

A Guide for Mining Teams

SWITCHING SOFTWARES?

Here's what you need to know 🙌



About This Guide

Drilling is the key component of your exploration, development or grade control programs, but are you getting the best value for your investment?

If your current solution is holding you back - whether it's a patchwork of spreadsheets, a dated legacy system, or even a seemingly adequate software product - you could be missing out on significant efficiencies, like reduced drilling costs, minimised downtime, increased penetration rates and more.

You're not alone. If you've taken the time to download this guide, you're likely feeling the pressure to do more with less. You know there's probably a better way to streamline your drilling operations, improve accuracy and maximise your ROI.

That's where this guide comes in. We'll equip you with the knowledge to assess your current situation, identify the real source of your pain points, and see how the right software can revolutionise your drilling operations.

Want to turn your drilling data into a powerful asset for your mining team?



Assessing Your Current Needs

Before we dive in, it's worth taking a step back and giving your current setup an honest assessment.

Take your software to task

Start by conducting an objective audit of your existing software. Be brutally honest about its strengths and weaknesses.

Use this table as your guide. It should give you a clear picture of where your software choice excels and where it falls short:

DOES YOUR CURRENT PROCESS:	SCORE (1= Lowest, 5= Highest)	NOTES
Make your monthly cost reconciliation easy?		
Enable you to get information to other systems reliably?		
Help your Geos keep track of their activities in the field?		
Give you traceability for plod approvals?		
Facilitate clear communication between Geos and Drillers to prioritise safety, maintenance, and productivity?		
Get drill hole status and progress quickly to others who need to be in the know?		

Still wrestling with these drilling headaches?

Now that you've scrutinised your current software process, let's focus on the specific pain points that are hindering your team or directly impacting your bottom line. This will clarify the requirements your ideal drilling software must meet.

► Bottlenecks

- **Quantify the impact:** How many hours are you losing to manual data entry, approvals or report generations?
- **Identify the source:** Which specific processes are the biggest time sinks? Is it the transfer of data between systems, the approval workflow, or something else?
- **Measure the consequences:** How are these bottlenecks affecting your drilling schedule, project timelines, and overall productivity?

► Errors

- **Track the frequency:** How often do data inconsistencies happen or inaccuracies occur? Are there specific types of errors that pop up repeatedly?
- **Calculate the cost:** What are the financial implications of these errors? Do they lead to rework or missed targets?
- **Assess the impact:** How do these errors erode your trust in your data and decision-making processes?

► Missed Opportunities

- **Quantify the potential:** What are the estimated gains (in terms of cost savings, resource efficiency, or increased production) that you could achieve with better insights?
- **Identify the gaps:** Where are you lacking the data or analysis capabilities to make informed decisions about drilling strategies, target selection, or cost forecasting?
- **Measure the risk:** What are the potential consequences of not addressing these missed opportunities, both in the short and long term?

► Collaboration

- **Assess the frequency:** How often do miscommunications or misunderstandings occur between your team and the drilling contractors?
- **Identify the root causes:** Are these issues due to communication channels, lack of shared information, or differing expectations?
- **Measure the consequences:** How do these miscommunications affect your project timelines, safety and overall efficiency?

Crafting your drilling software wish list

With a clear understanding of your pain points, let's create a blueprint for your ideal drilling software. This will streamline

your search and ensure you choose a platform that addresses your specific needs.

Consider these crucial factors:

Must-have features 🚀

Do you need real-time data access at the rig, in the office, or both? Why is this a must-have, and why now? What specific data points are most critical for your decision-making? List the specific systems your drilling software MUST integrate with, such as your geological database or resource modelling package.

Objectives 🎯

What do you want to achieve by switching software solutions? Are you looking to reduce time spent on manual tasks, reduce your drilling expenses by a set amount, improve your data accuracy, or all of the above? What key metrics are you hoping to improve? Or are you aware that you need to capture a baseline to work from? Rank your objectives in order of importance.

Budget 💰

Consider the potential cost savings and revenue gains you could achieve with your new software. This will help justify your investment and ensure you're getting maximum value.

The High Cost of Settling for “Good Enough”

While a "good enough" solution might seem convenient, it can silently erode your efficiency, productivity, and profitability.

Here's a breakdown of the tangible consequences of not using the right solution:

Quantifiable losses

Calculate the time wasted on manual tasks, the financial impact of data errors, and the missed revenue opportunities due to inefficient drilling practices. For instances, do you know how many hours per week are lost due to data re-entry? How much revenue was missed last year due to delays caused by poor communication between teams?

Data chaos

Where is your drilling data currently stored? How many different systems or spreadsheets are involved? What specific challenges are caused by this fragmentation (e.g., difficulty accessing data, inconsistent reporting)?

Missed opportunities

Detail the specific areas where your current software falls short. Does it lack advanced analytics capabilities that could help you optimise drilling patterns? Is it unable to integrate with your geological modelling software, preventing you from making data-driven decisions about target selection?

Security risks

Does your current software have known security flaws? Has it been recently updated with the latest security patches? What is the potential impact of a data breach on your operations (e.g., loss of confidential information, financial losses)?

Exploring Your Options

The pitfalls for settling for “good enough” are clear. But what does an effective drilling software solution look like?

Here's what to prioritise in a platform that can transform how your team operates:

Software that maximises efficiency

Look for a solution that automates time-consuming tasks like data entry, report generation and approvals. Ensure the software tracks and reports on essential metrics, such as metres drilled per day, rig utilisation rates, and cost per metre.

Software that prioritises data quality

Ensure the software has built-in mechanisms to validate data inputs, ensuring accuracy and consistency. The platform should seamlessly integrate with your existing geological databases and other relevant systems for a comprehensive view of your drilling data.

Software that's ready for the future

A good solution should be built on a modern, scalable, interoperable platform, and designed to adapt to the needs of the mining industry. Choose a cloud-based solution for easy access to your data from anywhere, anytime. Ensure the software works seamlessly on mobile devices and tablets, so your team can access information and collaborate on the go.

Software that controls your costs

The software should give you daily visibility into your drilling expenses, broken down by category (e.g., rig utilisation and fuel consumption, through to consumables and labour costs). Look for features that allow you to create accurate budgets, track spending across those budgets, and forecast future costs.

Key Questions to Ask

Choosing drilling software is a pivotal decision with long-term implications for your operations. Whether you're just beginning your research or have a demo scheduled, asking the right questions is essential to ensure you invest in a solution that truly delivers.

Don't waste valuable time on software that falls short – come to your demo prepared with these targeted questions:

Features & functionality

Your drilling software should be the backbone of your operations, not a source of frustration. Choose a solution that streamlines your entire workflow, from data capture to analysis, reporting, and even contract management. Ensure it's versatile enough to handle the unique data and reporting requirements of the various drilling methods you use.

Questions to ask:

1. How does your solution directly address our top challenges?
2. What features are included in the package best fit for our operations?
3. How does your software handle different drilling methods?
4. Is the software intuitive and user-friendly for field crews and office staff?

Integration capabilities

A platform that can integrate your geological databases, accounting software, and other critical applications is vital for efficient data flow and maximum value. A software solution should help you avoid manual data transfers and errors by ensuring all your data is accessible in one place.

Questions to ask:

1. Which systems can the software integrate with?
2. Are API or webhook integrations available?

Data security & compliance

Protecting your valuable drilling data is non-negotiable. Ensure your software provider has robust security measures and adheres to industry standards (e.g., ISO/IEC 27001). Retain full control of your data with clear ownership policies. Ensure your data is easily accessible and transferable when needed.

Questions to ask:

1. Who owns the drilling data stored in your software?
2. What protocols are in place to protect our drilling data?
3. What happens to our data if we decide to discontinue using your service?

Implementation & support

Reliable support is crucial for a smooth transition and continued success. Ensure your provider offers readily accessible channels (phone, email, live chat). Comprehensive training is essential to maximise your software investment. Look for providers offering dedicated support teams to quickly get your team up to speed.

Questions to ask:

1. What does your implementation process look like?
2. What kind of training and support do you provide during and after implementation?
3. Do you have a dedicated support team for our region?
4. Is it available 24/7?

Cost & value

Does the pricing model align with your budget and evolving needs? Flexibility is key, especially as your drilling programs grow and change.

Questions to ask:

1. What is the subscription model (e.g. per user, per rig, usage-based)?
2. Are there any hidden costs or fees we should be aware of?
3. How easily can we scale the software as our operations grow or change?

Why **core**PLAN?

Now that you're equipped with the right questions, let's explore why CorePlan is the preferred drilling software solution for mining companies worldwide.

CorePlan is an integrated drilling management platform designed specifically for the mining industry.

Here's what sets CorePlan apart and delivers tangible value to your operations:

Unmatched flexibility

From diamond core to RC to grade control, CorePlan can handle all your drilling needs. Our customisable workflows and reports adapt to your specific needs, not the other way around. This means you can configure the software to match your unique drilling program requirements, not force your operations into a rigid system.

Configurable workflows

Easily create custom workflows and workstreams based on your specific drill types, include custom fields, and apply permissions as needed. This ensures the software aligns with your operational structure.

Minimal learning curve

CorePlan's user-friendly interface, both in the mobile app and web platform, is designed for real-world drilling operations. This means your team can quickly get up to speed and start using the software effectively, minimising downtime.

Designed for the field

The mobile app is built for offline use in remote locations, ensuring your field crews can capture and access critical data even without internet connectivity.

Simple integration

CorePlan integrates with your existing geological databases and accounting software. This eliminates data silos, reduces manual data entry, and ensures a single source of truth for all your drilling information.

Industry-leading standards

We prioritise the security and confidentiality of your data, adhering to strict industry standards such as ISO 27001.

Continuous innovation

We're committed to continuous improvement, regularly releasing updates and new features based on industry feedback and emerging technologies.

Customer-centric approach

Our customer support team is here to assist you every step of the way, from initial onboarding to ongoing optimisation. We offer comprehensive training resources and personalised support to ensure you get the most out of CorePlan.

Conclusion

In this guide, we've explored how drilling software is a strategic asset that can transform your mining operations.

By thoroughly assessing your current challenges, defining your specific requirements, and asking targeted questions of potential vendors, you can confidently choose a solution that aligns with your company's goals and drives results.

Choosing the right drilling software solution can give you the tools you need to optimise your drill programs, get timely visibility into your data and get the analysis and reporting you need for every stage of your programs.

Remember, investing in the right software is an ongoing investment in the future of your mining operations.



Make the switch to

corePLAN

[Book a demo](#)

