Discover SAP® BusinessObjects™

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SAP and Business Objects: The Perfect Match

The merging of SAP and Business Objects is an ideal pairing not only for the respective companies but also for the respective customers. The SAP software suite has historically had a proven excellence in business process applications. And the Business Objects suite has historically proven excellence in business intelligence. The combined organization brings a solution to a problem that many ERP implementations face. That is, now that all of the business processes and enterprise data have been centralized in one system, how do we pull that data out to make faster, more accurate, and more effective decisions?

Complementary Products

Let's take a look at how the two platforms fit together, as illustrated in Figure 3.1.
SAP and Business Objects: The Perfect Match

SAP ERP is the core of the SAP Business Suite. It comprises a variety of applications and processes that work interactively for core business process execution. Those applications and processes for SAP ERP are shown in Tables 3.1 through 3.8.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talent Management</th>
<th>Workforce Process Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency Management</td>
<td>Employee Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruiting</td>
<td>Organization Management</td>
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<td>Succession Management</td>
<td>Payroll and Legal Reporting</td>
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Table 3.1 SAP ERP Human Capital Management (SAP ERP HCM)
### Talent Management vs. Workforce Process Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talent Management</th>
<th>Workforce Process Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation Management</td>
<td>HCM Processes and Forms</td>
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<td>Talent Management Analytics</td>
<td>Employee Self-Service</td>
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<td>Employee Interaction Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Workforce Planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Workforce Cost Planning &amp; Simulation</td>
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### Workforce Deployment vs. Travel Management

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Resource Planning</td>
<td>Travel Request and Pre-trip approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource and Program Management</td>
<td>Travel Planning – Online Booking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail Scheduling</td>
<td>Travel and Expense Management</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global Travel Policy Compliance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Travel and Expense Analytics</td>
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### Financial Supply Chain Management vs. Treasury

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<td>Collections Management</td>
<td>Cash and Liquidity Management</td>
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<td>Credit Management</td>
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<td>Dispute Management</td>
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**Table 3.1** SAP ERP Human Capital Management (SAP ERP HCM) (Cont.)

**Table 3.2** SAP ERP Financials
### Table 3.2 SAP ERP Financials (Cont.)

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<td>Travel Management</td>
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<td>Sales Order Processing</td>
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<td>Returnable Packaging Management</td>
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<td>Manufacturing Execution</td>
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<td>Capacity Planning</td>
<td>Shop Floor Integration</td>
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<td>Lean Planning</td>
<td>Supervision and Control</td>
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<td>Manufacturing Analytics</td>
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**Manufacturing Collaboration**

| External Processing | |
| Quality Collaboration | |

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<th>Procurement and Construction</th>
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<td>Supplier Qualification and Candidate Selection</td>
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<td>Investment Management</td>
<td>Bidding and Contract Management</td>
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<td>Asset Portfolio Management</td>
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<td>Collaborative Specification &amp; Design</td>
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<td>Maintenance Engineering</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
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<td><strong>Maintenance and Operations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Decommission &amp; Disposal</strong></td>
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<td>Technical Assets Management</td>
<td>Asset Transfer &amp; Disposal</td>
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<td>Workforce Management</td>
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<td>Waste Management</td>
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<td>Asset Remarketing</td>
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<td>Refurbishment</td>
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<td>Mobile Asset Management</td>
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<td>including RFID enablement</td>
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<td>Service Parts &amp; Inventory</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>Interfacing CAD, GIS, and SCADA Systems</td>
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<td>Work Clearance Management</td>
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<td>Shutdown Planning</td>
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<td>Takeover/Handover for Technical Objects</td>
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Table 3.7  Enterprise Asset Management (Cont.)
### Table 3.7  Enterprise Asset Management (Cont.)

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#### Fleet Management

- Fleet Administration
- Fleet Maintenance
- Transportation Logistics
- Capacity Planning
- Fleet Analysis

### Table 3.8  Operations: Cross Functions

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These solutions make up the basic SAP ERP system. SAP also has industry-specific versions of the SAP ERP system as well, such as SAP for Banking, SAP Aerospace & Defense, SAP for Consumer Products, SAP for Mill Products, and SAP for Oil & Gas, along with several others. See the SAP website for more information on industrial solutions. We will now take a look at SAP NetWeaver BW.

### SAP NetWeaver Platform

The SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (SAP NetWeaver BW) platform provides the core data warehousing capabilities of the SAP Business Suite.
It has three primary components:

- The first layer is extraction, transformation, and load (ETL). This component extracts data from a specific data source, applies transformation rules, and loads the data into the PSA layer of SAP NetWeaver BW.
The next layer is the Data Warehouse itself, which provides the storage layer for the various types of data structures in SAP NetWeaver BW. These structures include InfoCubes, InfoObjects, MultiProviders, and DataStore Objects (DSOs).

The third layer is Reporting. This layer currently consists of the SAP Business Explorer (SAP BEx) toolset. The toolset consists of the following: BEx Excel analyzer, BEx query designer, BEx Web analyzer, BEx report designer, and BEx Web application designer. According to SAP, some of these tools will be retired and either replaced or enhanced by some of the SAP BusinessObjects tool suite (see Figure 3.2.) But SAP will continue to support the tools for the foreseeable future.

Next we will take a look at some of the recent acquisitions and new products that SAP has collectively placed in the SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management (EPM) space.

**SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Performance Management**

The SAP EPM applications are designed for specific requirements that are common in the current marketplace to increase a customer’s competitive edge and stay compliant with regulatory requirements. Examples of these solutions include the following:

- **SAP BusinessObjects Strategy Management**: This solution allows companies to set goals, map strategies, and then monitor and manage performance from high-level objectives down to operational metrics.

- **SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation**: This application enables companies to increase accuracy in planning at all levels in an organization while reducing budget cycles and associated costs. The introduction of these capabilities to an organization speed up and improve financial and management reporting and decision making.

- **SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation**: This application allows customers to complete financial consolidations and reporting cycles faster with a higher degree of confidence in the underlying data.
SAP BusinessObjects XBRL Publishing application by UBmatrix: This application enables customers to leverage data in SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, SAP Business Objects Financial Consolidation, and SAP Business Suite to create XBRL documents. The eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) is the new global standard for exchanging financial and business information.

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management: This application gives customers the ability to access, map, and load information from multiple SAP and non-SAP systems into SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation and SAP BusinessObjects Profitability and Cost Management applications.

SAP BusinessObjects Intercompany: This application allows customers to accelerate their closings by enabling business units to debate and reconcile balances directly with each other and eliminate delays at the corporate and division levels.

SAP BusinessObjects Profitability and Cost Management: This application enables customers to identify the causes of underperformance and take action to reduce costs and optimize profitability across dimensions such as product, customer, and channel.

SAP BusinessObjects Spend Performance Management: This application gives customers the power to maximize cost savings and reduce supplier risk by giving continuous visibility into companywide spending patterns, savings potential, and external market factors.

SAP BusinessObjects Supply Chain Performance Management: This application enables customers to improve supply chain effectiveness by focusing on actionable, operational process metrics that impact supply chain performance.

SAP BusinessObjects Sustainability Performance Management: This application enables customers to track and communicate sustainability performance, set goals and objectives, manage risks, and monitor activities.

The SAP BusinessObjects EPM suite extends a customer's ability to collectively optimize business performance from the SAP ERP platform or other core application software programs. Next let's take a
look at the SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence set of solutions to see the capabilities in those applications.

**SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence**

The SAP BusinessObjects BI suite of tools is composed of the SAP BusinessObjects tool set. These tools are used to provide the core functionality that empowers end users to make decisions and consume information with relative ease. These tools cover a wide variety of capabilities:

- **Information infrastructure**: The SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise software allows customers to share and distribute information for optimal decision making. The platform is built on a service-oriented architecture, which supports a variety of tools that allow IT departments to extend BI to any application or process.

- **Advanced analytics**: This set of applications is designed for financial and business analysts to use sophisticated analytic engines to access both numeric and text data. The customer can interrogate complex historical data to look for trends, outliers, and patterns through a visual interface.

- **Dashboards and visualizations**: SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius Enterprise enables customers to create sophisticated visualizations of process and performance data. End users can perform what-if analysis with these dashboards to make better informed decisions.

- **Query, reporting, and analysis**: This set of applications allows end users to interact with data and perform ad hoc analysis. They support query generation and integrated analysis, as well as basic web-based and client-based report authoring.

- **Reporting**: The SAP Crystal Reports tool allows customers to connect to virtually any data source, design and format interactive reports, and share them both internally and externally using the SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise platform. Crystal Reports has native connectivity to the SAP ERP and SAP NetWeaver BW applications.

- **Search and exploration**: The SAP BusinessObjects Explorer application provides a simple interface to allow end users to search
and explore data to provide quick, easy answers to on-the-fly questions. The solution comes in both SAP and non-SAP versions. The SAP version of the Explorer platform is integrated with the SAP NetWeaver BW and the SAP NetWeaver BW accelerated version for ease of implementation and use.

These tools make up the SAP BusinessObjects suite. They complement the SAP ERP and SAP NetWeaver BW applications by seamlessly providing the basic reporting, ad hoc, search, and delivery capabilities that are needed by customers using those solutions. Next, let's take a look at the set of SAP BusinessObjects enterprise information management (EIM) tools that are now available to customers.

**SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Information Management**

The SAP EIM products provide customers with a world-class set of ETL tools that allow IT to build a completely integrated EIM solution that spreads across the organization and encompasses both SAP and non-SAP data sources. Those solutions include the following:

- **Data Integration**: The SAP BusinessObjects Data Integration set of tools allows customers to access all types of structured and unstructured data from virtually any source, from databases to web forums. They allow the integration and delivery of data in real time or batch mode using flexible approaches through data federation or ETL.

- **SAP BusinessObjects Data Quality Management**: This software enables customers to verify that data is correct, consistent, and complete. The software also includes data profiling, parsing, cleansing, standardization, and matching capabilities that increase trust in data and the decisions that are made on that data.

- **SAP BusinessObjects Data Services**: This software provides customers with an enterprise class data integration and data quality solution. It provides one development, run time, and management environment that allows users to integrate, transform, improve, and deliver data to any target with any type of frequency.
› **SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management**: This component is an enabling foundation for EIM. It provides a single version of master data for supplier, product, customer, or user-defined data objects in heterogeneous environments.

› **SAP BusinessObjects Metadata Management**: This software allows customers to consolidate and integrate data metadata into an open and relational repository. It consolidates and audits metadata, enables users to view and analyze the integrated metadata, and provides a “metapedia” or encyclopedia that translates the metadata into business definitions for easier navigation and data discovery.

The combined set of classic SAP and SAP BusinessObjects applications provides customers with a robust, complete solution that is flexible enough to fit any need or requirement, as shown in Figure 3.3.
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