VARIANCE ANALYSIS

BlackLine's automated flux analysis streamlines efforts to track and analyze account variation and budgets/forecasts against actuals for both P&L and balance sheet accounts.

EARLY WARNING

Variance analysis is a crucial part of the risk management process. BlackLine proactively monitors and flags accounts that vary outside an expected range, giving you advance notice so you're never caught off guard.
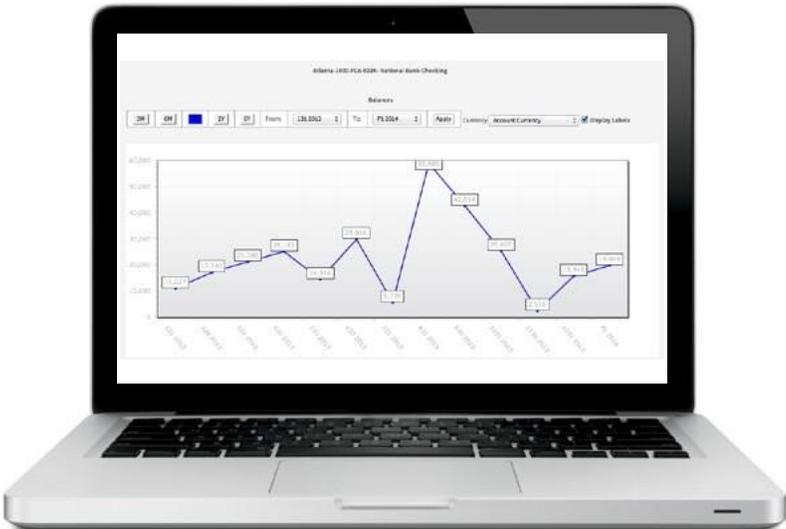
AUTOMATION

BlackLine's variance analysis product replaces a manual, spreadsheet-dependent process with business logic. Client-defined rules precisely identify unexpected fluctuations across target entities and account groups, types, or ranges.

WORKFLOW

Once flux is identified, BlackLine intelligently assigns responsibility for explaining the variance, routes those explanations to management and rolls the results up into powerful, real-time dashboards and reports.

- Manage P&L and balance sheet accounts
- Automatically identify accounts in flux with precise variance rules
- Eliminate spreadsheets and perform all analysis in a central, web-based platform.
- Upload and store documents and attachments in support of analyses
- Standard variance codes let you gauge the impact of a trend across your entire organization
- Robust, real-time dashboards and reports
- Full multi-currency and multi-entity support.

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1. Automatic Balance Imports

Load data to the BlackLine application as frequently as necessary. BlackLine integrates with virtually every ERP/GL on the market.

2. Variance Items

Users can create variance items, which represent a certain identified fluctuation. Each variance item also has a configurable item type, allowing management to gauge the impact of an event or trend on your books.

3. Unexplained Amount

BlackLine automatically examines balances and calculates the observed variation on an account, giving your user a starting point for their analysis.

4. Supporting Documents

Attach supporting documentation for every variance analysis or variance item.

5. Workflow Approval

Once certified by a user, a completed variance analysis template can be electronically routed to other users or management for review/approval.

6. Period

More than 15 different types of period comparisons to select from:

- Budgeted over actual
- Current period to 2nd prior quarter
- Current period to 3rd prior quarter
- Current period to prior period
- Current period to prior quarter
- Current period to prior year
- Current period to year end
- Current quarter to 2nd prior quarter
- Current quarter to prior quarter
- Current quarter to year end
- Month over month
- Quarter over Quarter
- Year over Year
- Year to-date

7. Amount & Percentage Deltas

Variance rules can calculate and monitor for fluctuations in value, percent change, or a combination of the two.

8. Variance Groups

Target groups of accounts and monitor their fluctuation in combination or in relation to each other.

9. Targeting

Target a rule at all accounts, globally, or apply it based on specific entity/account string filter.

VARIANCE ANALYSIS TEMPLATES

Standardize, prepopulate, and automatically assign your variance analyses to the appropriate user.

VARIANCE RULES

BlackLine's variance rules rely on user-defined logic and can be run ad-hoc or every time a scheduled balance import occurs.

"We use the Variance Analysis Tool extensively to help us do what used to be done in tons and tons of spreadsheets. We now are able to select ranges and do our variances. Overall, BlackLine has been a great help to us."

–Georgia Roe, System Administrator, AIG