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Internship Experience at Accenture

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Internship Experience at Accenture – Dallas, Texas

By

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**An Honors Thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Bachelor of
Science in Business Administration in Finance**

**Sam M. Walton College of Business
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Introduction:

Over the summer of 2022, I was blessed with the opportunity to work an internship at Accenture — a professional services group that helps businesses, governments, and other organizations improve their technology, optimize their operations, accelerate profits, and enhance community efforts—creating 360-degree value.

Accenture began in the 1950s as the technology and business consulting division of Arthur Andersen. In 1989, Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting (which is now Accenture) became legally separate units from each other. Andersen Consulting was paying Arthur Andersen 15% of its profits each year, but in 1998, Andersen Consulting put that year and the following year's payments into escrow and filed a breach of contract. In August 2000, because of arbitration, Andersen Consulting broke all ties with Andersen Worldwide Société Cooperative and Arthur Andersen. Because of this, the company was looking to rename and asked employees to come up with names or ideas that embodied what the company stood for. An employee from Norway coined the idea of “accent on the future” because Accenture has always been forward-looking, it's how they keep their competitive edge. So, on January 1, 2001, Andersen Consulting adopted its current name “Accenture”. They are based out of Dublin, Ireland, where they pay 3.5% tax as opposed to 20-24% in the United States.

Accenture is a talent and innovation company that has 738,000 employees serving clients in more than 120 countries. At the base of the company lies technology, it is the driver of change. Therefore, they try to stay ahead of most companies when it comes to their technology development. Combining their strength in technology, unmatched industry experience, people, and global delivery capability has allowed them to deliver tangible results effectively to clients. I worked in the Client Financial Management sector, but they have various other sectors, such as Strategy and Consulting, Technology, Operations, Industry X, and Accenture Song. Each group works for one another and together we effectively leverage our work and expertise.

As a Client Financial Management Analyst, I was tasked with providing accurate and timely financial information under Accenture's model, preparing annual budgets in line with targets and growth, delivery of monthly and quarterly forecasts at the client group level, preparing and interpreting financial reports, explaining variances and suggesting corrective actions, ensuring US GAAP compliance and internal controls, providing accounting guidance when necessary, and improving current contracts profitability. The end and beginning of each month would always be hectic because that's when our monthly forecasts were due.

I worked at their Dallas office, working a hybrid internship, which means I will go into the office on Thursday and every other day will be remote. The way the internship was set up, I rolled onto a new client every two weeks. So, for the 10-week internship, I got to work with four different clients, all in different industries which provided a lot of unique and different challenges. I worked with teams who supported a client in the communications industry, technology industry, banking industry, and even the government. It was a great learning experience, being able to see what each team dealt with and how the profit margins would change depending on what the client did! It was an experience I wouldn't trade for anything.

Accenture is well known for how they treat its employees and clients. They were recognized as Fortune's World's Most Admired companies, landing #21 on the list. All while increasing brand value by 10% to \$39.9B, which placed them #1 on Finance Most Valuable IT Services Brand. They are also ranked #183 on Fortunes Global 2000, are one of seven “all-stars” on Wall Street Journal Management's top 250 and are recognized among Ethisphere's World's Most Ethical Companies. I could go on and on about how many awards and recognitions

Accenture has received this past year. Even the CEO, Julie Sweet, is ranked #2 on Fortune's Most Powerful Women List. The company's management and culture are top-notch, which in my opinion has transformed Accenture into the powerhouse that it is. Working for Accenture, I felt like I could truly be myself, which allowed me to flow ideas freely among my teams. In the process, I also learned very valuable financial skills that I will be able to use wherever I end up. Accenture has taught me so much about professionalism and how important culture is to a company. I cannot wait to go into further detail about my time at Accenture!

Personal Learning Objectives:

Before officially starting at Accenture, I had outlined four objectives that I wanted to accomplish by the end of my internship. First, my main objective was to further develop my people and communication skills. I can sometimes be introverted, feeling suppressed in a sense by not being able to accurately express myself. Through my internship at Accenture, I hope to make meaningful connections with people, become more confident in my ability to present myself and enhance my ability to express what I want to say professionally. While all my other objectives are important, none can be more beneficial in anything you do, like the ability to enhance how you communicate your ideas and thoughts. Secondly, I wanted to further my finance skills, specifically in budgeting and financial forecasting. This can be important in finance, but contract compliance knowledge is useful in accounting as well. I wanted to see how the contract is managed from end to end and we act as the chief financial officer of the contract so a lot of new situations can pop up. We dealt with pricing, budgeting, forecasting, and then variance analysis. Third, I hoped to observe and soak in how a big company meshes all the different pieces of the company efficiently and effectively. Accenture has 700,000 plus people. It can be difficult to integrate everyone and make everyone feel connected, especially during covid. Lastly, I wanted to strengthen my knowledge of contract management. When it comes to this topic, there is a lot on the plate. We follow the United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, making sure our numbers are correct because we get audited, and since we deal with the numbers, the auditors ask us questions every so often. Accruals are another aspect of contract management because sometimes contractors don't always pay on time due to a variety of reasons and we need to draw down on some of the forecasts. When covid hit, they had to accrue a good amount of the contracts, because contractors didn't have the money at the time. I hope I can accomplish these four objectives by the end of my 10-week program!

Weekly Reviews:

Week 1 Journal Entry: *June 6, 2022*

My first week at Accenture was a virtual experience through zoom, but that didn't stop my team and I from having a great week. I was feeling a variety of emotions on my first day; anxious, nervous, excited, eager, and scared. Our first meeting was at nine in the morning, and we had a schedule showing us what meetings we had and what the rest of our week looked like. The very first thing we had to do was get set up with Accenture tech. They helped us get our

company credentials and log us into all the different applications we were going to be using. I met with my supervisor, who informed me that I would be working with another intern, Adam, and we would be together for the rest of the summer. I was super excited to have another intern with me, I felt like it made both of us more comfortable, and you know the saying, iron sharpens iron. For the first week, Accenture took all the interns and divided us into groups of about twenty-five people. This was so things could be more personal, which allowed us to talk to one another. They would sometimes put us back into one large meeting room, but we just needed to listen. Some people in my group were in the Chicago office, some were in the Toronto office, and some were in the San Francisco office. The rest of the day consisted of fun games and problem-solving activities to help us interact more as a group. On top of that, I also had informational sessions, where I learned about the company's history, and future outlooks, and even heard from executive management themselves. Then the next couple of days consisted of more informational meetings, such as ethics requirements, accounting policies, what my role looks like in the client financial management area, and the expectations for each week. Adam and I were expected to do a presentation on a topic given to us in our agenda each week. The length and complexity of the presentation would increase each week, challenging us to get out of our comfort zone and enhance our communication skills. One of the more meaningful experiences I had from my first week was hearing from the chief executive officer of the company, Julie Sweet, who reminded us how important we were to the company and that everyone here welcomes us with open arms. It reminded me of and re-instilled the culture here at Accenture. I was excited about what was to come.

Week 1 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

Throughout the first week, I focused on having an open mindset, I tried to make as many connections as possible. My main goal though, was to get comfortable and be myself, because when I do that, I'm at my best. I feel that throughout the week I accomplished these goals. We had to introduce ourselves to one another, to higher executives in the company, and even to our new mentors. I had to meet a lot of new people, in a very short amount of time, and this was all on zoom. It was a new environment for me, but one I was embracing well. I was starting to learn how Accenture employees spoke, and the professional language used. The more meetings that went by, the more comfortable I felt, I was starting to have meaningful conversations with supervisors, managers, client leads, contract management, and even other interns. It was a lot to take in, but I was getting the swing of things. By Friday, I was ready to start the real work and get to know the financial world, and what a client financial management analyst does. By the end of my first week, my supervisor was the most important person at my job so far. Her name was Loriel Fisher, and she was taking me and Adam under her wing, helping pave the way for our development as young finance professionals. I felt like I had meshed well with my group, and I was starting to feel a part of the Accenture family.

Week 2 Journal Entry: June 13, 2022

June 13th was my first real day, even though this was my second week, I was going to be assisting with real-time work and getting my assignments for the rest of the summer. On Monday, I was briefed by my supervisor and told to come into the office the next day, to roll

onto my first client for the summer. For disclosure, I cannot say the name of the client because the contract is still being worked on. But I would be on this client for the next two weeks and was expected to soak up as much knowledge as possible. Accenture knew Adam and I, would learn more and more about how things worked, so they gave us a bunch of leeway on our first client. On Tuesday, I got to the office about a quarter till nine, and I met the entire team. I finally got to meet my supervisor in person! I also got assigned a peer mentor buddy, Audrey, and she was there to answer all my questions. Once all the introductions had died down, Adam and I, sat in on a very important call with the account leads, the specialists, and the rest of the team. The contract was worth 3.1 billion dollars, which blew my mind. During the meeting, they were discussing potential economic conditions that could affect their account, as well as issues related to expensing, because the new chief executive officer of our client, was tight on spending. He wanted us to add more solution contingency to the contract, in case of rising interest rates, but also wanted to cut down on a lot of human resources expenses. This created issues because the team had to find out where to get more solution contingency while sustaining our current margins. I took a lot of notes and had a lot of questions to sort out after the call. On Thursday, I presented an introduction about myself and the three goals I had for the summer. This was easy but I knew the next one wouldn't be so easy.

Week 2 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

This week my goal was to learn about client financial management, I wanted to get a thorough understanding of what I would be doing for the remainder of the summer. After shadowing the team for a week, I felt like I had a way better understanding of the role. Client Financial Management is responsible for the financial health of the client's contract. We are managing these contracts to optimize profits as well as drive sustainability through accurate forecasting and reporting. I thought it was awesome to see how this works in real life and be a part of the team. Now, the employees used a bunch of acronyms, and it would take me a long time to pick up on those. But I thought I was understanding the concepts and different responsibilities my team had, pretty quickly. I was able to sit in on a bunch of calls, to give me real experience with account leads, who can sometimes be intimidating. Adam and I listened in on a variance analysis call, a pre-forecasting call, and a couple of calls related to specific contracts within the big master contract. This would include things like accruals on a specific account, calls with Luke, a specialist who walked us through solution contingency, and a call with one of the accountants in Chile, who introduced us to contract compliance! I was proud of myself for finishing my second week strong and learning so much about Accenture. I could say with confidence, I knew what a client financial management analyst does and the role I would be playing for the next eight weeks.

Week 3 Journal Entry: June 20, 2022

This week was more challenging simply because we were given more responsibility now that we had gained knowledge of the client and what the role looks like. This week we would be focusing on joining certain teams within the contract such as DevOps and Tech Application Outsourcing. These were certain functions that Accenture needed to bring value to the client. For

this client, the nature of their industry was telecommunications, which brought out the need for these functions. DevOps stands for the development of operations, Accenture was working on transforming their operations through technology, and each function that's being done for the client needs to be financed by us. We were the managers of these contracts, making sure we were hitting our target margin, employees were being paid correctly and accurately, and managing any discrepancies in the contract financially. Loriel walked us through one of Accenture's platforms, MME, which stands for Manage My Engagement. I was blown away by how organized and detailed this platform was. It essentially was a huge database that Accenture had the rights to, which gave managers the ability to manage their contracts. Immediately upon opening this platform, you could see the profit margin percentage which Accenture called CCI %. Other things that appeared right away, were solution contingency, available contracts within the master contract, and human resource payroll in alphabetical order. I could see what we forecasted versus what the actuals came in at. This platform made Client Financial Management's job significantly easier. Things were organized and when Accenture is such a large company, which has a target revenue of 75 billion by 2025, they need efficiency and effectiveness to drive bottom lines, and ManageMyEngagements certainly helped achieve that goal.

Week 3 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

Going into the third week, I strived to find the same amount of success I found last week. I finished my second presentation, and it went well. I was talking about the role of Client Financial Management and how we brought value to clients. On top of this, I gained valuable knowledge on one of Accenture's most used platforms, Manage My Engagement. This opened more opportunities for me to help the team out. I was able to help Luke, one of the specialists on the team, release solution contingency for one of his contracts to help inflate margins. I like to think of solution contingency as baked-in costs, and since we were on the back end of the month, they knew it wouldn't be needed. I was making huge strides toward understanding the terminology and the structure of these contracts.

Week 4 Journal Entry: June 27, 2022

The fourth week meant it was time for Adam and I, to roll off our telecommunications client and shift to a completely different industry, banking. The client manager for this client, was Loriel, our supervisor! I was excited because we had already established a connection, which made the work more fun and personal. The team for this client was relatively smaller and this was mainly due to how much smaller the company was than my previous client. The day-to-day activities didn't change but each industry presented its challenges that we had to be prepared for. The make-up of my new team consisted of two full-time analysts, who were based out of India, one specialist in Seattle, and my manager, Loriel. Since it was almost the end of the month, they were working on accruals for month-end, and any variances from the budget needed to be explained to the client account lead. I helped the two analysts when I went into the office on Tuesday with accruals, making sure any expenses that had not yet been paid, be reflected in our financials as if they were. We also had supplier accruals, which were operating expenses for services rendered by companies we use for outsourcing. This was an interesting process for me because as an accounting major, I had always learned about accruals, but for me to be doing it in

real life was of those full-circle moments. After helping with that I listened in on a meeting that covered the monthly report of how things are going. This was a meeting to voice if you were short on margin or needed any additional help. The client account lead then proceeded to give out end-of-month awards for his team, which helped boost team morale and increase team chemistry.

Week 4 Reflections:

What do you think you did well this week?

Since this was my first week with the new client, I wanted to grasp what was different from the previous client and why. I felt that if I was able to make that connection, I would be able to significantly help my team by understanding what would be different and how I can learn more about it. The forecasting for this client was done a bit differently than before, the client account lead didn't want any solution contingency because he wanted to see the true state of his financials before starting the forecast. This meant we would see a little more variance than beforehand on certain accounts. The contract management was also done a little differently, CDTs which stands for Corporate Development and Transaction Services, processed this contract and priced it before giving it to us. And earlier in the year they had to true up some of that price because more work had been agreed to, relating to TechBP, which stood for Technology Business Processes. So, in the middle of the summer, right before our year-end, which was on August 31, 2022, we had to change the structure of the contract to fit in that extra work. It ended up working out for us, as the new work that was being done was expensive and drove up our margins. I got to review and analyze the new master contract with one of the specialists, which taught me how to read these reports and quickly find the most important aspects of the contract. So far, I was learning a great deal about contracting and financing.

Week 5 Journal Entry: July 4, 2022

My 5th week marked the halfway point of my internship at Accenture. The 6th business day of the month was on Wednesday of this week, which meant we were wrapping up our forecasts from the prior month. I helped Loriel and the rest of the team finish up one of their Excel files, which was this massive file relating to the financials of the contract. I hadn't seen an Excel file that large ever and it was incredibly organized. I went through and found variances in the contract between forecasted amounts and actual amounts. I then went through the human resources payroll in ManageMyEngagements, making sure I selected the right contract because contracts were broken down into business process outsourcing, application outsourcing, strategy, and consulting. Once selecting the right one, I looked for any discrepancies between what we budgeted for the quarter and what hit. Another highlight of my week was getting to learn more about the revenue recognition policies that Accenture followed. We needed to know the ins and outs of IND AS 115 which is a 5-step process. It involves identifying the contract, identifying the separate performance obligations, and determining a transaction price. We allocate accordingly to each separate obligation, and revenue recognition occurs when performance obligations are satisfied. This process is crucial to Accenture, and we got a revamped lesson on that.

Week 5 Reflections:

What do you think you did well this week?

Learning about Accenture's revenue recognition policy helped me wrap my head around why we do certain things within client financial management, like accruals. Adam and I got hands-on experience with accruals this week and I felt like I was finally starting to fully understand the process. On top of that, we finished the forecast variance analysis for the prior month and sent the file to our client account lead. At the end of the week, he gave us a shout-out for the work we did. It felt empowering to be recognized by someone of importance for the hard work we had put in. He even let us explain one or two of the variances in the meeting, it was an experience I won't forget. At this point in the internship, I was getting close with the people in the office, my supervisor, and especially Adam, my intern buddy. We were working even harder, but the work was becoming more fun because the teams were so personal.

Week 6 Journal Entry: July 11, 2022

It was time for my 3rd client of the internship, and this was me and Adam's largest client. This client was complex due to the nature of the industry they were in. The technology industry was not the best for gross margins, I noticed that our gross margins were lower than normal, around 30-35%. Our new manager, Mark, introduced us to the new team and had us shadow them in a couple of meetings. One of the meetings introduced us to CBP which stood for client business projections. Client Business Projections was a platform that allowed you to see client data in real-time and was categorized in many ways, all while being tied down to SAP which held the underlying data. It allowed for millions of pieces of data to be categorized and broken down into useful information upper-level management could look at. In addition to this, I helped the team prepare for a meeting with management to discuss areas where they could cut costs, in response to margins below 30%, which fell below company policy. I also presented in front of the office for six to seven minutes discussing the revenue recognition policies we followed and the importance of doing so. After the presentation, one person spoke out and said she learned something new, she had been working here for a couple of years now.

Week 6 Reflections:

What do you think you did well this week?

This week was challenging and chaotic. The client I had rolled onto was a very difficult contract to manage. But I was overcoming this challenge and learning a great deal. The presentation went well, and my supervisor and peers were extremely thrilled with the progress I was making. I was starting to feel more confident, and I had found an effective presentation style. The difference between my first presentation and my most recent one was apparent. My supervisor let us know she was extremely pleased with the feedback she had been receiving. Shifting back to the client, I was learning a lot about the operations behind the company. Just seeing how they handled a contract that was under 30% gross margin, and the ability of the team to come together and find the best solution to fix it, showed me a lot about the importance of teamwork. The culture at Accenture was apparent, and the people made this job fun. So far, I had no complaints. I was making strides towards my personal goals, all while handling responsibilities in a professional manner for the first time.

Week 7 Journal Entry: July 18, 2022

After a busy first week with a new client, this week would be a little different for me. I was in Florida on a family vacation, working out of the hotel, and joining all my meetings virtually. Adam and I transitioned to the data implementation side; it was run by only two people. We would be meeting with them all week and would be taking on an excel training specifically for the new joiners. I learned a lot about original deal economics, which is the pricing for the contract as well as foreign exchange rates and the effect they have on deals. I was limited since I couldn't go into the office, but I did variance analysis for one of the application developers of this tech company, as well as entering forecasts for the upcoming month. On Friday, we had a student leadership development day, meaning we would be with all the Accenture interns from across the world! We got our groups and played various games against one another, there was also a mix of informational meetings which were led by executives of the company. Ali Stroker was our most important speaker of the day; she was the first Tony award winner with a disability. Ali had been in a wheelchair for most of her life, but she didn't let that stop her. It was awesome to hear her story and what she gained from all the struggles she endured.

Week 7 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

Upon the end of my seventh week, I had learned a great deal of information and knowledge so far, but I really wanted to connect with and understand how Accenture works. I was understanding my role and client financial management, but I was curious what does the pricing team do? What does controllership do with our contracts? How does Human Resources play into things? These are the questions I wanted answered. This week, I got the chance to dive into the pricing side of things, when I learned about original deal economics and CCI, Contract Controllable Income, which is basically a fancy way for saying profit margins. A pivotal point in my internship was our student leadership development day, I got the opportunity to connect with various employees who worked in different areas of the company. This gave me key perspectives into what other roles can look like at Accenture and how they flow into my area of work. I met with an executive in New York who worked in the technology area, it was an amazing experience to hear how work was going in his office, and some of the new technology Accenture was working on. I also met with a CTDS lead, which works exclusively with the beginning of the contract and the pricing for such contracts. She gave me some knowledge into how pricing the contract works, this helped me understand the flow of our work. CTDS starts with the contract, client financial management manages the contract, and controllership closes the books.

Week 8 Journal Entry: July 25, 2022

My last two weeks meant this would be the last and final client of the program, and again for confidentiality purposes, I cannot say the name, but this client was a state government. Accenture was mainly helping develop and strategize its infrastructure. The contract was different because there weren't many divisions within the master contract, there was just one, and all the contracts fell under this category. I never got the answer to why this was the case, but my best guess is that the government wanted to keep things easy for funding purposes. Our Contract Controllable Income was lower than usual, and I did a lot of accruals because the

government was behind on payments. I worked with two senior analysts, Haris and Trevor, on this account. They showed me the specific contracts they managed, and I aided with forecasting for the upcoming month. Our team's financials were bleak, due to the construction of a new highway, which has yet to be completed. All the costs were being incurred but we had not received payment, yet. Haris showed me Power BI and the benefits associated with using this tool. He was able to formulate different sections within the board, showing key contract-specific numbers that you could filter between contracts, and even see projections for the next month. This allowed the team to have a holistic view and a detailed view all in one. I had a presentation on our sustainability efforts, this presentation was my longest one yet.

Week 8 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

As the internship was coming to an end and we were focusing on our end-of-program projects, I was trying to meet as many people as possible. This week I got to meet the client lead for the account in person, which usually doesn't happen. I got to talk with them about the contract and how it has changed over the last couple of years. She was thankful for the use of Power BI on the contract because there was a concern that the contract could become unorganized since each contract is managed under the same house. Power BI helped streamline all the data and make meaningful numbers out of it. Power BI also happens to be my innovation project for the end of the program. Getting to learn more about a tool that is used in real life, showed me how important it is to find the why in the data.

Week 9 Reflection: August 1, 2022

Unfortunately, this would be my last true week of work. I had one more week, but Accenture wanted us to focus on our end-of-program project, which would be 12 minutes long, and in front of the whole office. So, this was my last week to assist anyone or close out any of the work I had been doing. Audrey, my buddy, was on this account, and she walked me through what she does, helping the project manager release contingency and finding variances in people's pay. I went through an excel sheet that had everyone's preset pay for the month, and then I went into ManageMyEngagements, checking to see if the numbers matched. If they didn't, I would highlight their names. Turns out one of our variances was due to a project manager charging way more hours than what we had budgeted. I highlighted his name and sent it back to Audrey. Towards the end of the week, I also got the chance to meet with Chris Lutz, our Global CFM lead. One thing I found interesting from our conversation was how personable he was, he has the highest position in the company but showed a humbleness that resonated with me.

Week 9 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

This week we didn't have a presentation, just a meeting with the team to discuss what we thought of the program so far, benchmarking back to our personal learning objectives to see what we have accomplished so far. This gave me perspective since it allowed me to see all the progress I had made professionally and personally. Adam and I were proud of the progress made, but we weren't done. We knew our final project was the final thing that needed to be done before

we got an offer letter back. I also met with Lorie, my supervisor, who discussed with me an in-depth evaluation of my time spent at Accenture. She had great things to say, but the biggest was my people skills. She really thought I had come out of my shell, becoming more comfortable with the environment I was in. Adding on to that, she briefly mentioned how my presentation skills had strengthened, demonstrating the ability to speak more effectively.

Week 10 Journal Entry: August 8, 2022

My last week, and this was the most important one. This week Adam and I were expected to give a presentation on innovating something in the office. The topic I decided on was Power BI. I planned to outline the specific functions the tool offers, along with ways in which it could potentially enhance performance for certain teams. Power BI is a tool that allows your sources to continuously be updated without harming the connection to the platform. The data is updated in SAP, which is connected to ManageMyEngagements and then ultimately brought through to Power BI. In Power BI you can splice the data to find meaningful numbers and even organize them in a more efficient manner. It's also very useful when it comes to forecasting and budgeting for upcoming months. Managers were really the focus of my presentation because they have a lot on their plate and certain projects can get hectic. After presenting, I had a couple of different people come up to me with questions on implementation! Once Adam presented, we had a lunch celebration and met with our supervisor. She gave both of us offers for the summer!

Week 10 Reflection:

What do you think you did well this week?

The feelings I had after my presentation was filled with excitement and joy. I was proud of myself for taking a step up in the world and working my first real job. Along the way, my personal objectives were achieved and the connections I made would be with me forever. Those connections were the reason why I felt a little sad to leave. I knew I was going into graduate school so there was no chance of me accepting the full-time offer I received. The people at Accenture are what makes that company so amazing. Everyone cares for one another, and I received so much love and support during my 10-week program. Maybe one day I will end back at Accenture again, but for now, who knows. Looking back at my experience and friendships gained throughout, I can say I know what it feels like to work for an awesome company. I was proud of myself more than ever.

Literature Review

The first thing that comes to mind when I think of client financial management, is financial analysis and health. Without those two components, we would fail at our job. Since I worked with four different teams and each one was unique, I got to see what worked best for each team. What I saw on my last two teams was the use of Power BI to consolidate data and turn it into real meaning. With millions of data sets, you can arrange a dashboard that can expose raw data and drill down in depth to answer questions raised by the client lead. I saw its benefits

when managers used it as well. With end-to-end solution capabilities, you can get creative with how you construct your dashboards and slicers. I spoke with one of our managers, Mark Dornan, and he told me one of the best things about Power BI is the ability to see cost drivers and the effect they have on the contract in a couple of seconds. With at least 100 contracts to manage, it makes it way easier to see your important financials that are critical to the health of the contract. The teams that used Power BI were way more organized and in my final project, I proposed the idea that more teams should adopt this style. I did my research on the benefits and uses of Power BI when it comes to financial management and forecasting. I found 6 reasons why Power BI should be used, which were stated by the Corporate Finance Institute. Here's what I found:

1. Easy organization of very large data sets: Accenture has an abundance of data and the two other platforms used did not have capabilities that allowed for easy consolidation of data. Using Power BI allows you to organize your data the way that suits your team the best.
2. Great projection mechanisms: When working with Power BI, Accenture used a what-if parameter, that allow for different contracts to be compared and projected using certain constraints.
3. Data Trends and Patterns: I mentioned previously that the data can be manipulated to tell you what you want to find out. By setting certain connections to your sources, you can streamline different contracts into different pools, which allowed for patterns and trends to be spotted faster.
4. Quick Insights Feature: Power BI runs on powerful algorithms, which fuels the efficient software that allows for this feature to be so successful. Our project managers could right-click on any data point and get specific details pertaining to that certain contract. On top of this, anything updated in SAP gets automatically updated in Power BI. This allowed managers to see up-to-date information with just a couple of simple clicks. The whole idea behind this was to automate certain areas for the managers and leads so that they could focus on more technical work.
5. Power View: In Power BI, Power View allows you to create interactive charts, that bring your data to life. Such as pie charts, line charts, or graphs of different sets of data.
6. Collaboration: This can easily be the most important feature because you can share your dashboards with the rest of your team. I would send snapshots of our dashboards to the client lead so he could get caught up on certain contracts. The ease of sharing helped our team stay on top of our forecasts and variances. All the while, the platform offers high security in case given to the wrong people.

Conclusion

Some future implications you could see in the future for the company will relate mostly to artificial intelligence. During my internship, they released a metaverse, which is a platform that resembles the real world and has definite boundaries and coordinates. A place where the digital and physical worlds come together! Each person has a character and belongings that they own in this new world. This allowed teams to meet if the group was working virtually. It's a real platform to design and create better results. Accenture should be pushing it even more now that the new fiscal year has started for them.

As I conclude my internship at Accenture, I want to express my gratitude to the people who allowed this to happen, without my family none of this would be possible. At the start of this program, I didn't know I would meet such an amazing group of people who work extremely hard and are so connected. The culture at Accenture is what drives their performance. The people are happy because of it, so the work becomes seamless. I think a lot of times people view going to work as dull or boring, but there wasn't one day where I experienced that at Accenture. I learned so much about finance and the professional world. Budgeting and forecasting are the two main focal points. I was in excel almost every day, experiencing just how powerful of a tool it really is. But, most importantly I felt like I was a much better public speaker and communicator than I was before the internship. It was my number one goal since I hated public speaking, and I knew I needed to get better at it. Having a presentation each week and increasing the difficulty challenged my comfort zone, and that's where I saw the most growth. Accenture is going to continue to grow, I have no doubts about that. They are constantly investing in technology and companies are copying their software, trying to replicate their success. This goes to show they have the competitive edge and as long as they do, they should see even more success than they saw this year.

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