What Is Application Lifecycle Management?

As a cloud-native, enterprise-grade planning and performance management platform, Anaplan makes Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) integral to the platform. ALM enables you to effectively manage the development, testing, deployment, and ongoing maintenance of your applications. With ALM, you can introduce changes across different environments without disrupting business operations, securely and efficiently manage and update your applications with governance across different environments, and quickly deploy changes to run more “what-if” scenarios in your planning cycles as you test and release development changes into production.

Securely manage your application deployment lifecycle from development through production stages
Leverage patented in-memory, Java-based Hyperblock™ technology on a multitenant cloud platform for advanced decision-making without compromising speed. You gain:

- Versatility through the world’s most powerful modeling engine in a cloud-native platform.
- Ability to scale across departments and users by quickly aligning to key business goals and deploying necessary changes across environments.
- Compliance with country- and industry-specific governance requirements by securely managing all of your changes.

Deploy model changes quickly and efficiently, from development through production
Enable your organization to react to evolving business priorities and roll out critical changes through the platform.

Mitigate risk with platform-auditing capabilities
Confidently track and audit all activities at any given time with updated, detailed records. Uncover what changes were made, and who made the changes and where. Mitigate risk and protect your models from unauthenticated and unwanted changes.

Key benefits

- Build new functionality in a development model, test in a realistic testing model, and then release an update to a production model—without affecting production users.
- Use separate workspaces for each model to isolate your development, testing, and production life stages in order to have full control over individual environments.
- Achieve model synchronization through formal revision control by leveraging the tagging of model changes.
- Securely manage production lists by identifying structural data that needs to change in the deployment environment without risking an overwrite.
- Synchronize online and offline models without affecting end-users or introducing unwanted changes. Model synchronization enables users to compare structural changes between models.
- Sanitize the production environment by locking down structural data through revision tags and segregating test environments.
- Deploy a large number of changes simultaneously, from development to production environments.

“ALM has been essential to helping us simplify and streamline deployment to accelerate our time-to-value. Now, we can roll out changes fast with complete confidence and spend more time planning ahead to achieve our bottom-line business results.” – CIO of an Anaplan customer, a leading manufacturing company headquartered in the U.S.

Benefits

- Scale agile implementation and rollout across the enterprise, with flexibility and control for all processes for greater self-sufficiency, IT consistency, and governance.
- Visualize the entire lifecycle and document all changes with minimal effort.
- Improve collaboration within and across teams for increased efficiency, knowledge sharing, and compliance.
About the platform

Modern cloud platform for enterprise-scale planning
Leverage a robust and scalable platform to help coordinate all planning and decision-making efforts across all lines of business, including finance, sales, supply chain and operations, marketing, HR, and IT. Ensure high adoption and planning automation as you roll out changes in a real-time, cloud-based environment to all business users.

Trust in data by aggregating and curating all sources
Save time and effort when you leverage one cloud-based platform to align data across your planning landscape. Centralize your planning data from transactional source systems in an Anaplan data hub model for use throughout the enterprise, and then roll out in your production environment with complete trust. Choose from a variety of integration options, including:
- Self-service data import and export
- Anaplan HyperConnect
- Prebuilt ETL connectors to Informatica, MuleSoft, SnapLogic, and Boomi for hundreds of data sources, including Workday, NetSuite, Oracle, and SAP
- Custom integration using Anaplan REST-API

Turn insights into action through real-time analytics
Quickly assess the health of your business with role-based, built-in dashboards and analytics for at-a-glance insight (e.g., charts, graphs, maps, waterfall, and more). Complete financial reporting (P&L, balance sheet, cash flow) across plans, actuals, and forecasts for real-time, integrated reporting. Pivot reports by any dimension (time, geography, product) for custom views on-the-fly. Test changes and roll out in the production environment with confidence—without affecting business user productivity.

Create dynamic planning scenarios across thousands of users, with version control, audit, and synchronization
Instantly cascade strategic plans by key dimensions to align plan, budget, and forecast. Compare multiple versions with centralized control for consistent versioning company-wide. Monitor when and how changes were made. Retain complete control of rolling out approved changes. Make smart business decisions using unlimited scenarios in testing environments before deploying to production environments. Leverage built-in multi-dimensional planning intelligence, including time, versions, unlimited hierarchies, user-defined formulas, and master data. Examples include:
- Financial planning: Leverage unlimited scenario planning to evaluate and compare impact before finalizing strategy. Cascade plans top-down by key dimensions, and build budgets with bottom-up detail to improve collaboration, reduce iterations, and align plan, budget, and forecast.
- Financial consolidations: Support multiple entities, account structures, consolidation versions, and currencies. Manage and reconcile IFRS, U.S. GAAP, and any other GAAP.
- Sales: Calculate complex sales incentive plans, manage equitable sales territories, and predict future sales results across complex sales hierarchies (e.g., geographies, accounts, customers, etc.) at any level of granularity.
- Supply chain: Manage your S&OP processes, demand forecasts, and supply chain plans on a single platform, utilizing any time dimension—quarterly, monthly, or even daily. Build scenarios on plans and master data to simulate adding products, changing sources, and new routings.
- Human resources: Govern the workforce planning process with policies, budget versioning, role-based access control, and built-in audit trails.
- Marketing: Easily transfer budget across your organizational hierarchy to deploy funds to high-performing campaigns. Utilize a comprehensive campaign hierarchy with roll-up capacity for resources, budget, spend, and results for all marketing activities within the business.

Self-service UI for modeling, analysis, and “what-ifs”
Enable end users to easily create and modify complex models and “what-if” scenarios on-the-fly that answer complicated quantitative questions and span multiple areas of the business. Create simple, real-language formulas—no coding required. Make drag-and-drop hierarchy changes with immediate effect, with no dependence or burden on IT.

Scalability provides granularity of insight
Only Anaplan offers scalable in-memory technology able to handle tens of billions of cells in one model and recalculate a billion numbers in less than a second.

Easy, simultaneous rollout of apps to all business users
Activate a purpose-built app, with built-in best practices, with one click in the App Hub—or build your own. Test first and then deploy in separate environments to prevent unwanted changes from happening.

Security and compliance
Single, highly available, continuously monitored, secure cloud platform and infrastructure. Role-based access control and user management and single sign-on support with SAML 2.0 compliance. Disaster recovery and full data encryption. ISO 27k certified and/or SOC audited facility data centers. Testing and auditing of security and confidentiality practices. SOC 1 Type 2 compliance, annual third-party penetration tests, and on-going vulnerability scans.