aPriori

DATA SHEET

Project Cost Tracking

Project Cost Tracking (PCT) is an enterprise costing solution brought to you by aPriori. With Product Cost Tracking, you can easily automate the aggregation and analytics of granular cost data to offer real-time cost visibility for entire products, enabling a new breed of informed critical business decisions.

THE TRADITIONAL WAY

Traditionally, managers have had to rely on exhaustive efforts from a cost specialist or teams of cost specialists to generate, organize, and aggregate component cost data to produce a total cost that managers then use to inform a decision on a project. The flexibility of the "rolled up" cost is extremely limited, and creation of the rollup is time intensive, resulting in fewer and less robust data points for decision makers along the product design cycle. Typically, Excel® wizards are manually building complex spreadsheet-based rollups for product teams to support product cost decisions.

WITH PROJECT COST TRACKING

With Project Cost Tracking, you can use aggregated product cost visibility to make strategic business decisions at any point in your design cycle. You and other managers have continual access to key metrics, such as key cost drivers, cost maturity, and target cost variance during all phases of product design, and you can drill into live component level estimates for all parts and assemblies in a rollup. aPriori PCT makes this possible by supporting early product BOM and cost data import, and then incorporates your aPriori-generated component estimates as your design evolves, all in a seamless and flexible framework.

DISCOVER A UNIQUE WAY TO VIEW COMPONENT COST DATA

aPriori has been helping product teams generate component cost estimates using CAD geometry and a few simple user inputs for years. Project Cost Tracking offers the flexible and powerful framework you need to organize your component cost estimates and roll them up to show entire product costs. You can see what the impact of your component level design decisions will be on your overall product cost in real-time as your component estimate automatically updates your rollup, and simple visual cues highlight the changes in cost within your complex hierarchical product structure.

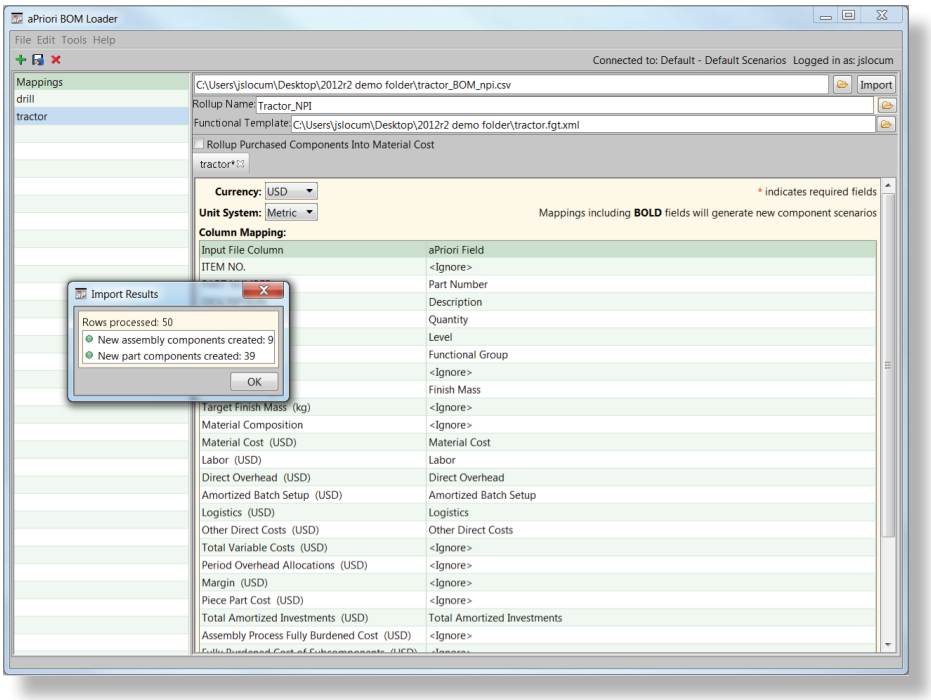

Figure 1: The BOM Loader helps you quickly and easily map your BOM attributes and aPriori cost attributes to import your product data.

PROJECT COST TRACKING MADE SIMPLE AND SEAMLESS

aPriori PCT repurposes data you already have to recreate your product structure and incorporate your component cost data in the aPriori presentation of your overall product costs. You won't have to manually build a new rollup each time you need a data point, and automated aggregation of component estimates means you won't have to worry about updating existing rollups with revised aPriori component estimates.

Key Features

- **BOM Loader:** Import structured BOMs with component cost data from a .csv file and map granular cost data to aPriori fields or custom fields, defined by you. The BOM Loader evaluates and recreates your BOM structure directly in an aPriori rollup to show you exactly where your costs are.
- **Functional Group Template:** Generate, import and populate functional group structures in accordance with your organization's functional groups to support comparison and breakdown of sub-system costs in complex products.
- **Flexible Hybrid Assembly Structure:** Rapidly create thousands of new virtual assembly components in aPriori with the BOM loader and then associate virtual assembly components to CAD assemblies as they are defined — early estimates and mature estimates can report to the same rollups for complete cost visibility.

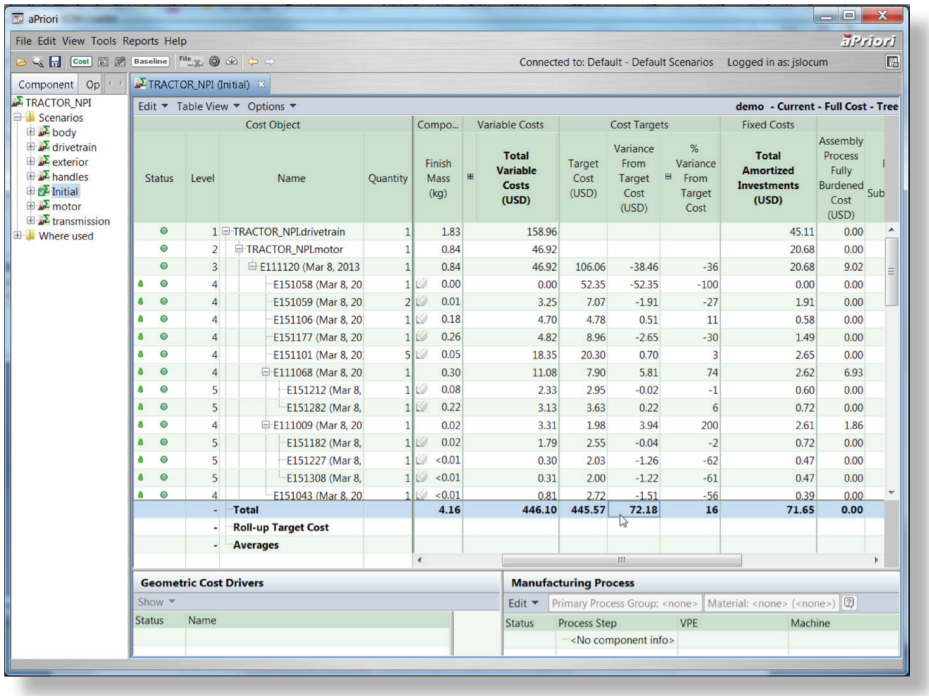

Figure 2: aPriori Rollup Tree View shows all components within the rollup and assembly structure, highlights where your costs are changing, and shows aggregated costs in real-time.

- **Assembly and Rollup Snapshot and Scenario Creation:** Create reference points or save phase gate cost states for analysis with Snapshots. Cost assemblies in multiple factories with assembly Scenarios to support savvy make versus buy decisions.
- **BOM Comparison Report:** Compare large rollups or assemblies and identify variances in top level and component level costs, weights and quantities to identify exactly where and why costs in your NPI projects are swelling and get them back under target.

MAKE BETTER PRODUCT DECISIONS EARLIER

Your cost-driven decisions are earlier, better informed, and documented when you include Project Cost Tracking in your project activities. Project Cost Tracking multiplies the established value of component level cost visibility by extending strategic decision support to a much higher product level, both earlier and later in your design cycle. Enjoy the following benefits of Project Cost Tracking, and help your cost specialists spend more time reducing your product costs, instead of rolling them up!

Key Benefits

- **Earlier, more detailed, and more costing** than any other combination of costing tools.
- **Automated aggregation** of aPriori component estimates along functional group structures for very large BOMs and product variants.
- **Real-time visibility to target** cost at any specified target level.
- **Run assembly level "what-if" scenarios** with component cut, copy, paste and drag-drop commands.
- **Faster identification of cost deltas** with automated and associative indication of variances in user interface and reports.
- **Real-time cost knowledge** to evaluate potential product configuration changes.

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