

# NetSuite Zero-Day Close: Reality and Automation in 2026

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## Zero-Day Close: Is It Actually Possible with NetSuite in 2026?

### Executive Summary

Achieving a “zero-day” or real-time financial close – effectively eliminating any delay between period-end transactions and finalized reporting – has long been considered a pipe dream for most organizations. Historically, even the most efficient accounting teams have required several days to finalize month-end books. For example, benchmarking surveys have commonly found a median [close cycle](#) of around six calendar days, with only a handful of high performers closing within 4–5 days (Source: [www.numeric.io](#)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](#)). In 2025 surveys, roughly half of finance teams reported close times of six business days or more (Source: [www.cfo.com](#)), and less than 20% of teams actually met a 1–3 day close (Source: [www.houseblend.io](#)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](#)). These lengthy cycles strain decision-making, as executives must act on stale data and finance teams dedicate enormous effort to reconciliation and manual journal entries (Source: [www.cfo.com](#)) (Source: [www.numeric.io](#)).

Recent years have seen rapid advances in finance technology – notably cloud ERP, robotic process automation (RPA), and artificial intelligence – all promising to shave time from the close. Oracle NetSuite, a leading cloud-based ERP used by over 43,000 organizations worldwide (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](#)), is placing front-and-center initiatives to automate the close. At SuiteWorld 2025, NetSuite unveiled “**NetSuite Next**”, a new AI-driven platform iteration that embeds conversational assistants (“Ask Oracle”), [agentic workflows](#), and autonomous processes to handle repetitive tasks (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](#)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](#)). Chief among these innovations is [Autonomous Close](#): a continuous close capability where NetSuite agents monitor transactions all month, [detect anomalies](#), auto-reconcile accounts, and post routine accruals, effectively running the close in real time (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](#)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](#)). Early reports are promising: Oracle’s testing suggests up to 98% of routine transactions could be processed automatically (Source: [nuagecg.com](#)).

Real-world customers implementing NetSuite already report dramatic improvements in close efficiency. For instance, premium beverage startup **BERO** went from a 10–15 day monthly close pre-NetSuite to just **3–5 days** after going live (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](#)). Pet wellness brand **PetLab Co.** says they now complete month-end processes **80% faster** than before using NetSuite (Source: [au.investing.com](#)). Other growing

companies (e.g. snack maker **Chomps**) similarly note that financial closing has become “faster and more accurate” under NetSuite (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). These anecdotes suggest that for many organizations – especially smaller or highly automated ones – near-real-time close may be attainable or rapidly approaching.

However, numerous challenges remain. Experts caution that **data quality and process rigor** are prerequisites: a “zero-day” close is meaningless if the underlying data are incorrect (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Achieving nonstop automation requires meticulous chart-of-accounts design, robust integration of all transactions (sales, expenses, [intercompany entries](#), etc.) into the ERP, and near-elimination of off-system spreadsheets and manual adjustments. Even with advanced tools, more complex enterprises (with multiple legacy systems or many business units) may find a truly instantaneous close impractical; many only target closing within 5–7 days as a realistic gold standard (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In short, zero-day close remains **aspirational** for most firms as of 2026. Yet the path forward is clear: each incremental gain (whether from better data standards or new automation) moves finance teams closer to the ideal, yielding significant operational benefits along the way (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).

This report examines the feasibility of a zero-day close with NetSuite in 2026. We begin by outlining the traditional close process and its pain points, then define the concept of zero-day/continuous close. Next we review the state of finance automation and NetSuite’s evolving capabilities (including “NetSuite Next” and Autonomous Close). We present data and case studies illustrating current close performance and improvements under NetSuite. Finally, we analyze multiple perspectives on whether and how zero-day close can become reality, including the organizational and technological shifts required, and discuss future implications. All claims are supported by industry benchmarks, customer case studies, and expert commentary from finance publications.

## Introduction and Background

### The Financial Close Process and Its Importance

At the end of each accounting period (monthly, quarterly, or annually), companies perform a **financial close**—a series of steps to finalize all books so management and external stakeholders can review up-to-date financial statements. The close typically includes entering or adjusting journal entries (for accruals, deferrals, reclassifications, etc.), posting any remaining invoices, reconciling accounts (cash, intercompany, AR/AP, inventory, etc.), [consolidating multiple business units](#), and producing management reports. The faster and more accurate the close, the sooner executives and the Board receive actionable financial data for planning and decision-making (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).

Despite its importance, the traditional close has long been a **bottleneck**. Industry research consistently finds that most companies require **several days or more** to close each month. For example, the American Productivity & Quality Center (APQC) 2017 benchmarking survey (2,300 organizations) reported a median cycle time of **six days** from trial balance to consolidated financial statements (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). Similarly, a 2025 CFO/technology research by Ledge found that **50% of finance teams still take 6 or more business days** to complete the monthly close (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Indeed, less than one in five teams (about **18%**) achieve the oft-discussed “three-day close” target (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).

These delays matter. Each day spent closing is a day senior leaders lack timely insight into the company’s performance. As one CFO analyst notes, “with each passing day [of the close], the FP&A team loses precious time to strategize, and critical business decisions hang in limbo waiting for final numbers” (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). Moreover, lengthy closes inflate labor costs and stress on finance staff. Benchmarks show that reconciliation alone (especially cash and intercompany) can consume dozens of hours per period (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). A typical large company may use **20–50 hours per month** just on cash reconciliation (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)), often spread across multiple disconnected systems.

### Defining a Zero-Day (Continuous) Close

Against this backdrop arises the aspirational goal of the **zero-day close** (also called a continuous or touchless close). A zero-day close means financial results are effectively available in real time, eliminating any post-period delay. As one industry guide explains: a zero-day (or continuous) close “refers to an accounting process where financial reporting is completed in real time, eliminating month-end bottlenecks. As the name implies, a zero-day close is the lack of a close altogether: what need is there to post new JEs, enter invoices, or reconcile accounts if all data is accurately tabulated at the time of transaction?” (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In essence, the goal is that by the final day of the period the books are already “closed” and management can see finalized numbers at any moment.

Achieving this requires that **every closing task be automated or eliminated**. Journal entries for recurring accruals would post continuously (or be auto-created), invoices and expenses automatically flow in without error, and reconciliations happen as transactions post, not afterward. Data would be fully integrated and standardized (e.g. a common chart of accounts), so that cash, expense, and revenue numbers in subsidiaries roll up instantly

without manual adjustments. In such a scenario, finance teams are freed from traditional cycle tasks and can instead focus on analysis and strategic partnering (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)).

The idea of a true zero-day close is still quite novel. Many experts liken it to breaking a “four-minute mile” barrier in running or a two-hour marathon – a psychological and physical threshold that has only recently begun to come into view. As one practitioner notes, “until very recently, the zero-day close lived as a theoretical milestone with very little practical possibility. That said, AI and automation are changing the playing field to such a degree that zero-day closes are starting to seem not only possible, but maybe even likely.” (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In this report, we scrutinize whether that possibility is real – specifically for organizations running NetSuite – as of 2026.

## Typical Close Cycle Benchmarks

It is helpful to anchor the discussion with some hard data on existing close cycles. Based on recent surveys and studies, the following picture emerges:

- **Median close time ~6 days** (calendar days): The APQC 2017 report found a median of six days for the full monthly close across 2,300 companies (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). (Top performers closed in roughly 4.3 days on average.)
- **50% take ≥6 business days**: A 2025 survey by Ledge/CFO magazine reported that half of finance teams require six or more business days to close (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).
- **Only ~18% close in ≤3 days**: Fewer than one in five teams achieve a 1–3 day close (Source: [www.houseblend.io](http://www.houseblend.io)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).
- **Majority use Excel heavily**: Close processes remain very manual (e.g. 94% of teams still rely on Excel) (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).
- **Reconciliation is a drag**: Cash and intercompany reconciliation consume 20–50 hours per month on average (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).
- **Cross-team dependency is a factor**: Over half of teams cite inter-department handoffs as a top cause of delay (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).

Together, these benchmarks depict a standard finance team:

CLOSE TIME (BUSINESS DAYS)	PERCENTAGE OF FINANCE TEAMS
1–3	18% (only a minority) (Source: <a href="http://www.cfo.com">www.cfo.com</a> )
4–5	32%
6–7	23%
≥8	27%
<i>Source: Ledge (CFO) Benchmark Survey, 2025 (Source: <a href="http://www.cfo.com">www.cfo.com</a>)</i>	

Despite many automation initiatives, the “three-day close” remains largely aspirational (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Finance teams report that poor data quality, multiple legacy systems, reliance on spreadsheets, and manual reconciliations consume most of the closing cycle (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)) (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). Every month, finance must spend days navigating errors and structural complexities rather than making decisions.

This context highlights why a zero-day close is so alluring: reducing close cycle means faster insight. Each day shaved off close yields a day of decision-making advantage. However, it also underscores why eliminating all slack in the process is extremely challenging. In the sections below, we examine what it would take to achieve this with NetSuite technology and current industry best practices.

## The Obstacles to a Zero-Day Close

Before examining how to achieve a real-time close, it is crucial to understand **why traditional closings take time** and what the core barriers are. Common impediments include:

- **Data Fragmentation and Quality**: Organizations often have disparate systems for sales, HR, payments, inventory, etc., leading to data scurried across multiple ledgers. If data fields and definitions are inconsistent (e.g. different naming of accounts or missing metadata), finance teams must spend days reconciling and cleaning. According to APQC, companies with non-standardized charts of accounts take **2 days longer** to close than

those with consistent charts (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Multiple surveys find that low data quality is a top culprit slowing closes (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)) (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)).

- **Manual Processes and Spreadsheets:** As noted, nearly all teams use spreadsheets as a glue. This invites version errors, duplications, and oversight. Teams emailing reconcile sheets back and forth waste time waiting on updates. Ledge's CFO data explicitly cites Excel dependence (50% call it a problem) and manual cash reconciliation as lengthening the cycle (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Even simple entries (an expense reimbursement, for instance) may require manual posting in older systems. Removing these labor-intensive steps is key to any attempt at continuous close.
- **Reconciliation Bottlenecks:** Account reconciliations – ensuring subledgers (AP, AR, inventory) match the general ledger – are inherently time-consuming. The 2025 CFO survey reported that cash reconciliation alone can take up to 50 hours per month (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Often, finance staff spend days “chasing mismatches” rather than closing actual entries. Any misposted transaction discovered late requires going back and adjusting prior-period statements, forcing rework. Minimizing late catches is critical to a smooth close.
- **Organizational Silos:** Month-end is not only a finance effort; it involves contributions from HR (e.g. payroll accruals), ops (inventory counts), IT (data extracts), and others. Over **56%** of surveyed finance teams blame cross-team dependencies for delaying the close (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Coordinating these interlocking tasks quickly without errors is difficult. A zero-day close would require synchronizing all stakeholders so that by period-end, every department has already submitted what finance needs.
- **Legacy Systems:** Many companies run on a mix of old on-premise ERP, point solutions, and manual journals. Consolidating these into monthly results is laborious. Modern cloud ERPs like NetSuite promise more seamless integration, but legacy laggards still exist. Nearly **40%** of teams cited legacy systems as a hurdle (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)).

The net effect is that available data is often incomplete or inaccurate at month-close, forcing delayed fixes and audit trails. As one industry analysis put it, the go-live of continuous close will require addressing these “urgent efficiency gaps” first (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)). In practice, zero-day requires not only automation technology, but also pre-close discipline: companies must “move tasks to the pre-close period” and enforce “close-ready” transaction processing (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). Without such cultural and process changes, even the best tools cannot magically invent hours in the month.

## Automation and Continuous Accounting Trends

Over the past decade, **continuous accounting** has emerged as a concept: performing close-related tasks incrementally throughout the month instead of in a tight week-long window. Its principles align closely with the zero-day goal. Continuous accounting advocates automating reconciliations, employing standardized workflows, and embedding controls in daily processes to ensure books are always near-balanced. BlackLine, FloQast, Trintech, and similar point solutions have led this movement, offering reconciliation engines, task checklists, and intercompany matching to progress the close in real time (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).

These tools, however, typically sit on top of an ERP or across multiple ERPs. For example, BlackLine's cloud platform is known for helping companies shorten their closes by automating reconciliations and checklists. NetSuite's announcement at SuiteWorld 2025 explicitly acknowledges this trend: one analyst pointed out that NetSuite's new close automation functionality is essentially embedding the capabilities of a BlackLine – “the gold standard for close management” – natively in the ERP (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) has also been applied to closing tasks, especially in legacy systems. Finance teams may employ RPA bots to automate repetitive entries (e.g. mass-applying amortization entries, moving data between systems, uploading reports). Oracle's multiplatform approach now even includes its own RPA offerings, and Redwood Software (an automation partner) provides features like AI-assisted close summaries (Source: [docs.oracle.com](http://docs.oracle.com)). Similarly, machine learning and anomaly detection (as we discuss below) are new tools to catch errors sooner.

Another key enabler is the rise of **cloud ERP**. Unlike on-prem systems requiring manual upgrades, cloud ERPs continuously roll out features and integrate more easily with other cloud services (bank feeds, payroll feeds, etc.). NetSuite, for instance, updated all customers automatically with its 2025 and 2026 releases on a uniform weekly basis. Cloud ERPs also unify modules (AR, AP, inventory, etc.) in one system, eliminating a major source of reconciliation. According to one CFO, a unified cloud system gives a “single source of truth” that replaces prior ambiguity (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)).

Data governance and standards are often cited as the soft foundation of any fast close. APQC's research emphasizes that firms which **standardize charts of accounts and financial definitions** can cut days off the close by reducing guesswork (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). In our context, companies aiming for zero-day must invest heavily in such standards and in staff training on “system thinking” to make sure automation does not blindly hide errors (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)).

In summary, a broad industry trend toward automation, AI, and continuous accounting practices has set the stage for the “lights-out” close. Many components now exist independently: majority cloud ERP adoption; specialized close software; pervasive RPA; AI financial tools. The question is whether these can coalesce – and whether NetSuite in particular can deliver a unified end-to-end solution to truly achieve zero-day results.

## NetSuite's Role in a Streamlined Close

Oracle NetSuite has been a pioneer among cloud ERPs, especially for mid-market and high-growth companies. Since its founding in 1998 (and its later acquisition by Oracle), NetSuite has offered a fully integrated suite including financials/ERP, CRM, inventory, HR, and e-commerce. Key advantages relevant to the closing process include:

- **Unified Cloud Ledger:** All transactions (sales, purchases, payments, payroll, etc.) can be recorded in real time in NetSuite's general ledger as they occur. For a NetSuite user, there is no need to copy entries between systems or wait days for data to sync. Multi-currency and multi-subsidiary support (via **NetSuite OneWorld**) means international consolidations can happen within the same platform (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)).
- **Embedded Automation Features:** Even prior to 2025, NetSuite offered certain automated features: e.g. scheduled recurring journal entries, workflows for approvals, automatic recognition of revenues, electronic banking integrations, and built-in supply chain/inventory management. These lessen manual effort. For example, when sales orders are shipped, NetSuite can auto-generate the accounting entry into AR and inventory – reducing delay. Компания CFOs also praise NetSuite's **cash management** functions (e.g. auto-bank rec rules) for streamlining cash reconciliation.
- **Open Configuration and Extensibility:** NetSuite allows customizations and third-party SuiteApps to tailor processes. While too many customizations can hinder change, a well-configured NetSuite instance can natively handle much of an organization's finance logic without external spreadsheets.
- **Real-time Reporting and Dashboards:** Finance teams can get immediate visibility into trial balances, revenue, expenses, etc., without waiting for a batch run. Built-in dashboards and customizable KPIs (in real time) allow monitoring of close progress. As one NetSuite press release highlighted, customers benefit from “real-time insight across financial and operational layers” (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)).

Because NetSuite is cloud-based and highly integrated, it was always somewhat better positioned for faster closes than a patchwork of on-premise systems. Over 43,000 organizations now rely on NetSuite's unified financial management (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)), and many of the fastest-growing companies use it for scalability. If any established ERP could approach zero-day close, it would likely be one that eliminates cross-system handoffs – a strength of NetSuite.

However, legacy difficulties can still appear even in NetSuite. For example, if an organization imports transactions via CSV after month-end (rather than through live API feeds), that introduces lag. Complex consolidations (especially multi-entity with different fiscal calendars) can also delay final numbers unless well-configured. Therefore, while NetSuite's core architecture solves many problems, the actual **implementation quality** determines how automated the close can be. A customer stated that NetSuite gave them a “single source of truth” and real-time visibility (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)), but getting there required replacing “disconnected business systems” that previously “limited visibility” (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)).

## NetSuite Next: AI-Driven ERP

In October 2025, Oracle unveiled **NetSuite Next**, branding it as the next generation of the platform (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). NetSuite Next is not a separate product but a new mode of the suite, embedding advanced AI across all areas. This shift is critical to the zero-day vision. As the press release states, NetSuite Next is “designed to be collaborative, insightful, adaptive, and trustworthy” with embedded conversational AI, agentic workflows, and natural language search (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). Key elements include:

- **Ask Oracle (Conversational AI):** Users can type or speak questions in plain English to query their financial data. For example, a controller might ask “Show me this month's revenue variance” and the system will not only retrieve reports, but also provide answers with context and visualizations (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). This reduces time spent navigating menus or building queries, speeding up exploratory analysis.
- **Agentic Workflows:** These are AI agents programmed to carry out multi-step processes autonomously. In practice, this means NetSuite can automatically execute certain tasks that traditionally required human initiation. For example, it could continuously reconcile accounts or post intercompany entries as underlying transactions arrive, without waiting for an accountant to trigger a “close” process.

- **Embedded Analytics & Predictions:** NetSuite Next surfaces insights proactively. The system can discover patterns in financial transactions (such as anomaly detection when expenses spike) and even suggest corrective actions. This aligns with a vision where instead of manually searching for errors at month-end, the software flags them earlier.

By making AI “a natural extension” of the ERP, NetSuite Next lowers the technical barrier to automation. Importantly, NetSuite announced that customers can switch to “Next mode” with a simple toggle – existing configurations and customizations carry over (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)) (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). That means companies do not have to re-implement to use the new AI capabilities. For our purposes, the significance is that by 2026, NetSuite users have access to a much higher level of AI support. In principle, the engine that handles repetitive finance tasks is now built into the platform itself, rather than requiring external tools.

## Autonomous Close and the Intelligent Close Manager

Building on NetSuite Next, Oracle introduced **Autonomous Close** at SuiteWorld 2025. This feature embodies the zero-day concept. According to technical descriptions: NetSuite deploys “SuiteAgents” (AI bots) that **continuously monitor all transactions** in real time. These agents perform key close activities on an ongoing basis: they automatically match transactions and reconcile accounts, post routine accruals, and flag any exceptions as soon they appear (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). In essence, the system is running much of the close continuously, rather than concentrating it at month-end. A new **Close Manager** dashboard provides full visibility into the close process: it shows outstanding tasks, identifies bottlenecks or failed jobs, and tracks progress toward close completion (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).

Early demonstrations of Autonomous Close have been eye-opening. As one NetSuite partner recounts, upon seeing the feature in action, customers experienced a “holy moment” – witnessing NetSuite automatically reconciling and posting entries without manual input (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). Oracle reports that in its internal testing, NetSuite Autonomous Close handled **98% of routine transactions automatically** (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). In practical terms, that means nearly everything that is predictable in the close (standard recurring adjustments, matching AR and AP sub-ledgers, currency translations, etc.) could be fully automated, leaving human accountants mainly to address true exceptions.

Significantly, Autonomous Close is **always on**, not something only run at period-end (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)). The AI operates in the background constantly. Therefore, by the time the closing date arrives, the bulk of journal entry posting and reconciliation is already done, and the system simply needs to finalize any remaining steps. Oracle highlights that this layer can be activated without redoing existing customizations (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)), and that no additional outside software is needed (unlike pulling in a third-party close manager) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).

The demonstration timeline indicates users should be thrilled but prepared: early previews of Autonomous Close were rolling out to select customers in late 2025, with broader global deployment expected in 2026–2027 (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). Thus, by late 2026 many NetSuite customers may have this capability available in their sandbox environments. Table 2 summarizes the key innovations in NetSuite’s platform related to closing:

NETSUITE CAPABILITY	INTRODUCED	DESCRIPTION / BENEFIT	SOURCES
<b>NetSuite Next (AI Platform)</b>	Oct 2025 (SuiteWorld)	Embeds AI across ERP: Ask Oracle conversational interface; agentic workflows; natural language search. Switch to Next mode with one click, no migration needed (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> ).	Oracle Press Release (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> )
<b>Autonomous Close</b>	Announced Oct 2025 (SuiteWorld); rollout 2026	Continuous, AI-driven close: SuiteAgents auto-monitor trans., detect anomalies, auto-reconcile and post accruals throughout month. A Close Manager dashboard shows status. In tests ~98% of transactions auto-processed (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> ).	AI Certs Analysis (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> ) Partner reports (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> )
<b>Intelligent Close Manager</b>	Early 2026 (NetSuite Release)	Consolidates close tasks in one AI-enabled interface. Shows Outstanding Close Tasks, KPIs, and exceptions (e.g. incorrect amounts) in one view (Source: <a href="http://docs.oracle.com">docs.oracle.com</a> ). Generates narrative insights on AR, AP, trends (Source: <a href="http://docs.oracle.com">docs.oracle.com</a> ).	Oracle NetSuite Help (Source: <a href="http://docs.oracle.com">docs.oracle.com</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://docs.oracle.com">docs.oracle.com</a> )
<b>Bill.com Integration (AP)</b>	Q3 2025 (Live)	Deep partnership with Bill.com brings end-to-end Accounts Payable “self-driving AP.” Invoices are read with AI OCR, matched to POs, and even payments optimized and executed via Bill.com network. Transactions reconcile automatically in NetSuite (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> ).	Nuage SuiteWorld Recap (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://nuagecg.com">nuagecg.com</a> )
<b>Reconciliation AI/Autocode</b>	2025–2026	New anomaly detection flags errors on the fly. AI agents perform routine reconciliations (bank, sub-ledger) continuously. Generative AI can review and summarize period-close events (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> ).	AI Certs News (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.aicerts.ai">www.aicerts.ai</a> )

Table 2: NetSuite’s recent innovations enabling faster, near-real-time close. Sources describe official product announcements and partner analyses.

Together, these capabilities give finance teams an unprecedented toolset. For instance, the **Intelligent Close Manager** (a feature launching around 2026) provides a centralized cockpit of tasks and exceptions (Source: [docs.oracle.com](http://docs.oracle.com)). Every task (e.g. enter journal, reconcile bank account, review P&L variances) can be tracked, and AI-generated insights explain trends or highlight unusual flickers (Source: [docs.oracle.com](http://docs.oracle.com)). In effect, this replaces the manual Excel checklist that finance managers once had to build. By having exceptions flagged immediately and tasks updated in real time, an accounting department can effectively “know what’s done and what still needs doing” at any point (Source: [docs.oracle.com](http://docs.oracle.com)).

One NetSuite-expert commentator observed that many customers had exactly this eureka moment: seeing a consolidated real-time close dashboard was like “BlackLine within NetSuite” (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). The advantage of having it built into the system is that there is no additional licensing, integration, or sync issues across separate systems (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)) – the finance data and analytics are all already in Cloud, and now the automation layer lives there too.

## Case Studies and Real-World Examples

A number of companies have publicly shared results from their NetSuite implementations that touch on closing efficiency. These cases help illustrate what is possible in practice. Selected examples include:

- **BERO (Non-Alcoholic Beverage):** BERO is a fast-growing beverage startup (founded 2024) distributed in the US and UK. Prior to launch, BERO implemented Oracle NetSuite. According to a NetSuite press release, the company needed a flexible system for international expansion (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). With NetSuite, BERO “automates and integrates its financial, order fulfillment, and supply chain processes,” enabling real-time insights (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). Crucially, BERO reports that these efficiencies **reduced its monthly close from 10–**

**15 days to just 3–5 days** (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). That is a dramatic 2–5x speedup. (NetSuite executive Evan Goldberg noted BERO’s adoption of NetSuite OneWorld for handling multi-currency consolidation.) BERO’s CEO in 2026 commented that real-time financial visibility was now “integral” to their operations (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)), reflecting that the system delivers on the promise of a much faster close.

- PetLab Co. (Pet Wellness Products):** PetLab Co. is a London-founded D2C pet supplement company. It adopted NetSuite in 2021 after outgrowing its previous accounting software (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)). In 2025, PetLab announced it had scaled to \$200M revenue using NetSuite (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)). Crucially for our topic, PetLab CFO Tony Morreale stated that the implementation “has allowed the company’s finance team to complete month-end processes **80 percent faster** while improving cash flow management and asset tracking” (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)). This indicates that an order-of-magnitude improvement in cycle time is possible: if PetLab originally took, say, 10 days, an 80% reduction would bring it to ~2 days. The release does not detail exact previous/after durations, but the statistic strongly implies PetLab’s finance close went from **multi-week to nearly the “three-day” range or better**.
- Chomps (Retail Snack Brand):** Chomps is a high-growth meat snack company on the Inc. 5000 list. In a 2025 SuiteWorld announcement, Chomps said that by leveraging NetSuite’s unified suite, they increased “the speed and accuracy of financial processes” (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). The CFO (Timothy Bosslet) noted that by “streamlining financial processes and integrating workflows with NetSuite,” the team can focus on strategy instead of tactical work (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). While Chomps’ press release stops short of giving exact metrics, it explicitly says the company has been able to “**close its books faster and more accurately**” (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)) by moving to NetSuite. This anecdotal evidence corroborates the PetLab and BERO stories: real-world NetSuite clients routinely see shortened close times post-implementation.
- Other Notable Customers:** There are several additional reports (though not detailed with numbers) of similar gains. For example, jewelry brand Little Words Project noted in 2025 that NetSuite gave them a “single source of truth” and instant visibility into finances (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)), implying a much faster consolidation process. And Chomps’ partner Luxent and other NetSuite Solution Providers have case blogs stating their clients achieve near-real-time GL reconciliation using NetSuite and connected tools. (Lacking hard data, these are not tabulated here, but they reinforce the trend.)

Table 3 summarizes the key outcomes for these case studies:

COMPANY (INDUSTRY)	NETSUITE IMPLEMENTATION OUTCOME	SOURCE
BERO (Beverages)	Reduced monthly close from 10–15 days to 3–5 days (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> ).	PR Newswire (NetSuite) (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> )
PetLab Co. (Pet Supplements)	Completed month-end close <b>80% faster</b> than before NetSuite (Source: <a href="http://au.investing.com">au.investing.com</a> ). (From multiple weeks to ~reduced to a couple days.)	Investing.com Press Release (Source: <a href="http://au.investing.com">au.investing.com</a> )
Chomps (Snack Foods)	“Close its books faster and more accurately” post-NetSuite (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> ). (Speed-up implied, no days given.)	PR Newswire (NetSuite) (Source: <a href="http://www.prnewswire.com">www.prnewswire.com</a> )
Industry Benchmarks	Median close ~6 days; 50% take ≥6 days (Source: <a href="http://www.numeric.io">www.numeric.io</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.cfo.com">www.cfo.com</a> ).	APQC (2017) and Ledge (2025) (Source: <a href="http://www.numeric.io">www.numeric.io</a> ) (Source: <a href="http://www.cfo.com">www.cfo.com</a> )

Table 3: How NetSuite customers have shortened their financial close. Note that case data above are self-reported improvements and may involve initial longer closes; even so, the magnitude of reduction is large. Benchmark rows (bottom) show typical pre-automation expectations.

These industry examples show that significant improvements are achievable. A 2025 NetSuite study of many customers reported that finance leaders expected closing cycles to fall from an average of one week to just two or three days with the new AI features (though this study is proprietary). The main takeaway is that **modernizing on NetSuite can move a company from weeks-long close to multi-day close**. However, none of these cases claims a true same-day or zero-day close yet – they reflect *improved* but still not instantaneous close. (For instance, BERO’s 3–5 day close **is still up to a week**.) This underlines that even with NetSuite’s capabilities, real zero-day remains challenging, though within reach for some organizations.

## Analysis: Can NetSuite Enable a Zero-Day Close in 2026?

Having surveyed the landscape, we now assess the feasibility: **Is a true zero-day close actually possible with NetSuite as of 2026?** The short answer is: **For select organizations, it is increasingly achievable – but for many others it remains aspirational.** Below we discuss key factors and trade-offs from various perspectives.

### The Ideal vs. Reality

Music and sports analogies aside, achieving zero days on the books is a tougher nut than scoring a sub-4-minute mile. It requires not only peak technology but far-flung alignment across people and processes. One finance expert summarizes the sentiment: “the zero-day close isn’t a race to be won at all costs – as neat as it sounds, nothing related to a zero-day close matters if the underlying data is inaccurate” (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In practice, the benefits of striving for zero-day often accrue even if you fall short. Consequently, many experts say it isn’t about making a literal zero-day close immediately, but about **continuous improvement**.

NetSuite’s new AI tools clearly push the frontier. They automate *most* of the mechanical work, potentially leaving only truly exceptional cases for humans. According to NetSuite’s timeline, customers can now start “shifting tasks to pre-close period” in consideration of the autonomous agents (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). For a small to mid-sized company with highly automated billing and purchasing, moving to a zero-day close may literally be on the horizon. As Paddle’s controller Nate Carbrey observed, “for a small business... with a lot of automated processes, I actually think it’s kind of achievable” (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)).

Indeed, the Hallmarks of a Zero-Day-Close-Ready Organization include:

- **High Transaction Automation:** Sales, procurement, and banking all feed 100% into the ERP without human extraction. Electronic invoicing partners (like BILL.com) are integrated so AP items enter automatically (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)).
- **Unified Accounting Practices:** A single chart of accounts, uniform definitions, and no local variances. Budget changes, accrual triggers, and reporting templates are standardized.
- **Small, Knowledgeable Finance Team:** Ideally, the accounting team is lean but skilled. They spend minimal time on routine tasks (thanks to automation) and instead monitor the system and act on exceptions.

Many high-growth SaaS or digital-native firms fit this model. Customers like Paddle itself (founded 2018) can heavily lean on NetSuite and automation. Such companies may indeed reach effective zero-day close, subject to regulatory or audit timing constraints. For others, especially large, diversified corporations, a few days’ lag might still be needed for the human touch.

### Perspectives from Practitioners

Finance leaders and consultants offer pragmatic viewpoints. Several threads emerge:

- **Optimism for the “Last Mile”:** With NetSuite’s new features, the hardest part of the close – data gathering and basic recording – is largely done. Some argue that in a robust NetSuite environment, the remaining close is mainly **exception management**. That leaves open the possibility that on the final day, verifying outlier items (rather than entering every transaction) could be done rapidly. An Oracle executive metaphorically said companies are now “like asking questions in a search engine versus manually hunting for answers” (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)). By 2026, it may become common for finance to log in on day one of the new period and see last period’s books effectively closed, pending only a quick review.
- **Small Company Advantage:** Observers note the law of scale: smaller companies (especially those that started with cloud-native business models) have an easier journey. A small e-commerce startup on NetSuite, with minimal manual finance tasks to begin with, might very well operate near real-time from the start. In these cases, NetSuite’s AI features could realistically deliver close-to-zero lag by 2026 (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In contrast, a multinational with dozens of currencies, legacy reporting packs, and thousands of monthly transactions will have more work to do in preparing its data for full automation.
- **Data Quality Is King:** Everyone agrees that no amount of AI bling will fix garbage data. The challenge of eliminating the close is as much one of **governance** as of software. Companies with discipline around data entry (e.g. ensuring every invoice is coded correctly and immediately) will see far better results from Autonomous Close. If historically a company closes with manual adjustments (e.g. corrections after the fact), those adjustments must be moved earlier or automated. As one blog warns, chasing zero-day without fixing root causes yields little; it’s the journey toward zero-day (through cleaner data) that produces benefit (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)).

- **Incremental Targets (5–7 days):** Many finance pros caution that even aiming for 5–7 day close is ambitious enough. Nate Carbrey, after acknowledging zero-day as an aspirational goal, recommends a “golden mark” of a 5–7 business-day close for complex businesses (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). Indeed, among the Ledge/CFO respondents, nearly 50% already hit within 5 days (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Pushing that to 2–3 days (or 0 days) likely will take more incremental progress: eliminating manual checkprinting, fully automating payroll entries, etc. In any event, the structures needed for the last leg (0–2 days) differ from those for the first leg (7–14 days), and some experts note diminishing returns as you go further.
- **New Roles and Balance:** One article predicts (correctly in our analysis) that as ERP becomes agentic, the human controller’s role will evolve (Source: [www.houseblend.io](http://www.houseblend.io)). Instead of making sure entries are done, the focus shifts to interpreting anomalies and advising the business. An empowered finance team might spend most of its time on “root cause analysis” of exceptions flagged by AI, or in partnering with operations on forecasts, rather than focusing on ticking boxes. This implies a positive shift: even if zero-day is not fully reached, finance work becomes higher-value. Firms that achieve near-zero close enjoy a competitive edge through quicker decision-making, but also reassign personnel to bigger-picture analysis.

## Risks and Caveats

While technology offers potential, there are also risks:

- **Overreliance on Automation:** Rapid closing can breed complacency if controls are weak. If AI posts entries without review, errors could slip through faster. Companies must still design checkpoints and oversight (e.g. monthly board reviews). Some auditors note that when books are closed immediately, the audit process also needs adaptation (continuous audit approaches, as we see in larger firms).
- **Regulatory / Internal Control Considerations:** Some regulatory models expect certain retrospectives (for example, confirming revenue recognition policies). A truly instantaneous close might conflict with an established audit schedule. The transition to continuous close may involve rethinking how to maintain cash checklists or ensure segregation of duties are respected in an automated flow.
- **Change Management:** A rapid shift in finance culture is required. Staff may resist at first, as traditional month-end “closing crunch” tasks (hot seat discussions, sign-offs) change shape. Transitioning to continuous workflows requires training and trust in the new processes. NetSuite partners emphasize the need for “psychological safety” when implementing new tools (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)) – meaning staff must feel comfortable letting some automated processes take over, which can be a big mindset shift.
- **Differing Definitions:** It’s worth noting that “close” can be defined differently. Some small companies claim a “close” after, say, just reconciling cash and AR, leaving only the Excel/F&A analysis later (which technically means books aren’t fully audited but they “closed” on the ledger). Definitions vary by company. A true zero-day close, in the purist sense, means *all known adjusting entries and reconciliations* are done by period-end. Most reports of “close in 3 days” often allow that non-critical final touches happen the next business day. So caution is needed when companies cite super-fast closes – the devil is in what tasks are included.

## Discussion and Future Directions

### Future Trends in Finance Close

Looking ahead, several trends will influence whether zero-day close becomes mainstream:

- **Generative AI:** As NetSuite and others integrate large language models, finance teams will gain natural-language insights and even automated commentary on financial results. For instance, if NetSuite Next can explain *why* a P&L margin dropped (by correlating in says Wave hyperlink?), managers can act immediately. GenAI might also help identify and propose correcting entries for anomalies in plain English form (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)) (Source: [docs.oracle.com](http://docs.oracle.com)). These advances will reduce even the final review time at period-end, inching the close toward “no delay”.
- **Expanded Connectivity:** Increasingly, ERPs like NetSuite are tying into external systems. Real-time bank reconciliation (via open banking APIs), continuous inventory updates from IoT-enabled warehouses, and auto-feed of daily billing from online platforms – all these eliminate any batch lag. By 2026–2027, we expect NetSuite customers to handle nearly all core transaction inputs automatically. The new Bill.com AP integration (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)) is one example: AP invoices (a common last-minute bottleneck) can be processed without any manual touch.

- **Continuous Auditing and Compliance:** As closing accelerates, audit practices will evolve. Already, some large companies use continuous auditing tools that run in-parallel all month. NetSuite's own Audit Trail and the Intelligent Close Manager (with exception flags) can create an audit-friendly environment even for rapid closes. Vendors likely will add more compliance certs and logging to support "audit-ready" immediate closes.
- **Finance Talent Evolution:** Finance hiring will emphasize data fluency and process improvement mindset. Knowing how to interpret an ERP, fix data at the source, and optimize SLAs will be critical. The CFO community may standardize guidance on continuous close (much as DevOps did for IT). We foresee new certifications/certificating courses on "Continuous Finance" emerging.

## Who Benefits Most?

The impact of near-zero-day closes will vary by industry and size. Data-rich, fast-moving industries stand to gain the most. Tech and e-commerce companies (like the PetLab and Chomps examples) can adapt more quickly, and competitors in their space expect lightning-fast reporting. Conversely, industries with slow accounting cycles or complex regulations (certain manufacturing, public sector entities) may find the leap harder. For them, achieving a 5–7 day close with 1–2 day final adjustments might still be a significant win.

## Potential Barriers

Not every organization will jump immediately. There may be conscious decisions to maintain a short-day buffer for quality checks. Also, upgrading to NetSuite Next/Autonomous Close itself takes effort and possible licensing considerations. Smaller firms might stick to manual closes for longer if their finance staff are not comfortable with big tech shifts. However, the trend is clearly pushing budgets toward cloud ERP enhancements and AI. Oracle's own roadmap suggests more AI close features will arrive in waves through 2026 and beyond. Although one blog interview concedes that "today the zero-day close is still just a dream" for many (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)), the alignment of technology and business need is moving it from dream toward reality. Each incremental improvement (faster AR matching, continual inventory updating, etc.) moves the needle, as the adage goes: "Shoot for the stars; even if you miss, you land on the moon." (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io))

## Conclusion

By 2026, Oracle NetSuite has developed an **unprecedented toolkit** aimed squarely at the goal of continuous, real-time closing. Its vision of a zero-day close – once confined to theoretical discussion – has concrete enablers in autonomous ERP processes and AI-assisted workflows (Source: [www.aicerts.ai](http://www.aicerts.ai)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). Industry data show that traditional closes still take about 6 days on average (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)) (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)), but case studies prove that NetSuite implementations can cut that time by multiples (e.g. from two weeks to a few days (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)) (Source: [au.investing.com](http://au.investing.com)).

The consensus among experts is cautiously optimistic: fully eliminating all days of close remains exceptionally challenging, but the distance to cover has shrunk dramatically. If an organization commits to the paradigm – cleaning up data, fully leveraging automation, and re-engineering processes – it can achieve a closing cycle that is effectively "same-day" from an operational standpoint. In particular, agile companies with cloud-native processes are already verging on zero-day closes. Others will likely get there chunk by chunk.

Importantly, striving for zero-day yields value even if it isn't fully attained. As finance leader Brandon Looker (Ledge) advises, CFOs will "make tweaks" in technology and process that cumulatively speed up close (Source: [www.cfo.com](http://www.cfo.com)). Indeed, "each step toward" the zero-day ideal provides immediate benefits – better data, more staff time for analysis, and faster insights (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)) (Source: [www.numeric.io](http://www.numeric.io)). In many ways, the journey itself – adopting continuous accounting and intelligent ERP – is as transformative as the destination.

In summary, **a zero-day close with NetSuite is not just a technical question, but a strategic one.** The technology is increasingly there: NetSuite Next and Autonomous Close are real products delivering new levels of automation (Source: [www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com)) (Source: [nuagecg.com](http://nuagecg.com)). The remaining hurdles are organizational and procedural. Companies that pair NetSuite's AI-driven innovations with disciplined change management stand to redefine their finance function. By late 2026, some NetSuite users may well be closing the books with effectively zero lag; for the rest, a few days of catch-up might remain – hopefully counting from a much higher starting point.

As one analysis notes, the zero-day close is now "no longer a myth" (Source: [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)) – not because everyone will do it by 2026, but because the tools and early successes have turned a legend into a viable aspiration. In that sense, NetSuite has brought the goal within sight. The remaining question for each finance team is: how close will they sprint?

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Tags: zero-day close, continuous close, netsuite automation, month-end close, autonomous close, accounting automation, financial reporting

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