



**What's coming in
Pentana Vision 2?**

Introduction

This document outlines the development agenda for Pentana Vision 2.0, targeted for release by end of 2012. The document is mainly intended for Pentana partners and customers already using Pentana Vision 1.6, to help them prepare for the next major release.

The main enhancements planned for this release include:

- Business interaction features
- Email Notifications
- Split Tests and Steps
- Audit Milestones
- Data Grid improvements

As with all upcoming software releases, the precise scope and timing of enhancements in Pentana Vision 2.0 is subject to change. This document does not constitute a commitment or guarantee.

Business interaction features

Pentana Vision 2.0 will extend the features with regard to interaction with the business, with particular focus on the action tracking and follow-up lifecycles.

Whereas PAWS provided a separate browser-based module for use by all business users, Pentana Vision adopts different solution strategies in order to better meet the specific needs of two distinct types of business user:

1. For business users who simply need to respond to their individually assigned actions, we will provide mechanisms *externally* to the Pentana Vision system, for example via emails and turnaround documents.
2. For business users who have an extensive involvement in the action management lifecycles, for example where they act as 'Action Coordinators' with responsibility for the progress of actions in their part of the universe, features are exposed within Pentana Vision itself.

The following features are introduced in support of the action management lifecycles generally:

- Ability to define 'dummy' Entities/Processes; these are automatically excluded from management screens such as Audit Coverage and Risk Exposure and provide a container for analysis and tracking of Findings and Actions that would otherwise be unassigned.
- Ability to assign Findings (and their associated Actions) to an Entity/Process outside of the originating Audit Scope.
- Introduction of 'Action Updates' to help central users manage the follow-up lifecycles and to capture the full history of progress against agreed Actions over time.

New features targeted at those business users who will interact only *externally* to Pentana Vision itself include:

- Automated Email notifications to alert the business of draft Findings and their upcoming and overdue Actions (see below).
- Two-way 'turnaround document' facilities to allow the business to submit their responses and progress updates via MS Word or Excel.
 - Central users can remain in overall control by selecting whether or not to accept the responses submitted by the business.

New features in support of business users who have a more extensive involvement in the process, *within* Pentana Vision itself include:

- Contacts can be defined as Users within the application.
- Contacts can be assigned to an Org Unit and optionally to individual Entities, in order to determine the scope of the data that they can see.
- Screens relating to the analysis and management of Findings and Actions are exposed to Contacts, with the data organised from the perspective of the Org Structure and Entities (i.e. independently of the Audits from which they originated).
- New access roles to control permissions at Universe and Entity levels, designed specifically for business usage:
 - **Universe Business User** – very restricted permissions to read data across the universe. For example, business users may be limited to see only those entities within their Org Unit scope; they may have no read access to Audits at all.
 - **Entity Business Manager** – selective permissions with regard to entity level data and to manage aspects of the Finding and Action data within their entity scope.
 - **Entity Business User** – very restricted permissions, such as the ability to edit only data in respect of the items where they are the 'owner'.
- Ability to hide 'spine items' entirely based on role, such that business users will only see a very small subset of the Vision application.
- Ability to control which Finding and Action fields are displayed to Contacts, thereby allowing fields intended for audit use only to be hidden from Contacts.

Although not specifically targeted for Pentana Vision 2.0, the features outlined above may provide opportunities to exploit other areas of functionality that are frequently requested. For example:

- **Entity Risk Registers** – business users can be granted permissions to view and even maintain Entity level Risk Registers if desired. Care would be needed to determine who 'owns' this data and the interaction between the central team and the business.

- **'Guest Auditors'** – business users can also be granted an Audit role if desired. Where contacts/business users are seconded into the central team to perform audits as 'guest auditors' one could potentially adapt their permissions to allow 'Read Audits = Assigned', so that the business users could then (subject to permissions) perform audits within Pentana Vision in the same way as Staff users.

Email Notifications

In addition to the specific Email notifications to be developed in respect of the audit reporting and action follow-up lifecycles outlined above, Pentana Vision 2.0 will implement a generalised infrastructure to generate Email notifications for other purposes.

Pentana will be pleased to 'plug in' specific notification rules on a consulting basis, according to individual requirements. We also expect to build up a library of commonly requested rules over time, and will share more rules with customers generally in future releases.

Split Tests and Steps

Pentana Vision 1.6 and prior includes an item type called 'Step/Test' which is used in order to capture both:

- Steps - the administrative tasks performed during the course of an Audit; and
- Tests - testing work such as Tests of Control, Substantive Tests and so on.

This combined approach has led to certain practical issues and some customers have fed back that this has caused confusion. In order to give better clarity and simplicity in Pentana Vision 2.0, we will split the Step/Test into two separate objects (Steps and Tests) where:

- Steps
 - Will attach to Work Plans only and will be designed for the administrative tasks within an Audit.
 - Work Plans (and their Steps) will be unrelated to Processes.
- Tests
 - Will attach to an Objective, Risk or Control only and will be designed for all types of testing work.
 - Tests will not attach to a Work Plan.
 - Tests will always be related to a Process (via their parent Objective, Risk or Control).

Pentana will work closely with our customers to provide an automated upgrade path and to help users adapt to the new approach. For example, for those customers who prefer to perform their testing in a simple 2-level hierarchy of Work Program / Test, this can be achieved quite easily by aliasing the term 'Objective' (e.g. to 'Work Program') and attaching Tests directly to Objectives.

Audit Milestones

While Pentana Vision 1.6 allows users to capture three important milestones against their Audits – namely the planned/actual 'Start', 'Report' and 'End' dates – Pentana Vision 2.0 will extend this functionality to deliver a more complete facility for managing Audit Milestones.

Features include:

- Maintainable library of Milestones, including optional qualification by Audit Type.
- Milestones automatically copied into each Audit on creation.
- Ability to auto-suggest the plan dates for each Milestone relative to the planned started date.
- Ability to set actual dates automatically based on approval of linked Steps.
- New 'Milestone Status' field, auto-calculated based on the latest completed milestone date
- New 'My Milestones' Home Screen widget to alert users to their upcoming and overdue Milestones.
- Analysis features to help monitor their performance against Milestones

Data Grid improvements

Pentana Vision 2.0 includes improvements to the 'Data Grids' that are used throughout the system (i.e. wherever data is displayed as one row per item and one column per field) in order to improve performance and to facilitate better screen-based reporting.

In Pentana Vision 1.6, data was retrieved from the database according to the grid definitions, regardless of whether the columns were actually displayed on screen. One consequence of this approach was that it was necessary to exclude large text fields from many grid definitions, otherwise performance may become poor.

In Pentana Vision 2.0, data will only be retrieved in respect of fields that the user has selected to display on the screen. This approach allows all fields to be made available for display and for users to make their own choices as to whether or not to display large text fields.

This change improves performance and the flexibility of screen-based reporting. Users may define different Views of their data to meet specific purposes; for example, if users want to produce a detailed report of their entire testing plans then they may construct a view for this purpose, including the large text fields such as Test Description and Result.

Other planned enhancements

Other proposed enhancements in Pentana Vision 2.0 include:

- Consolidation of the various 'Analyze' screens, plus more analysis variants at Universe, Entity and Audit levels
- Ability to show/hide overall spine items based on role permissions
- Improved integration model, which will facilitate easier integration with customer 3rd party applications on a consulting basis.
- Improved 'People Picker' and large list picker, allowing additional columns, quick search, etc.
- Improved 'pre-filter' options
- Drag-drop capability when adding file attachments from Windows Explorer
- Support for customer splash screen and branding logo on the Home Screen
- Ability to link both Staff and Audits to multiple Departments, for greater flexibility over access permissions
- Ability to assign/remove Staff to/from Audits even the Audit has been Approved

Further Information

We hope this has given you a good insight into the development agenda for Pentana Vision 2.0.

If you have any further questions or would like to book a full demonstration please contact your local Pentana partner or email info@pentana.com. We look forward to hearing from you.