

CUSTOMER STORY



Polaris AI-powered controls: A proactive approach to financial oversight



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Overview

Polaris, a household name and leader in the powersports automotive industry, has enjoyed success with their famous motorcycles, snow machines, boats, off-road ATVs, and commercial vehicles since 1954. Polaris' innovation has propelled its product design and user experience, keeping it well ahead of vast customer and industry needs.

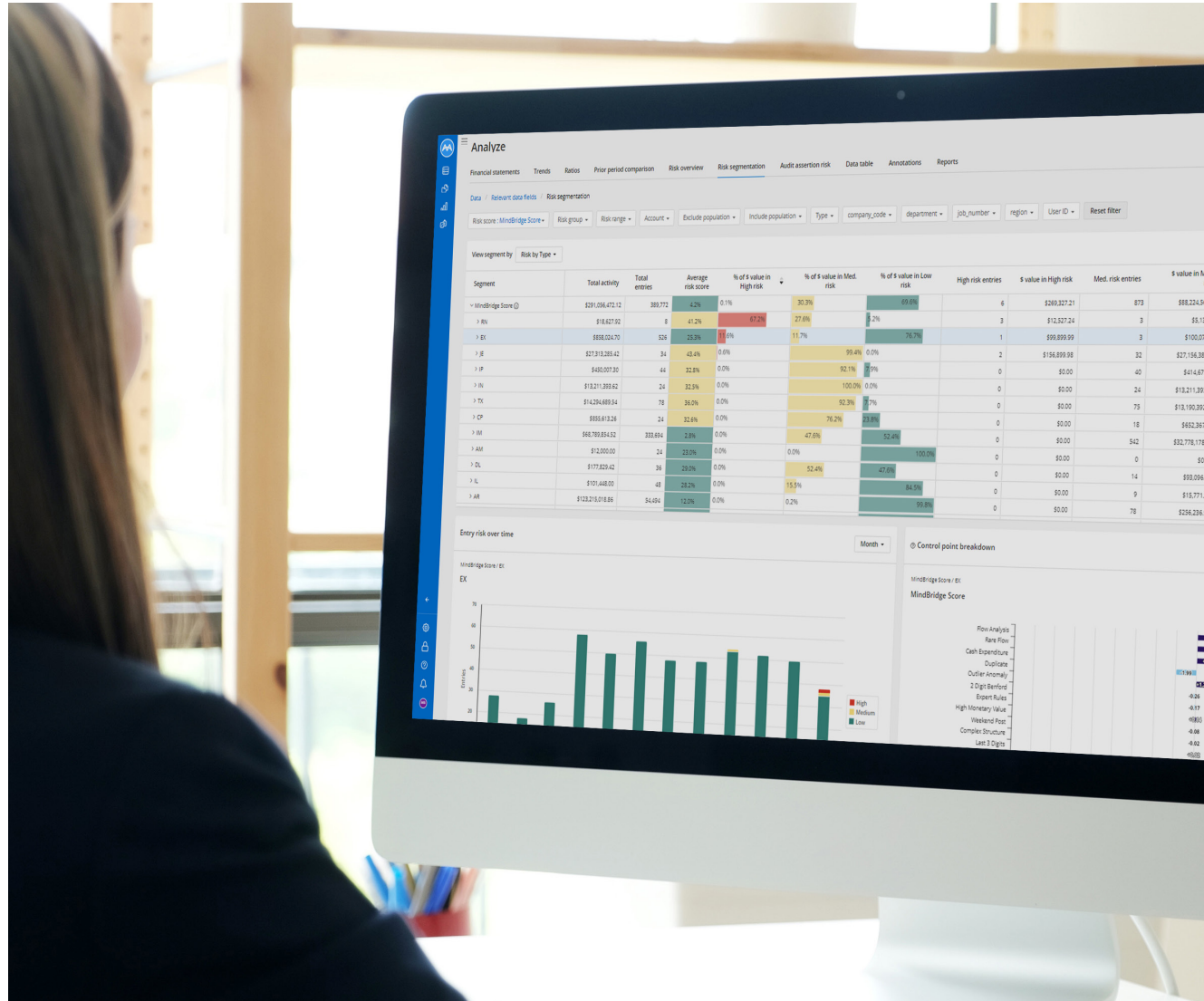
Being a consistent visionary within their industry, the Polaris corporate finance team began to look at how AI innovation could improve their processes within their financial data sets and internal controls. Polaris turned to MindBridge Analytics to use artificial intelligence and anomaly detection technology to take the efficiency and effectiveness of its internal controls over financial reporting to a new level.



Seeking a complete source of data

After years of expansion and acquisition, Polaris had numerous ERP operating systems in use. While that seemed to be the right approach in some cases, it had created challenges and a disparate data model. For example, If the marketing team used data that the sales group had curated for its own needs, marketing would not be aware of what might have been omitted from the original report data. “If you don’t know what has been filtered out or enhanced, you can’t be sure that’s the right data for you,” said Chris Swanson, Manager of Internal Audit Data Solutions at Polaris.

Polaris had explored opportunities to consolidate data and has used data cataloging to create an audit trail from its many data streams. However, Polaris was not yet satisfied that it had access to a complete and credible source of data from a consolidated enterprise perspective. In addition, Polaris wanted to be proactive in surfacing transaction risks across its ledgers rather than having its external auditors identify issues in their audit findings.



Being audit ready; the game changer

Polaris was introduced to MindBridge AI, the leader in financial risk discovery. The implementation of MindBridge allowed Polaris to be audit ready. MindBridge helps companies with AI for internal controls over financial reporting (AiCFR™) and Polaris knew they had found a game changer. AiCFR strengthens an organization's internal control framework by identifying, surfacing, and analyzing risk across different financial datasets.

MindBridge's risk segmentation was exactly what the internal audit group needed for greater transaction risk knowledge and timely risk responses. This is where they began their MindBridge AiCFR journey. MindBridge's machine learning analysis provided Polaris with detailed journal entry insights, making it possible to review data based on different descriptive factors by department or account groupings.

Today, Polaris uses MindBridge to build a suite of monitoring activities. It reviews journal entries that MindBridge's patented technology flags and scores as high risk to identify specific attributes and understand any related risk elements.

With MindBridge, the Polaris internal audit team has been able to significantly enhance its risk awareness with pinpoint precision as well as its approach to using MindBridge's out of the box solutions. Rather than using a historical dollar threshold, the team can now use a risk profile threshold and adjust the threshold based on results.

"Instead of doing a little bit of everything at one of our divisions or subdivisions, we can locate the areas of highest risk and focus our time on them," Chris explained. This not only saves resources and travel costs, but it also saves the business from unexpected or critical operational and vulnerability costs. In addition, working with Polaris' corporate and business unit controllers, the internal audit team is refining the main GL analysis. This is an adaptive response to modern business management focusing on certain control points based on MindBridge analysis.

Polaris believes MindBridge's transaction risk analytics platform can have a major impact on risk scoring of subledgers. MindBridge offers Vendor Invoice, Revenue, Payroll, Company Card, and General Ledger Risk Analytics across its platform.

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Polaris is using these products to find patterns across the whole business and 100% of transactions, rather than focusing only on one-off transactions or small sample sizes. Polaris is currently exploring these products to identify automation opportunities within both their internal control framework and internal audit plan throughout their major revenue-generating business units.

Transparent & trustworthy

Polaris' data scientists were impressed with what MindBridge brought to the table. MindBridge has constructed an explainable AI that allows users to easily understand how the system works. It also receives third-party confirmation of its system. MindBridge underwent a new technology audit in 2023 completed by Holistic AI, demonstrating leading best practices and standards for MindBridge AI systems and algorithms.

Using MindBridge, Polaris now has the opportunity to jump start advanced AI capabilities. "It's almost like you're starting on chapter 10, bypassing chapters 1 through 9" Chris explained. While many companies have small wins trying to build similar systems in house, Swanson estimates it could take several years to replicate what MindBridge can do out of the box.



Having built its strengths on transparent AI, MindBridge can ensure its systems perform safely, legally, and ethically. "That was massively important," Chris said, since companies often don't have the in-house expertise to make this kind of assessment.

Spreading the value

Polaris is making great progress on their AiCFR journey through the identification of automation opportunities within both their internal control framework and internal audit plan across their major revenue-generating business units. MindBridge provides Polaris access to a detailed series of dashboards that use machine learning, statistical analysis, and rules to spotlight unusual behavior and anomalies. This helps the overall business and each controllership become a stronger valued business partner inside the organization.

MindBridge allows for finance functions across subsidiaries to leverage AI-powered risk detection and analytics for financial oversight. "That's where the exponential value of MindBridge comes into play," said Chris, since the system makes it possible to match the controllers' subject matter expertise with easily available data. "We can find those little leaks before they are a larger flood," explained Chris.

With a complete platform for transaction risk analytics, Polaris is able to embed intelligent AI into every finance function. "Working with MindBridge is an iterative journey," Swanson said. "As you move forward, you open more doors to what you can do." MindBridge delivers improved trust and confidence in finance through efficiency, AI coverage, and quality in controls and continuous audit.

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Learn more

To learn more about AI-powered financial data discovery at Polaris, watch our on-demand [webinar](#).

Explore our comprehensive [MindBridge AI™](#) Transaction Risk Analytics platform. Empower your business with the robust capabilities of Vendor Invoice Risk Analytics, Revenue Risk Analytics, Payroll Risk Analytics, General Ledger Risk Analytics, and Company Card Risk Analytics to ensure unparalleled insight, compliance, and risk management across diverse financial data sets.

Contact info@mindbridge.ai today.

