Why accelerate the close and what are the challenges?

Structure of session:

Introduction

Myself, my background, my role at National Grid.

*Question to audience: current length of their close?*

*Question to audience: do you think it should be shorter?*

Story of National Grid

**Why accelerate the close?**

People want insight. Fast. (Dominos, Amazon etc.)

The value challenge

Shortening the close vs reducing intensity?

Change profile of the close from processing to analysis

Change the way that we deliver reporting. Dashboards/data visualization

*Question to audience: their biggest challenge?*

**Challenges:**

**Cultural –**

- people think it’s about “machines taking jobs”
- fear of technology
- commitment to process

**Technology**

- integration of antiquated systems – can we really get what people want
- automation for the sake of automation

**Skills and capabilities –** do we have the right skills to do things differently? If not. Train them

**Takeaways:**

- Develop a plan
- Develop the ‘why’
- Focus on people
- Don’t simply focus on cost