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**July
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VFO newsletter

Time to look ahead

With the country now starting to move out of lockdown, it is time to look ahead and plan for the future.

No one can predict what the future will hold but what we can do is consider the impact of different decisions on the cash flow of your business. A crucial element of running a business is planning for the 'what ifs' that inevitably arise such as:

- What if I hire a new employee?
- What if we lost our top customer? and
- What if we move into a new product line?

This is where having an up to date cash flow forecast is essential. Cash flow management is vital to any business as it helps you understand your position and plan accordingly.

This is where VFO can help! We can provide you with reliable, integrated, real-time cash flow forecasts and insight that will answer your 'what if' questions and empower you to make more confident decisions about your business.



By building a cash flow forecast, we can help you:

- See when cash gaps could be coming up;
- Understand the impact of customers paying you late;
- See what would happen if you delayed paying some bills and;
- Understand the impact of your future plans on the business.

Please get in contact with the VFO team to discuss how we can help you plan and manage your cash flow and plan for the future.

Are you still using spreadsheets?

It is easy to rely on spreadsheets in business. They are a great way to store and analyse data but they have two key flaws - they need to be constantly updated and they are prone to errors.

This is where technology can help! Through using add on applications that integrate with Xero, it is possible to eliminate spreadsheets and, instead, create a fully integrated and automated solution that is automatically updated! Think of how much time this could potentially save!

These apps make it possible to eliminate spreadsheets used for tasks such as:

- Management of staff expenses;
- Calculating the profitability of projects;
- Analysing and managing the business cash flow; and
- Preparing budgets for the next financial year.

We have successfully helped our clients replace spreadsheets with fully integrated apps and so improve efficiency and reliability of their data plus save them lots of time too!

If you are still using lots of spreadsheets in your business then please let the VFO team know so we can discuss how automation can help you.

Tech update

Payments made easier!

The payment provider Stripe now allows payment links to be used to make it easier to pay for goods and services, make a donation or start a subscription.

A payment link is an online payment method that buyers can use to make instant online payments. This simplifies the payment process and avoids the need for the seller to have a retail website or store.

Xero add on applications keep on going up!

The number of approved Xero add on cloud applications (the “apps”) have risen to over 1,000. These provide a wide range of solutions including stock management, invoice automation and credit control and lots more! The increase is fuelled by the uptake of technology over recent years with Xero experiencing significant growth in users in the UK.

Stripe launch a POS terminal!

As we start to move back into the physical world, Stripe has launched their new point of sale terminal. This allows customers to pay with their smartphone or card for in-person payments.



Our PEM team news

Olivia Wallace has joined the VFO team as an Administrator. Georgia-Mae Booth, Fiona Taylor, and Rebecca Travanti have all joined as Assistant Account Managers. Mark Routledge has joined as an Account Manager and Ian Gallagher has joined us as Assistant Director. Welcome aboard!



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