear differentiation? How can we eliminate all other options? 	 What do we need to do to agree terms? How can we eliminate any reservations? How can we optimise business case? 	 What determines if the project is approved? How can we support the approval process? How can we maximise our chances of success? 	 Are expected benefits being achieved? Is customer prepared to recommend us? Are there any prospects they could refer us to? 								
NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO	NEED TO DO								
 Research the market Build target database Targeted marketing 	 Problem fit checklist Identify stakeholders Qualify interest 	Identify stakeholders		 Position for success Establish superiority Confirm selection 	 Finalise contract terms Eliminate reservations Finalise business case 	Support sponsorPrepare for orderGet approved	Support project rolloutDeliver benefitsGet recommended								
CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE	CRITICAL MILESTONE								
The prospect agrees to talk to us about the issue	They acknowledge a need we can address	We conclude they are likely to take action	We conclude deal is real and winnable	We are informed that we are their preferred option	The project is submitted for final approval	We receive a bookable order	We receive a bookable order								
INACTIVE	1: EXPLORING	2: JUSTIFYING	3: DEFINING	4: SELECTING	5: VALIDATING	6: CONFIRMING	IMPLEMENTING								

The entry stage is defined by where the customer is in their decision process. Before an opportunity can advance to the next stage, both the buyer's critical questions and the vendor's critical milestones must be satisfied.

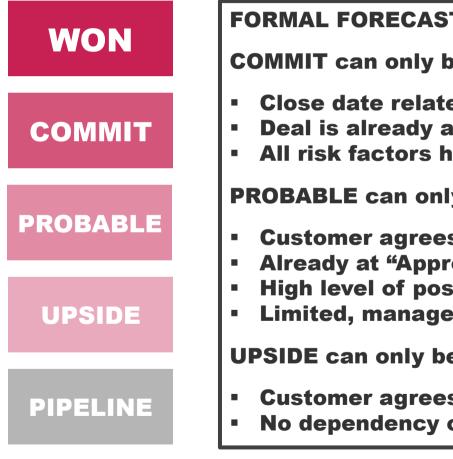


Clear Forecasting Guidelines

FORECAST CATEGORIES



CLEAR FORECAST GUIDELINES



FORMAL FORECAST GUIDELINES

COMMIT can only be used for deals where:

- Close date relates to a compelling event
- **Deal is already at "Approving" stage**
- All risk factors have been eliminated

PROBABLE can only be used for deals where:

- Customer agrees close date is credible
- Already at "Approving" or "Validating" stage
- High level of positive momentum
- Limited, manageable risk factors

UPSIDE can only be used for deals where:

- Customer agrees close date is credible
- No dependency on "unnatural acts"

CLOSE DATES



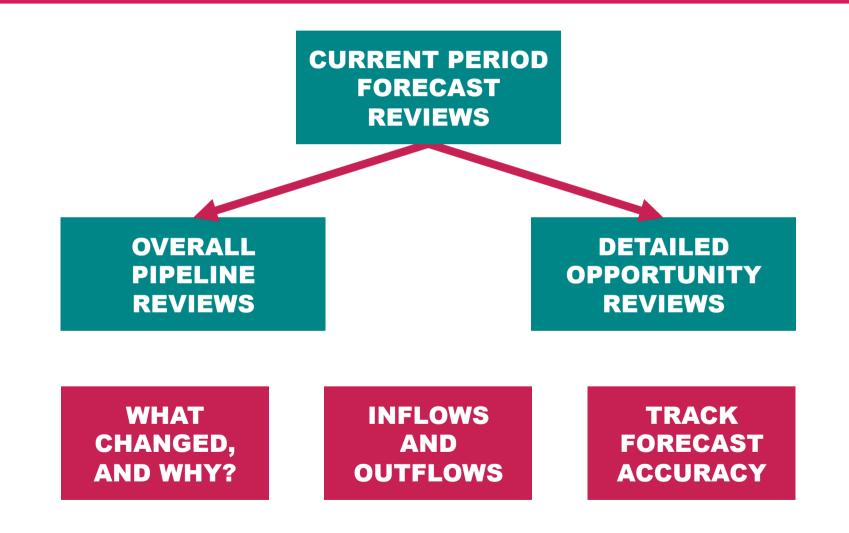
Major cause of forecast inaccuracy

Repeated slippage a very negative indicator

Require sales people to justify date

Require sales people to assess confidence in date separately from confidence in winning

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL FORECASTING



SUMMARY

Clearly Defined Sales Process Stages, Milestones, Expectations Common Language, Universally Adopted Based on Customer Buying Process

Clear Forecast Guidelines

- **Forecast Categories**
- **Close Date Discipline**
- **Ask High Value Questions**
- **Clear Measures and Metrics**



Beyond the Basics



Ensuring Your Sales Process is Adopted

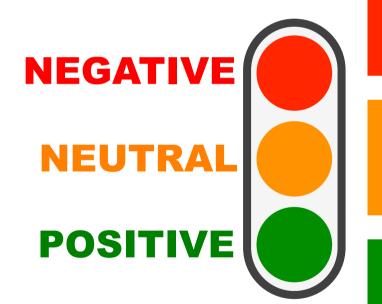
THE CRITICAL TRANSFORMATION

ADMINISTRATION

LIBERATION



A SIMPLE METAPHOR



KEY ACTION OVERDUE NEGATIVE SITUATION CRITICAL FACTS UNKNOWN

KEY ACTION SCHEDULED NEUTRAL SITUATION PROCEED WITH CAUTION

KEY ACTION COMPLETED POSITIVE SITUATION PROCEED WITH CONFIDENCE

OVERALL OPPORTUNITY QUALITY









CRITICAL FACTORS PER STAGE

EXAMPLE: PHASE 3 - DEFINING





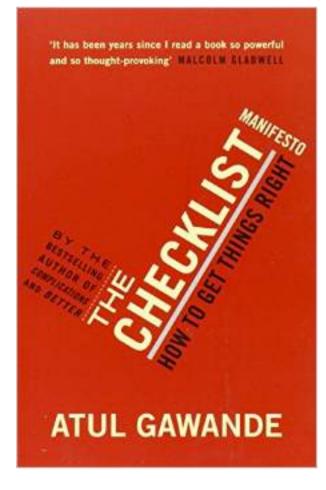








PROVEN POWER OF CHECKLISTS





INTEGRATED GUIDELINES IN CRM

salesforce	Search Search		Paul Hansen 🔻	Help & Training Sales V
Home Chatter Files Lead	ds Accounts Contacts Opportunitie	s Reports Dashboards Products Forecasts	+	
Create New	Overview	ARPEDIO		
Recent Items	2.1 Globex Platform for Data Globex Corporation Current stage: Position Suggested stage: Qualify	a Storage	Assessments	Plan
Infrastructure Platform John Peterson Globex Corporation Mike Hanson	Identify	Qualify Position Suggested stage Current stage	Validate	Negotiate
Bill Waters	Cancel	PROCESS		Save
John Wilson Jill Sanders Jack Wood	3.5 Prioritizing the decision criteria	0.5 Influencing the decision timeline	_	0.0 Getting the deal across the g
<u>Retain Data Storage Contract</u>	Completed Do we understand the form	In progress Do we have a documented joint success plan of	established?	Not started Have we initiated the red
🔯 Recycle Bin	In progress Do we understand the info	Not started Is the customer committed to following the join	t success plan?	Not started Do we have a "steps-to-c
	RFx was clear on formal requirements was specs. Stakeholder engagements w	Prospect is pushing back on using a joint plan. Need are positioning this to get alignment	to change how we	
	> Show guide	 Show guide All of the customers business challenges, opportunities and s investigated, monetized, and leveraged to influence a collabo prospect. 		

STAKEHOLDER EVALUATION

salesforce	earch Search				Paul Hansen 🔻	Help & Training S	ales 🔻
Home Chatter Files Lead	s Accounts Contacts Opportunities Repor	ts Dashboards Prod	ucts Forecasts +				
Create New	Back		ARPEDIO Mat	rix		Add Task Chatte	r Update
Recent Items	2.2 Group by Stakeholder type •			Stakeholders a	ttributes		>
Globex Platform for Data	Customer stakeholders	Stakeholder type	Access	Cadence	Power structure	Support level	
Storage John Peterson	Approver						
Globex Corporation	Edward Stamos (President and CEO)	Approver	Hard to get	No or little cadence	Power player	Neutral	
Mike Hanson TB Test Opp	Business Buyer						
Bill Waters	Jack Wood (VP Plant Operations)	Business Buyer	Some access	Some cadence	Strong influence	Advocates for	
john Wilson Jill Sanders	Technical Buyer						
Jack Wood	John Wilson (CIO)	Technical Buyer	Hard to get	No or little cadence	Strong influence	Against	
<u>Retain Data Storage Contract</u>	Bill Waters (IT Architecture Mgr.)	Technical Buyer	Always available	Good cadence	No influence	In favor	
	User Influencer						
🔯 Recycle Bin	Mike Hanson (Team Manager)	User Influencer	Always available	Good cadence	Some influence	In favor	
	John Peterson	User Influencer	Some access	Some cadence	Strong influence	In favor	
	Coach						
	Leanne Tomlin (VP Customer Support)	Coach	Always available	Good cadence	Some influence	Advocates for	
	Procurement/Legal						
	Howard Jones (Buyer)	Procurement/Legal	Hard to get	No or little cadence	Power player	Advocates against	
	Jill Sanders (Procurement Mgr.)	Procurement/Legal	Hard to get	No or little cadence	Strong influence	Unknown	
	New stakeholder						

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THE BIG PICTURE AT A GLANCE

alesforce	earch Search					Mads Me	ogenshøj	▼ Setup	Help	ARPEDIO Sales
ome ARPEDIO Templates A	ARPEDIO Consolidated report Consolida	ated report dev +								
reate New 🔻	Name	Account	Owne:	Current stage	Amount 🔶	0 🕈 R 🌘	S 🔷 P	\$ \$ \$ V \$	Close date	Last modified
	Storage Capacity Upgrade	American Banking Corp.	mmj	Needs Analysis	\$156,000.00	0.0	0.0 0.	.0 0.0 0.0	30/11/2015	19/08/2015 3:04 PM
cent Items	Mobile Generators	Pyramid Construction Inc.	mmj	Qualification	\$450,000.00	0.0	0.0 0.	.0 0.0 0.0	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:58 PM
	Burlington Textiles Weaving Plant Generator	Burlington Textiles Corp of America	mmj	Qualification	\$235,000.00	1.7 3.2	0.7 2.	.8 0.7 1.0	18/11/2015	19/08/2015 2:36 PM
Infrastructure Platform	Data Storage Infrastructure	Zenith Industrial Partners	mmj	Negotiation/Review	\$935,000.00	1.9 1.3	1.3 1.	.0 5.0 1.3	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 3:12 PM
00000100 Carolyn Crenshaw	United Oil Office Portable Generators	United Oil & Gas Corp.	mmj	Negotiation/Review	\$125,000.00	2.1 1.3	3.2 3.	.8 0.7 0.7	18/01/2016	19/08/2015 2:44 P
Ace Iron and Steel Inc.	Industrial Lightning	Jackson Controls	mmj	Prospecting	\$215,000.00	2.1 0.7	3.2 1.	.9 4.1 0.7	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:29 PI
David Monaco	Mobile Generators	Farmers Coop. of Florida	mmj	Prospecting	\$95,000.00	2.2 1.3	3.2 2.	.5 3.2 0.7	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:36 PI
Sandra Eberhard	Pyramid Emergency Generators	Pyramid Construction Inc.	mmj	Prospecting	\$100,000.00	2.2 3.2	3.2 0.	.7 0.7 3.2	25/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:39 P
Pyramid Construction Inc.	United Oil Refinery Generators	United Oil & Gas Corp.	mmj	Proposal/Price Quote	\$915,000.00	2.3 0.7	1.3 1.3	.3 5.0 3.2	18/11/2015	19/08/2015 2:35 P
Missouri sites	Burlington Textiles Mobile Generators	Burlington Textiles Corp of America	mmj	Prospecting	\$59,000.00	2.5 5.0	0.7 5.	.0 0.7 1.3	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:33 PI
Ace Iron Mobile Generators	Arizona sites	Zenith Industrial Partners	mmj	Prospecting	\$265,000.00	2.7 3.2	5.0 1.	.3 2.5 1.3	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:30 PI
Assessment-0000391	Mobile Generators	Western Telecommunications Corp.	mmj	Prospecting	\$500,000.00	2.7 5.0	2.5 2.	.2 0.7 3.2	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:50 P
	Development	Aethna Home Products	mmj	Prospecting	\$90,000.00	2.7 5.0	0.7 3.	.2 1.3 3.2	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:33 P
Recycle Bin	United Oil Installations	United Oil & Gas Corp.	mmj	Negotiation/Review	\$270,000.00	2.8 0.7	3.2 1.	.0 5.0 5.0	18/02/2016	19/08/2015 2:42 P
Recycle ып	Dickenson Mobile Generators	Dickenson plc	mmj	Qualification	\$150,000.00	2.9 0.7	5.0 4.	.1 0.7 3.2	18/11/2015	19/08/2015 2:41 P
	Mobile Generators	Cadinal Inc.	mmj	Prospecting	\$350,000.00	3.0 3.2	5.0 3.	.2 1.3 2.5	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:37 P
	University of AZ SLA	University of Arizona	mmj	Negotiation/Review	\$90,000.00	3.5 1.3	5.0 5.	0 2.5 3.2	19/10/2015	19/08/2015 2:45 P
	Missouri sites	American Banking Corp.	mmj	Prospecting	\$110,000.00	3.6 1.3	5.0 4.	1 5.0 2.5	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:42 P
	Ace Iron Mobile Generators	Ace Iron and Steel Inc.	mmj	Qualification	\$65,000.00	3.7 5.0	3.2 3.	2 4.1 3.2	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:35 P
	Weaving Plant Generators	Dickenson plc	mmj	Prospecting	\$235,000.00	4.3 5.0	5.0 3.	.2 5.0 3.2	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 2:38 PI
	Mobile Generators	Dickenson plc	mmj	Qualification	\$165,000.00	4.3 5.0	3.2 5.	.0 5.0 3.2	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 3:08 P
	Infrastructure Platform	Aethna Home Products	mmj	Qualification	\$65,000.00	4.5 5.0	5.0 5.	.0 5.0 2.5	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 3:11 P
	Ace Iron Mobile Generators	Jackson Controls	mmi	Qualification	\$165,000.00	4.7 3.2	5.0 5.	.0 5.0 5.0	30/09/2015	19/08/2015 3:10 P

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The Compelling Case for Sales Analytics



"What just happened to my sales pipeline - and why?"

Every Sales Leader

TACKLING SPREADSHEET ADDICTION

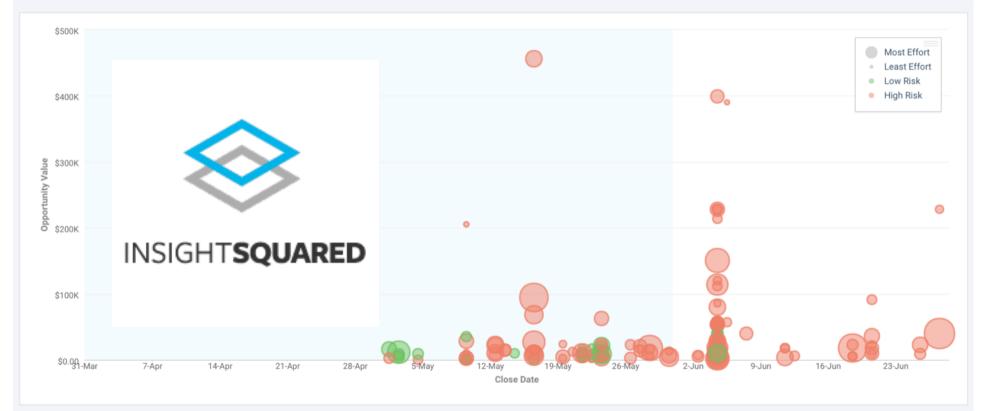
7 Advanced Micro I 8 McKesson 9 Diageo 10 ConAgra		Sales Rep Tom Sue Tom Tom Tom Tom Tom Tom Sue Sue	Distributor Disti2 Disti2 Disti1 Disti2 Disti2 Disti3	Confidence High Medium Medium High Low High Medium Low Difference Medium	Sales Type New Business New Business New Business New Business w Business New Business Renewal New Business Renewal New Business	AL-2500 AL-2300 DL-1200 AL-2500 AL-2500 AL-2500 AL-2500 AL-2700 B MC DL-1400 9 Dis	e \$32 120 \$48 12 \$35 22 5102 12 mpany vanced Micro Kesson ageo	22 	60 200 22 22 12 Sales ▼ Rep ▼ Rep ▼ Tom Sue Tom	Iotal Amou 510 \$16 56 \$2 44 \$1 24 \$2 Distributor ¥ Disti2 ¥	ast int 320 688 540 448 Confidence High Medium Medium	Sales Type New Business New Business Renewal	AL-2500 AL-2300	Price \$32 \$48 \$35	120 12 22	Units Q3 Units 130 60 22 22	s Q4 Units 0 200 2 22	10,109 \$720, Year Foreca Total Amou 510 \$16, 56 \$2, 44 \$1,	st nt 320 688 540								
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POWER OF VISUAL ANALYTICS

What is the current state of our pipeline?

\$6,725,375 of value with close dates this quarter (Q2)

Close Dates This Quarter with no filters applied



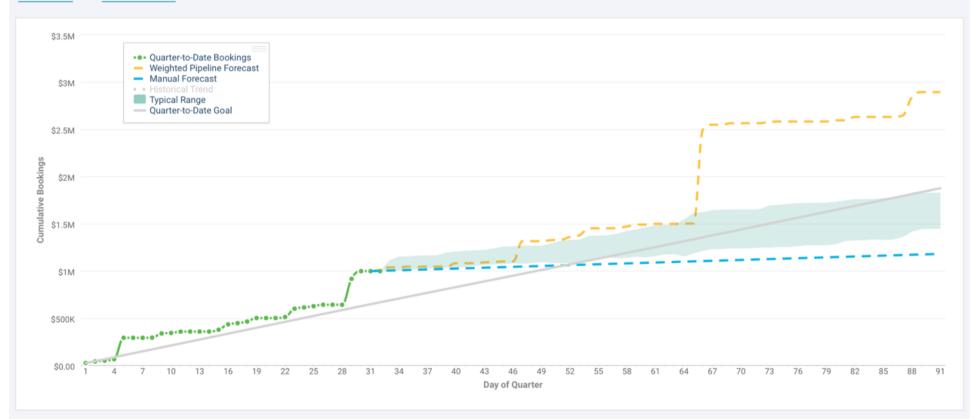
MANAGEMENT BY EXCEPTION

_	Diek	Close Date	Opportunity	Owner	Value	Stage	Stage	Momentum	Last Activity
	Ν	/HERE	ARE THE SPEC			YS IN	¢ 7	¢	\$ Y
		RI	SK FACTORS?	onnell 🐲		AGE	21		Opp Sourced, 36 days ago
				emens 🧼	\$10,200	3. Buying Proc	7	4	Call, 2 days ago
	۰	03 May 2016	AFC Enterprises - New Business 🔊	Bruce Dern 🧼	\$11,628	3. Buying Proc	2	12	Call, 2 days ago
	•	03 May 2016	Moog Inc New Business 🧼	Frederic Forrest 🐲	\$6,700	3. Buying Proc	10	3	Call, 6 days ago
	۰	03 May 2016	Ocwen Financial - New Business 🔊	Frederic Forrest 🧔	\$4,560	3. Buying Proc	6	4	LOW
	•	03 May 2016	Principal Financial - New Business 🧼	Richard Clift 🧼	\$8,400	3. Buying Proc	2	14	MOMENTUM
	•	05 May 2016	T. Rowe - New Business 🐡	Isabelle Adjani 🧼	\$8,980	3. Buying Proc	2	11	Call, 2 days ago
	•	05 May 2016	Alliance California - New Business 🧼	Catherine Burns 🧼	\$0	2. Eval	18	2	Connect, 14 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Ultrapar Participacoes - New Business	🧼 Joe Smith 🤣	\$11,400	2. Eval	38		Opp Sourced, 37 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Blyth - New Business 🧼	UNUSUALLY	\$35,200	2. Eval	10	2	Opp Sourced, 27 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Westell Technologies - New Business	HIGH DEAL	\$205,200	1. Qual	37		Opp Sourced, 36 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Invesco Plc - New Business 🧼	ms 🧼	\$2,400	1. Qual	14	12	Connect, 6 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	First Trust/Aberdeen - Upsell 🐲	Joe Smith 📨	\$28,500	2. Eval	101	5	Call, 13 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Novatel Wireless - New Business 🧼	Catherine Burns 🧼	\$1,200	2. Eval	6	8	Opp Sourced, 9 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	WPP plc - New Business 🔊	Catherine Burns 📀	\$2,400	2. Eval	21	2	Call, 14 days ago
	•	10 May 2016	Sumitomo Mitsui - New Business 📀	Catherine Burns 📀	\$1,200	2. Eval	23	5	Connect, 3 days ago
	0	10 May 2016	Endeavour Silver - New Business 🧼	Isabelle Adjani 🗼	\$2,700	2. Eval	22	5	Call, 9 days ago

PROJECTION BASED ON HISTORY

\$2,893,545 predicted for this quarter (Q2) based on weighted pipeline, including \$995,826 booked as of today

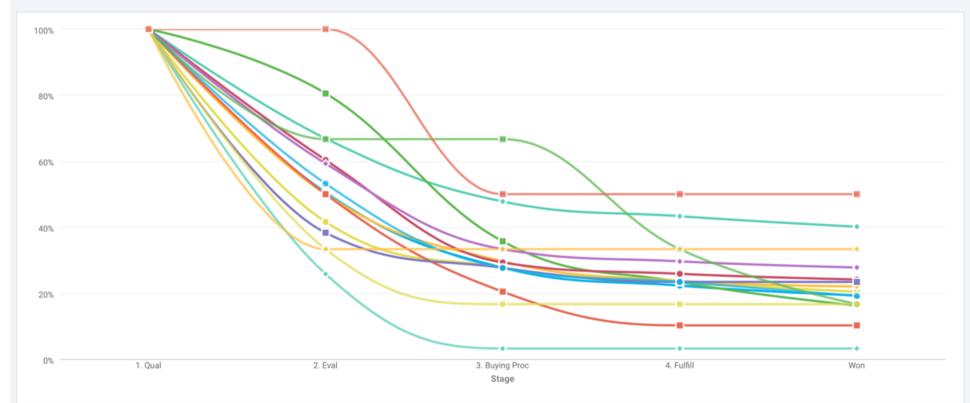
This Quarter with no filters applied



COMPARE SALES PEOPLE

How can our employees improve their sales process?

22% win rate for opportunities closed in the previous 12 months.



Trailing 12 Months filtered by OPPORTUNITY TYPE includes New Business



SYSTEMATICALLY IMPROVING SALES FORECAST ACCURAY

SUMMARY

Implement Buyer-Aligned Sales Process

- Establish Expectations of Forecasting
- Embed Sales Process into CRM

☑ Ditch Spreadsheets for Analytics

FACTJUDGEMENTADMINISTRATIONImage: ComplianceCOMPLIANCEImage: ComplianceUNCERTAINTYImage: Compliance

SALES PROCESS GUIDE



http://www.inflexion-point.com/sales-process-design-form

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



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