A

PROJECT REPORT

ON

Accounts Receivable

Submitted by

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For Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology

Guided by

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AY: 2022-23, Semester II

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project work entitled <u>Accounts Receivable</u> has been successfully carried out by <u>Dhruv Shah(19IT425)</u> for the subject **Major Project (4IT33)** during the academic year 2022-23, Semester-II for partial fulfilment of Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology. The work carried out during the semester is satisfactory.

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BIRLA VISHVAKARMA MAHAVIDYALAYA ENGINEERING COLLEGE (AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

4IT33 – MAJOR PROJECT

UNDERTAKING FOR SUBMISSION OF INDUSTRY TRAINING COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, <u>Dhruv Vikram Shah</u> , ID No. <u>19IT425</u> , Group No. 28 hereby give assurance to submit the
industry training completion certificate before the semester end.

I am aware of the instruction that if I fail to submit the said certificate, my 8th semester result will be on hold.

Sign of the Student

Sign of Faculty Guide

Acknowledgement

In this page I would like to say thank you to a number of people who supported me while preparing this Project work .

My heartfelt gratitude to my project guide **Dr. Keyur Brahmbhatt**, Head of the Department of Information Technology, for his valuable suggestions and guidance in the preparation of the report and implementation of project.

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Abstract

Accounts Receivable (A/R) is the money owed to a business by its clients. The main objective in Accounts Receivable management is to minimise the Days Sales Outstanding (DSO) and processing costs whilst maintaining good customer relations. Accounts receivable is often the biggest current asset on the balance sheet. Indeed in many small and medium-sized businesses receivables represents the majority of working capital. The other key objective in A/R management is to use systems and processes that ensure that the financing potential of the company's receivables can be maximised. Before any invoice or bill can be sent out companies need to determine how to charge for the product or service they provide, Americans call this Relationship Monetization. As products and services become more and more complex, this has become much more difficult. Furthermore, there increasing number of regulations and rules requiring companies to be able to fully itemise and justify their invoices/bills. Today invoices need to show how the full charge is built up. And the multiple parties involved in delivering the service, and each require their share of the income generated. There are now companies and software packages specifically designed to monetize relationships and manage these complex billing arrangements.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Brief overview of the work:

Accounts Receivable (A/R) is the money owed to a business by its clients.. Accounts receivable management directly impacts the profitability of a company. Firstly, the purpose of the empirical part of the study is to analyze accounts receivable and to demonstrate a correlation between the accounts receivable level and profitability expressed in terms of Return on Assets (ROA) of sample companies.

1.2 Objective:

- The main objective in Accounts Receivable management is to minimize the Days Sales Outstanding (DSO) and processing costs whilst maintaining good customer relations.
- Accounts receivable is often the biggest current asset on the balance sheet. Indeed in many small and medium-sized businesses receivables represents the majority of working capital. The other key objective in A/R management is to use systems and processes that ensure that the financing potential of the company's receivables can be maximized.

1.3 Scope:

This project can be implemented at various places such as:

An example of accounts receivable includes an electric company that bills its
clients after the clients received the electricity. The electric company records an
account receivable for unpaid invoices as it waits for its customers to pay their
bills.

• Most companies operate by allowing a portion of their sales to be on credit. Sometimes, businesses offer this credit to frequent or special customers that receive periodic invoices. The practice allows customers to avoid the hassle of physically making payments as each transaction occurs. In other cases, businesses routinely offer all of their clients the ability to pay after receiving the service.

1.4 Project Modules:

1. Steering View

provides get full visibility into the current accounts receivable state with key metrics and performance indicators

- Total A/R
- A/R Due
- Days Sales Outstanding(DSO)
- Collection Amount
- Risk Exposure
- Execution Gaps

2. Action View

Complete list of customers with some of the key AR KPIs listed at the top.

3. Customer or Account Detail View

Shows customer details, contact details and last activity details at the top

Complete Account Information

Account Summary showing the current aging, contact details and activities and notes

4. Transaction Detail View

Shows additional details of an invoice/transaction and take relevant actions.

- Capture Promise To Pay
- Create Dispute
- Add comments on the transaction

1.5 Project Hardware/Software Requirements:

1.5.1 Software Requirement:

- Google Chrome
- Microsoft Visual Studio
- Celonis EMS Studio



Figure 1: Celonis Logo

Celonis Studio's low-code development environment lets anyone combine analytics and execution capabilities. Build apps and views that you can share with colleagues or publish to the Celonis Marketplace. Build, publish and deploy expertise in days, not weeks using the Celonis Studio.

The following are the minimum versions of libraries that are required:-

• Python- 3.11.1

• Numpy 1.21.0

• @celonis/emotion: 4.1.0

• Angular: ^14.0.0

• exceljs: ^4.3.0

1.5.2 Hardware Requirement

- A stable vpn connection
- i7 Processor based Computer (preferably Macbook Pro)

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Impact of accounts receivable management on the profitability during the financial crisis: Evidence from Serbia

Accounts receivable management can have a significant impact on the profitability of a company during a financial crisis, and this impact can vary depending on the specific circumstances and strategies employed. In the case of Serbia, which has experienced several financial crises in recent decades, effective management of accounts receivable can be particularly important for companies to maintain profitability and avoid insolvency. One key factor in accounts receivable management is the length of the collection period. During a financial crisis, it may be more difficult for companies to collect payments from customers, which can lead to an increase in the average collection period. This, in turn, can have a negative impact on the company's cash flow and profitability Another factor is the credit policy of the company. In a financial crisis, companies may be more hesitant to extend credit to customers, which can reduce sales and revenue. However, being too lenient with credit policies can also increase the risk of bad debts and non-payment. Finding the right balance is crucial for maintaining profitability. Overall, effective accounts receivable management can be a key factor in maintaining profitability during a financial crisis, and companies in Serbia should prioritize strategies that optimize their cash flow while minimizing the risk of bad debts.

2.2 Management of accounts receivable and financial performance of manufacturing firms listed in nairobi stock exchange, Kenya

In this Paper written by Muthoni, Jane Gitahi, Kiprotich Isaac Naibei, Kipyego, Livingstone, The management of accounts receivable can have a significant impact on the financial performance of manufacturing firms listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange in Kenya. Efficient management of accounts receivable can improve cash flow, reduce bad debts, and increase profitability. One important aspect of accounts receivable management is the collection period. The collection period is the amount of time it takes a firm to collect payments from its customers. A shorter collection period can improve cash flow and reduce the risk of bad debts. Manufacturing firms can implement various strategies to reduce the collection period, such as offering discounts for early payment, outsourcing collections to third-party agencies, and improving communication with customers. Another aspect of accounts receivable management is the credit policy. A firm's credit policy determines the terms and conditions under which it extends credit to customers. A firm that is too lenient in its credit policy may face a higher risk of bad debts, while a firm that is too strict may lose out on potential sales. Manufacturing firms can strike a balance by implementing a credit policy that considers the creditworthiness of customers and the risks associated with extending credit. Studies have shown that efficient accounts receivable management can have a positive impact on the financial performance of manufacturing firms listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange in Kenya. For example, a study published in the International Journal of Business and Commerce found that firms with a lower collection period and a stricter credit policy had higher profitability and better liquidity ratios. In conclusion, efficient management of accounts receivable is crucial for manufacturing firms listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange in Kenya. By implementing strategies to reduce the collection period and maintain a balanced credit policy, firms can improve cash flow, reduce bad debts, and increase profitability.

2.3 The management of account receivable and its impact on the performance of business organization in Nigeria (A case study of Enugu Home Ownership Company)

In this Paper published on AZ Research Consult, The management of accounts receivable can have a significant impact on the performance of business organizations in Nigeria, including Enugu Home Ownership Company. Efficient accounts receivable management can improve cash flow, reduce bad debts, and increase profitability. One important aspect of accounts receivable management is the collection period. The collection period is the amount of time it takes a company to collect payments from its customers. A shorter collection period can improve cash flow and reduce the risk of bad debts. Business organizations can implement various strategies to reduce the collection period, such as offering discounts for early payment, improving invoicing processes, and outsourcing collections to third-party agencies. Another aspect of accounts receivable management is the credit policy. A company's credit policy determines the terms and conditions under which it extends credit to customers. A company that is too lenient in its credit policy may face a higher risk of bad debts, while a company that is too strict may lose out on potential sales. Enugu Home Ownership Company can strike a balance by implementing a credit policy that considers the creditworthiness of customers and the risks associated with extending credit.Research on the impact of accounts receivable management on the performance of business organizations in Nigeria is limited, but studies in similar contexts have found that efficient accounts receivable management can have a positive impact on profitability and liquidity. For example, a study published in the International Journal of Accounting and Financial Management found that firms in Ghana with a lower collection period and a stricter credit policy had higher profitability and better liquidity ratios. In conclusion, efficient management of accounts receivable is crucial for the performance of Enugu Home Ownership Company and other business organizations in Nigeria. By implementing strategies to reduce the collection period and maintain a balanced credit policy, companies can improve cash flow, reduce bad debts, and increase profitability

2.4 Python for finance - analysing account receivables

Python is a popular programming language for finance due to its flexibility, scalability, and open-source nature. Analyzing accounts receivable using Python can provide valuable insights into a company's financial performance and help identify areas for improvement in accounts receivable management. Overall, Python provides a powerful set of tools for analyzing accounts receivable and improving accounts receivable management. By leveraging the flexibility and scalability of Python, companies can gain valuable insights into their financial performance and make data-driven decisions to improve profitability and reduce the risk of bad debts. Here are some ways Python can be used for accounts receivable:

- Data analysis: Python can be used to analyze accounts receivable data and generate reports, visualizations, and statistical analysis. This can help companies understand trends in accounts receivable and identify areas where they can improve their collections.
- Data visualization: Python libraries such as Matplotlib or Seaborn can be
 used to create visualizations that show trends in accounts receivable over
 time, such as aging reports or accounts receivable turnover ratios.
- Predictive modeling: Python can be used to build predictive models that
 can forecast future accounts receivable levels based on historical data.
 This can help companies plan and manage their cash flow more
 effectively.
- Automation: Python can be used to automate accounts receivable processes, such as generating invoices or sending payment reminders.
 This can help companies save time and reduce errors.

2.5 Predicting account receivables with machine learning

In this research paper written by Ana Paula Appel, Gabriel Louzada Malfatti, Renato Luiz de Freitas Cunha, Bruno Lima, Rogerio de Paula, Predicting account receivables with machine learning can help companies anticipate future cash flow and identify potential issues with collections before they become a problem. Overall, predicting accounts receivable with machine learning can provide valuable insights into a company's financial performance and help identify areas for improvement in accounts receivable management. By leveraging the power of machine learning, companies can make more accurate and data-driven decisions to improve profitability and reduce the risk of bad debts. Here are some steps to get started with predicting accounts receivable using machine learning:

- Data preparation: Gather historical accounts receivable data from the company's accounting system, usually in the form of an Excel or CSV file. Clean and structure the data, making sure to remove any duplicates or errors.
- Feature engineering: Extract features from the accounts receivable data that can
 be used to train a machine learning model. These features could include the age
 of the account, the creditworthiness of the customer, and the payment history
 of the customer.
- Model selection: Choose a machine learning model that is well-suited for predicting accounts receivable, such as a linear regression model or a decision tree model. Use Python libraries such as Scikit-learn or TensorFlow to build and train the model.
- Model evaluation: Evaluate the performance of the machine learning model using metrics such as mean absolute error or root mean squared error. Adjust the model as needed to improve its performance.
- Prediction: Use the trained machine learning model to predict future accounts
 receivable levels based on current and historical data. These predictions can
 help companies anticipate future cash flow and identify potential issues with
 collections before they become a problem.

Chapter 3: System Analysis & Design

3.1 Comparison of Existing Applications with your Project with merits and demerits:

The project when compared with other projects identified three of the biggest challenges facing Accounts Receivable, and they hold true now, just as they did in then:

- Managing risk in a time of crisis: Risk management during times of economic uncertainty means AR leaders need to de-risk their AR processes and "reduce the number of unrecovered Accounts Receivable."
- Evolving from reactive to proactive: Waiting for customer invoices to go unpaid before taking action prevents Accounts Receivable from operating at peak performance and costs your business money. To ensure optimal AR operations, the report's authors insist that AR teams "make better use of their data to change the way they prioritize accounts before they ever become overdue, taking a proactive approach to collections."
- Identifying the customers most likely to pay: Optimizing collections means going beyond basic AR KPIs like DSO and developing a more comprehensive picture of likelihood to pay. Leading AR departments are using technologies like process mining, artificial intelligence and machine learning to better identify which customers are likely to pay and thus target collectors time more effectively.

3.2 Project Feasibility Study

The detailed report of feasibility analysis is as follows:

3.2.1. Technical Feasibility:

- This project is feasible only for big companies
- This project will require a strong VPN Connection

3.2.2. Economic Feasibility:

This project is made using Angular libraries and Python libraries, but will require a big Processing computer like Macbook Pro, which is not Feasible for everyone to pay, so this project is most likely to used by companies.

3.2.3. Organizational Feasibility:

This Project is perfectly suitable for big companies who deal in huge volumes of data and can handle multiple customer's data and it is also one of the biggest assets in balance sheet and also plays a key role in how companies manage their cash flow and working capital. Organizational feasibility refers to the ability of an organization to effectively implement and manage a new initiative or project. In the context of accounts receivable management, organizational feasibility refers to the ability of a company to implement and manage an efficient and effective accounts receivable management system. Effective accounts receivable management requires a well-defined process that includes procedures for customer credit checks, invoicing, payment processing, and collections. It also requires a team with the appropriate skills and resources to manage the accounts receivable process and ensure that collections are made on a timely basis

3.3 Project Timeline Chart:

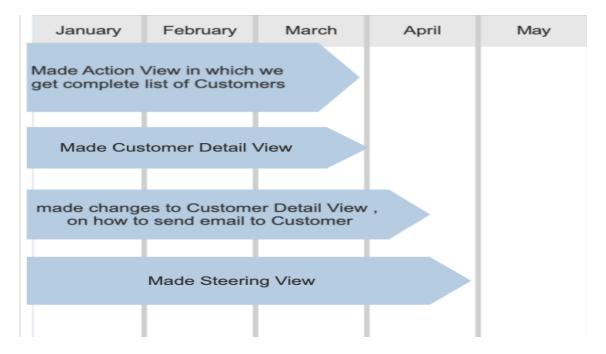


Figure 2: Timeline Chart

3.4 Detailed Module Description:

3.4.1 Steering View

Provides get full visibility into the current accounts receivable state with key metrics and performance indicators

- Total Accounts Receivable (Total A/R) information across different aging buckets, region, company codes, payment terms and also show the priority list of customers
- A/R Due: shows total percentage of the receivables that is overdue and distribution of that data by country, company code and collector. Drill down capability to look into specific company code
- Days Sales Outstanding (DSO): shows monthly trend of Sales data along with DSO and Best Possible DSO (BPDSO), Trend of Average Days Deliquent (ADD)

 Collection Amount: shows amount collected on daily basis in current month and projection of the amount likely to be collected present month and quarter.

- Risk Exposure: shows accounts that are delinquent and at high risk of defaulting. Data points available related to disputes, broken promise to pay.
- Execution gaps: highlights the key problem areas and allow user to take prompt actions.

3.4.2 Action View

- Complete list of customers with some of the key AR KPIs listed at the top.
- Filters related to collector, customer ID, company code and switch to view data in group currency and local currency. This allow users to narrow down data under analysis.
- Data grid showing list of customers arranged in descending order based on their priority score
- Each customer row showing the key details associated with the customer such as Status, Open AR, AR due, aging buckets, Credit limit.

3.4.3. Customer or Account Detail View

- Shows customer details, contact details and last activity details at the top
- Key KPIs are shown on the RHS
- Tasks associated with this account.
- Key actions that collector can perform for this account

- 1. Send Email: Send an email to customer
- 2. Send Statement: Send account statement over email with attachments (PDF, excel) and filter criterias for the invoices to be included (for example . Open only, Disputed) and create follow-up task if needed
- 3. Snooze: lowers the priority of this customer
- 4. Log a call: Add summary after call with customer, create followup task and assign it to appropriate owner.
- Add Note: Capture notes at account level
 Complete Account Information
- Account Summary showing the current aging, contact details and activities and notes
- Transaction showing list of open and closed invoices/transactions
- Associated with the account. Different filters related to duration, invoice
 ID and invoice status are available to the user. Different actions that user
 can take related to one or more selected transactions includes
 - 1. Set Promise to Pay
 - 2. Create Dispute
 - 3. Create task
 - 4. Change Dunning block
 - 5. Send Email
- Disputes shows the list of disputes recorded against this customer
- Tasks and Notes showing the history of tasks and notes added for this
- customer, and also a timeline of all the collection activities performed on this customer

3.4.4 Transaction Detail View

Shows additional details of an invoice/transaction and take relevant actions. List of tasks associated with the invoice along with a timeline of different actions/activities performed on the invoice is visible to the users

- Capture Promise To Pay: This allows user to capture the promise amount, promised date add a note and create a follow-up task
- Create Dispute: This allows user to record dispute and add details such as dispute type, subtype, amount, select dispute owner, add notes and create a task if needed
- Add comments on the transaction

3.5. Project SRS

3.5.1. Use Case Diagram

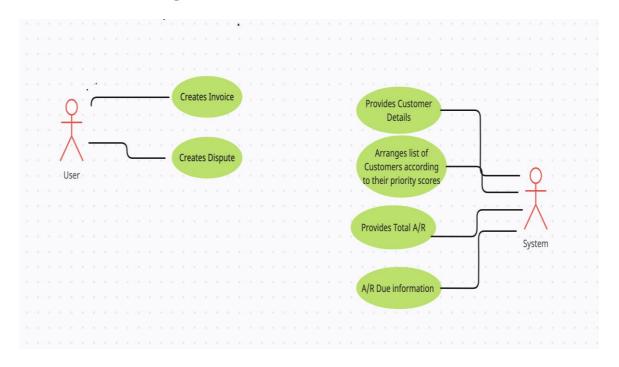


Figure 3: Use Case Diagram

3.5.2. ER Diagram

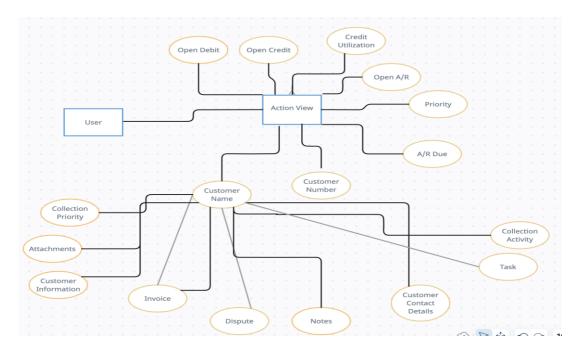


Figure 4: ER Diagram

3.5.3. Class Diagram (Knowledge Model Data)

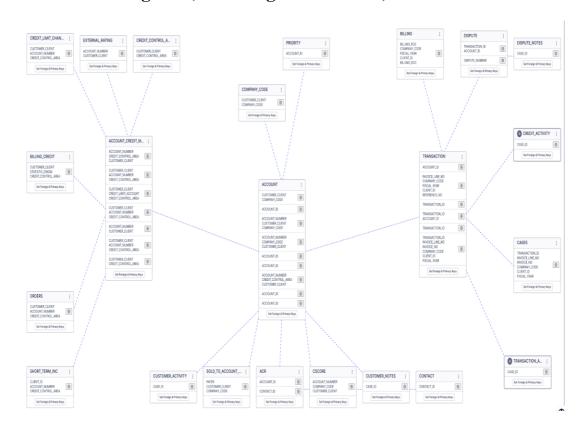


Figure 5: Class Diagram

3.6 Data Dictionary:

The knowledge model being used in this project is given by the company. It has company's data which they used it for training purpose. There are:

- 82 Records
- 209 KPIs
- 36 Filters
- 10 Actions
- 4 Flags
- 10 Variables
- 2 Event logs, 16 Custom Objects

Chapter 4: Implementation and Testing

4.1 User Interface and Snapshot:

1. Steering View:



Figure 6: Steering View

2. Steering View(Top Priority Customer)



Figure 7: Steering View(Top Priority Customer)

3. Action View:

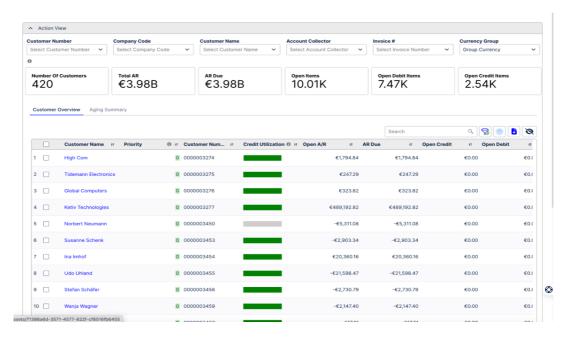


Figure 8: Action View

4. Customer Information Page:

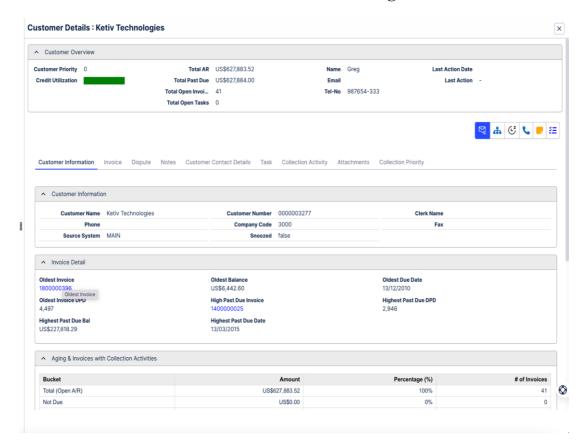


Figure 9: Customer Information Page

5. How to send email to Customer and how to log a call:

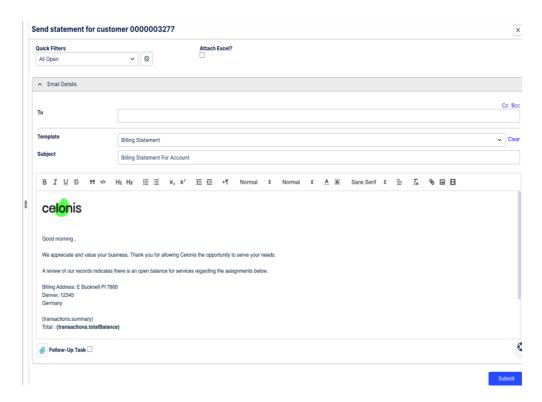


Figure 10: Send Email to Customer

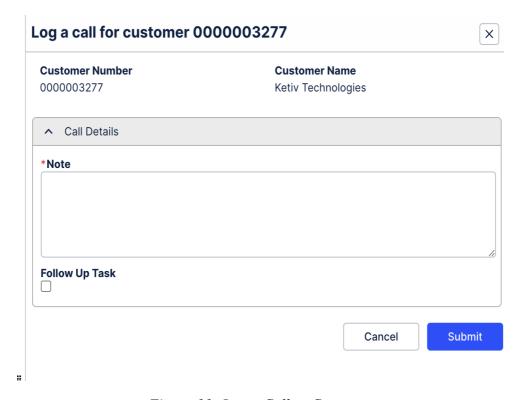


Figure 11: Log a Call to Customer

6. How to add snooze for Customer and note for Customer :

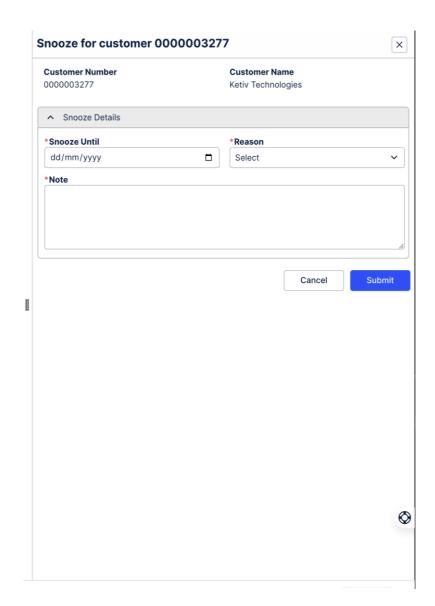


Figure 12: How to add Snooze for Customer

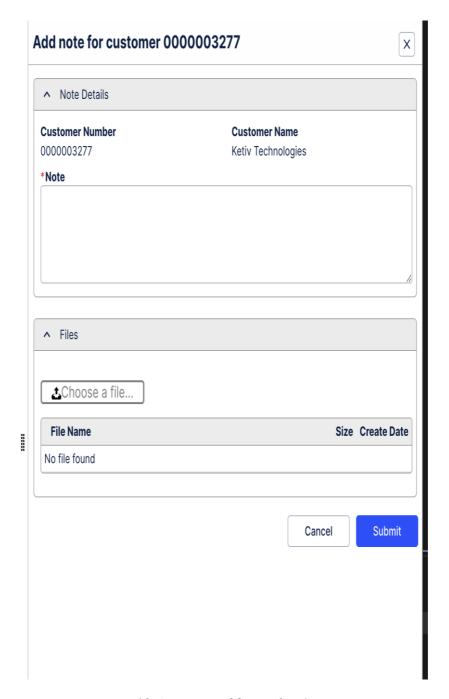


Figure 13: `How to add note for Customer

7. Invoice Details:

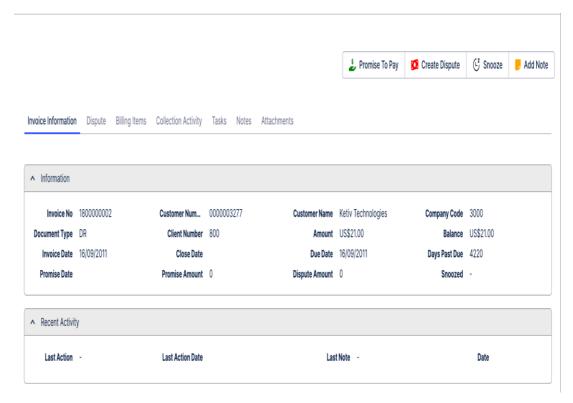


Figure 14: Invoice Details

8. Set Promise to Pay:

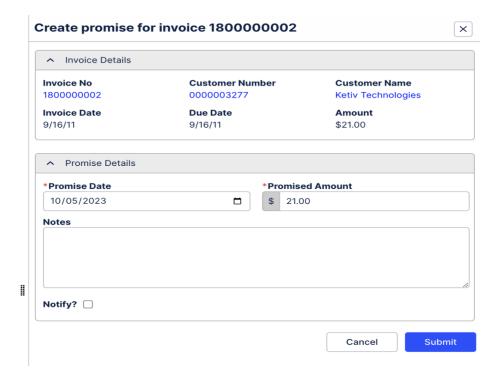


Figure 15: Set Promise to Pay for Custome

4.2 Testing using Use Cases:

After Logging into Action View , the User/Admin will see Customer's Name and if he selects any

Customer Name (For Example High Com, the first name) by clicking on the blue link , he will directly get his entire information , invoices and his mail address , everything , etc. We can get data after selecting any particular Customer Name, Company Code , Customer Number , Account Collector, Invoice, Currency Group

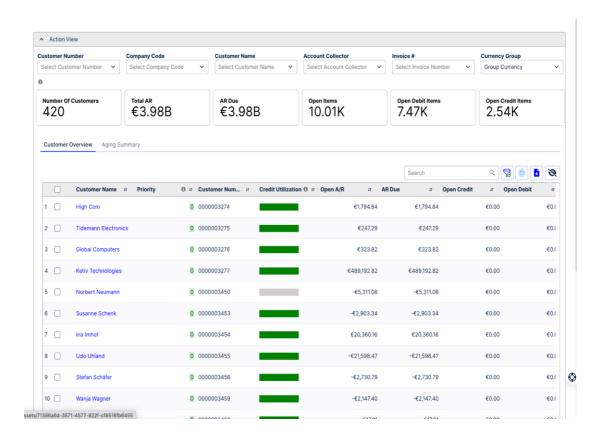


Figure 16: Action View(Use Case)

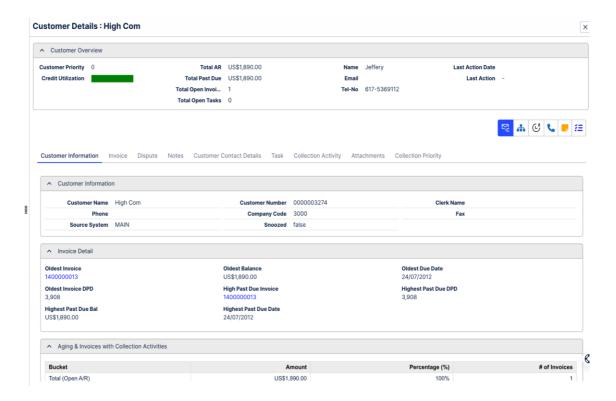


Figure 17: Customer Information of High Com(Use Case)

Here You Get High Coms's entire information by just clicking on his name , what is his company code , Number , Total Invoices ,etc

In Figure No:17, You would see that in the Customer Information Page, you would see the companies Total A/R remaining and how many invoices have been generated

Similarly In Figure No: 18, The User can send an email to the Customer, even he can log a call, snooze him, and also give him a due date to clear his dues, and if he even not pays it, a dispute will be generated

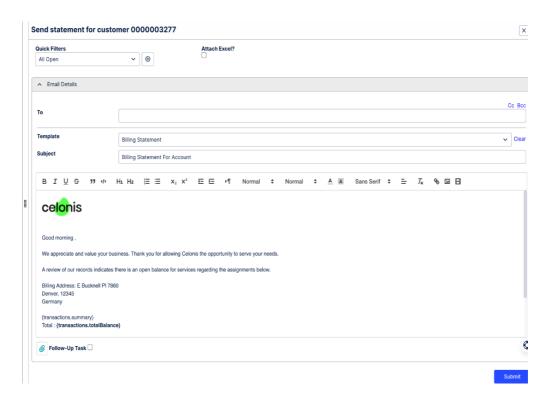


Figure 18: A/R Information For High Com

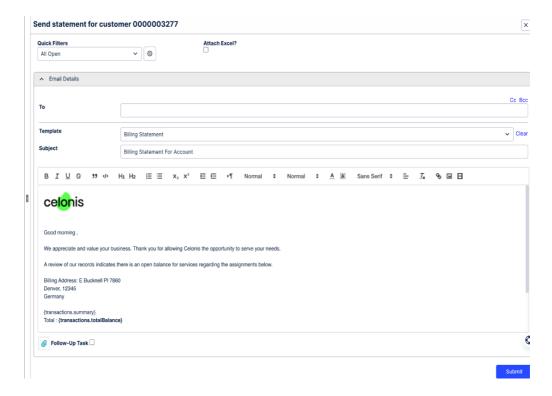


Figure 19: Send Statement

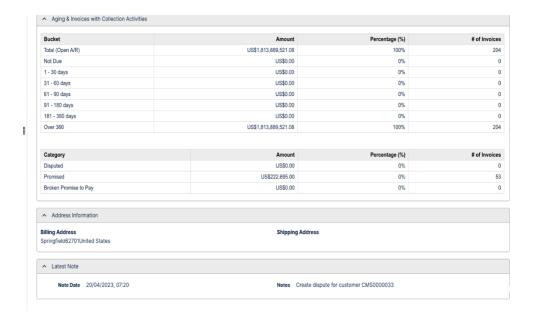


Figure 20: He will try to Contact the Customer through email

There are multiple business use cases:

- Ensure on-time payment. Customers often pay after the invoice due date. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to anticipate payment issues, non-payments or late payments. If you only react after the payment is missed, you could be leaving money on the table in that accounting cycle. With the right processes and technology however, companies can accelerate customer payments by more intelligently targeting dunning. Using an execution management system, organizations can engage customers through data-driven prioritization, more effectively resolve disputes and impose late payment penalties for non-strategic customers.
- Increase touchless collections. The Accounts Receivable process often involves a range of manual tasks, those manual actions both create costs and decrease collector effectiveness. By automating more of the AR process and thus reducing manual effort, companies can improve collector effectiveness and accelerate collections. Process mining, execution management and automation technologies enable businesses to monitor the automation rate of individual activities, enact automated dunning strategies and automatically resolve root cases that lead to manual activity such as missing invoice details or invoice errors.

• Track payment term compliance. Too often invoices don't use the best available payment terms from the sales order, master data or historic invoices. It's also not uncommon for invoices to be sent with incorrect terms, e.g. failing to include contract changes. Accounts Payable departments should ensure that invoices always use the best possible payment terms. With execution management technology, organizations can identify the root causes for suboptimal payment terms, such as outdated master data. An EMS can then then flag invoices with incorrect terms and automatically suggest and set a better payment term within an invoice.

- Prevent underpayments. When customers pay less than what they owe, receive a cash discount they aren't entitled to or receive a higher cash discount than they should, you have an underpayments problem. Part of Accounts Receivable's job is to ensure that customers always pay the full invoice amount and stop customers from receiving incorrect cash discounts. An EMS gives AR organizations full visibility into which customers aren't paying their full invoices and allows them to reclaim missing payments and unjustified cash discounts.
- Improve credit utilization. Manually tracking credit utilization is a cumbersome process, requiring involvement from multiple stakeholders. Credit reviews are time consuming, and unnecessary credit holds cause function and risk lost revenue. Risk assessments can be labor-intensive and create blind spots for the AR team. With the right systems however, companies can track credit utilization efficiently across their customer base and intelligently assess risk and update credit limits. Using EMS, Accounts Receivable staff can assess credit risk in real-time and design limits to adjust automatically. They can leverage intelligent credit limit suggestions and access all relevant data in a single place, while using automation to accelerate the approval process. An EMS can pull data from across your underlying systems, including your accounting software, as well as integrate third-party and custom data from standard credit bureaus and a company's own scorecards.

Chapter 5 : Conclusion & Future work

5.1 Conclusion:

- In this Project , we have understood that minimize the Days Sales Outstanding (DSO) and processing costs whilst maintaining good customer relations.
- Accounts receivable is often the biggest current asset on the balance sheet.
 Indeed in many small and medium-sized businesses receivables represents the majority of working capital.
- Analyzing a company's accounts receivable will help investors gain a better sense of a company's overall financial stability and liquidity.
- AR departments exist to ensure that customers pay for the goods and services that are delivered, that the company actually receives those incoming payments and that the payments are processed quickly and accurately.

5.2 Future work:

- AR staff can improve cash control by focusing on the following business objectives:
 - 1. Revenue Protection
 - 2. Working Capital Optimization
 - 3. Labor Productivity
 - 4. Compliance and Risk Management
- Companies are improving working capital, mitigating risk and reducing costs by using technologies like Process mining, artificial intelligence, machine learning and automation to transform their accounts receivable process.
- By reducing underpayments and uncollectible invoices, AR teams can improve revenue protection. They can optimize working capital by reducing late billings and late payments. Labor productivity can be improved by reducing invoice errors, disputes and rejections. And, AR staff can ensure compliance and mitigate risk through better fraud detection and maintaining internal controls.

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