

FINOPS SUMMIT 2026

We stopped closing the books and started trusting them

How a two-day month-end close became a morning routine — and what it changed for everyone else

Finance Operations, Tailspin Logistics · November 2026



**Every month, forty people stopped work for
two days to count money we already had**

2 days

**lost to the month-end close,
twelve times a year**

Reconciling forty bank accounts by hand,
while sales, ops and auditors waited for the
numbers.

“

I don't need faster numbers. I need numbers
I don't have to argue about.

Head of Operations

Tailspin Logistics

The real problem was not speed but forty sources of truth

Every subsidiary kept its own bank feed, its own spreadsheet and its own way of booking fees.

Errors surfaced only after the books closed, so the close was really a hunt for mistakes.

Faster tools would only have made us find the same mistakes sooner.



Forty sources of truth, one of them always wrong

Eighteen months, four decisions, one close that runs itself



Illustrative data. Source: Tailspin Logistics finance operations log, 2024–2026

The close got fast the day we stopped treating it as an event

Once exceptions were cleared every morning, month-end was just another morning.

WHAT CHANGED

The close now ends before noon, and nobody waits for the numbers

4h

Month-end close

▼ from 2 days

Final before noon on day one

0

Audit follow-up requests

▼ from 37

Auditors read the same files

9

People involved

▼ from 40

The rest went back to their jobs

Three lessons travel to any team that closes the books

Fix the sources, not the speed

One feed and one ledger removed most errors before anyone looked for them.

Make exceptions daily

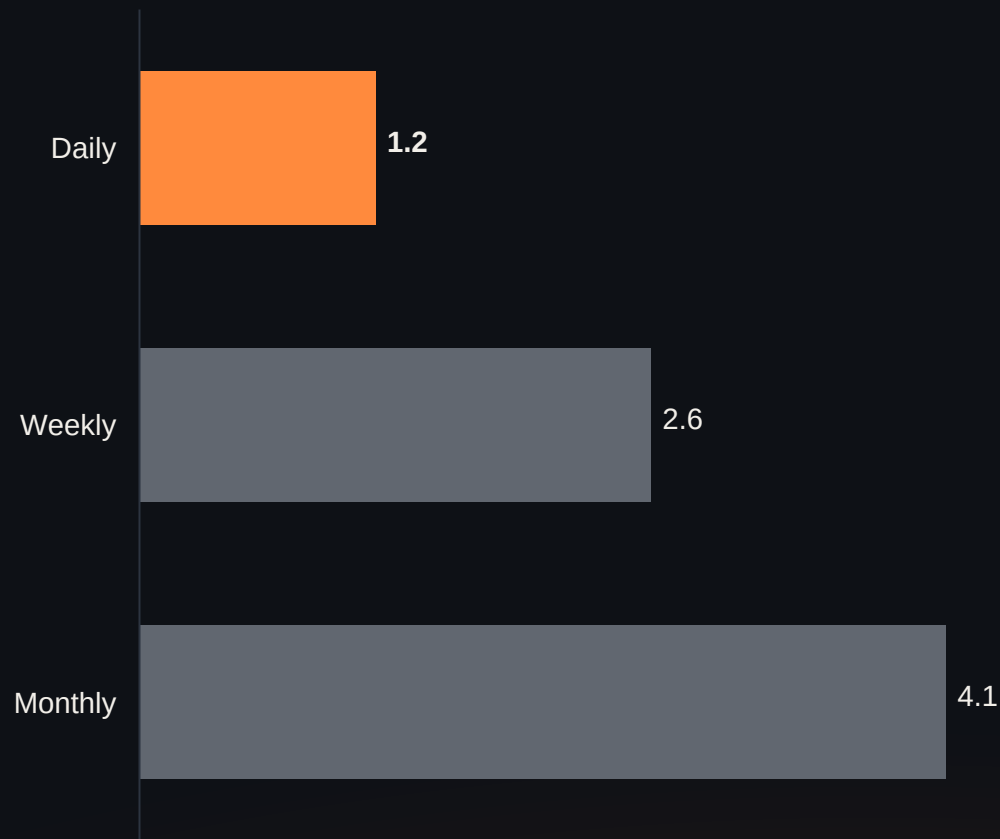
A small daily queue beats a monthly mountain; the close becomes a non-event.

Share the same files

When auditors and managers read one version, arguments about numbers disappear.

Teams that reconcile daily close their books three times faster

Median days to close, by reconciliation frequency



Illustrative data. Source: Peer survey of 120 mid-size finance teams, 2026

Frequency beats effort

- Across 120 peer teams, daily matching mattered more than headcount

Tomorrow morning: reconcile one account before lunch

Then do it again the next day. That is the whole method.

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