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Implementing SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation

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This chapter covers the basics of the system architecture for all of the components—from the initial setup of the systems to accessing SAP NetWeaver BW, the Microsoft platform, BPC, and EPM add-in at a high level. Also, the standard content delivered with the system and available starter kits also help accelerate the implementation process. We’ll pay particular attention to IFRS Starter Kit.

2 The Fundamentals of BPC

This chapter provides information about the basics of SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (BW) system and the SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) version for the Microsoft platform system as well as NetWeaver BPC. It covers the basics of the system architecture for all of the components at a high level and then explains the initial setup of the systems and how to access BW, Microsoft, BPC, and EPM. From there, we’ll move into the standard content that is delivered with the systems to help accelerate the implementation process, including the IFRS Starter Kit.

2.1 System Architecture

Significant changes have been made to the overall architecture to support the BPC V10.0 system, but instead of muddying the water with an analysis of the two different versions, we’ll focus on the enhancements within the system platforms. Many of the changes in the architecture of the BPC systems have to do with increased performance and stability. Rather than having several different levels of architecture, the BPC V10.0 has minimized the number of layers that the data needs to travel through. This allows stronger integration between levels and faster processing of the information both during the uploading and the reporting/input template process.

Let’s start this process by reviewing the BPC version for the Microsoft platform. Looking at this architecture, we find that the changes have reduced the amount of reads that the system requires during the processing of data. Figure 2.1 offers a
The Fundamentals of BPC

A diagram of the current system architecture of the Microsoft version of BPC V10.0. In this architecture, we end up with fewer components to function and execute the read/write process. Based on these components, we’ve enhanced the process by using the following:

- Only the .NET 3.5 component
- Pure 64-bit process
- Single process/no com + service architecture
- .NET impersonation program
- Configurable platform with Web.config, which allows the MaxConcurrentSessions parameters to increase the total number of concurrent users possible

As you can see in Figure 2.1, the architecture starts with the Platform/Core layer that supports the actual data storage for BPC for Microsoft. This will store all of the master data, transactional data, and configuration for any objects or functions in the system. The application layer supports the rollup of the information required to execute the current activities within the system. For example, if you’re executing a report, and all of the metadata is reflected in this layer as cache (memory) than...
it is available for the report to run more efficiently. The Web service layer is the presentation layer that allows the user to have access to the information stored in the platform/core layer. With this approach, the frontend or user view is a thin web-based presentation view. This is supported by the Windows Communication Foundation (WCF), which is a part of the .NET Framework for all windows based components.

If you look at just one portion of this system architecture to see the differences between the versions, you'll find that in BPC V10.0 for Microsoft, there is an implementation of a cache mechanism that improves the performance for the retrieval of the data. In BPC V7.x, however, queries were used to retrieve the metadata. The cache mechanism helps pass the data across the platform more efficiently and consistently. This caching component is displayed in the Figure 2.2.

In terms of BPC V10.0 for SAP NetWeaver, the changes are as dramatic as the Microsoft version. The first aspect that everyone will notice is that there’s no .NET layer in the system. Having one less layer improves system maintenance and performance significantly. This change also helps, as a by-product, the integration between the SAP NetWeaver platform and the BPC frontend. This also requires that the Web services are embedded in the SAP NetWeaver layer of the system.
architecture, allowing for maintenance to reside with SAP NetWeaver rather than a separate third layer within BPC. This is displayed in the Figure 2.3.

Reviewing specifically the system architecture of the BPC V10.0 for SAP NetWeaver, you see more integration than before with the BW portion of the SAP NetWeaver system (see Figure 2.4). The processing of information for all activities is more direct using the Web services processing based on this new system architecture. The improvements in the Business User Console (top portion of Figure 2.4) help integrate all of the different parts of BPC together so that the user experience is more consistent across the planning and forecasting and the consolidation components of the SAP NetWeaver version. The addition of the Consolidation Central component, which incorporates the new Consolidation Monitor, helps with the centralization of all consolidation activities in the SAP NetWeaver version. The reduction in layering also helps integrate all of the Microsoft Office Suite components and provides a more direct and complete connection between all of the tools.
within this suite. Another important by-product of this architecture is the closer integration with the security and authorization approaches in the SAP NetWeaver system. Although BPC still has its own security and authorization process, we can see improvements and linkage back into the BW authorizations.

After the Basis group completes their process, they will hand the system over to you for the initial setup process on the functional side. At that point, you and possibly others will have access to the BPC and BW systems, but prior to starting any configuration, make sure that you validate and test the system for general functionality and features. Report any concerns or issues to the Basis team for troubleshooting and fixes. It's much easier to get these issues taken care of now before adding more objects and configuration to the system.

Figure 2.4  BPC SAP NetWeaver v10.0 System Architecture

Now that we have a fully functional BPC and BW system, we can review the access process.
2.2 Accessing the System

The BPC process of accessing the systems is very similar to that of any of the SAP environments. For the two different BPC versions, the frontend access is very similar because they both access the BPC functionality via the Web Administration link. On the other hand, the access to the backend processes for both is different due to the fact that the SAP NetWeaver version uses BW as the core component to store all of the data, objects, and configuration, whereas the Microsoft version uses a Microsoft-based system to do the same. Realize that access to both areas of BPC, frontend and backend, is based on the responsibilities and tasks that you are assigned based on the position you have: IT, report user, BPC developer, BW developer, manager, and so on. Each position will have specific BW, Microsoft version, and BPC roles assigned, and this will alter the views of the different systems that we’ll discuss. That being said, you initially need a user name and password, which is normally set up by the Basis or IT department. During the installation process, the Basis or IT group will take care of setting up the system architecture to support the BPC component as well as installing the standard content for BPC, including a copy of the EnvironmentShell and some initial user name/password information.

Note: Terminology Overview

The EnvironmentShell references the initial standard content that is installed for your use during the configuration of BPC. This EnvironmentShell contains a set of objects that makes up the basic configuration for either the planning or consolidation processes. We’ll revisit this for a more detailed explanation in Chapter 3 during the initial architecture phase of your BPC project.

2.2.1 SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (BW) System

For BPC V10.0 for SAP NetWeaver, we have the support of the BW system. This is where all of the data, programs, and tables are stored for use by BPC V10.0 for SAP NetWeaver. To access the BW system, you need to have loaded the SAP GUI onto your laptops or have some sort of sharing option such as Citrix to access the BW system. The nice thing about the setup of the user/password for BW is that it’s also the same user/password in the BPC system. Assuming that you already have your system information available, you can execute the process of accessing the backend BW system. We’ll cover more of the BW activities in Chapters 3 and 5, but let’s just navigate a bit to get used to what is available via the BW system.
Figure 2.5 shows the initial screen of the BW system after you’ve executed the Transaction code RSA1. The initial Data Warehousing Workbench: Modeling screen defaults to display your Favorites folder. You may see a slightly different screen depending on how you set up the initial view of Transaction RSA1, but it will be very similar to this.

![Data Warehousing Workbench: Modeling](image)

From here, you can gain access a number of different areas within the BW landscape, but normally you need to ask your BW security group for access to several specific activities, such as the following:

- The ability to access any transaction codes, programs, tables, and function modules that start with “UJ*”. Currently all of the different activities and tables within BW that support BPC start with “UJ”.
- The ability to access Transaction code RSA1 but only have a “display” activity type in security. This will help ease the nerves of the BW developers that the BPC developers are not coming into the BW system to create anything.
The ability to access within Transaction code RSA1 the objects that are specific to BPC. These objects normally start with "/CPMB/", so you can request to have display access to these objects.

The ability to access within Transaction code RSA1 the objects that you may have to use for the data flow process to BPC, for example, the use of some standard content DataSources from BW to BPC. (A DataSource in BW is used to process data from a source system such as SAP ERP to BW.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note: Best Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is best business practice not to change anything directly in BW for any BPC objects. All BPC changes would be configured from the BPC WEB ADMINISTRATION screens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the most important activities needed within BW for BPC. Of course, more access might be needed based on the specific data flow activities that you are involved in, such as the ability to switch the BPC model from a transactional InfoCube to a basic InfoCube. This will allow you to remove/delete the data in the InfoCube for testing purposes. The specifics of each process will be developed and aligned with the appropriate group during the initial conversations about each group's responsibilities. You will normally have a BW team or support group to help with the backend configuration needed to upload the data, both transactional and master, to BPC, but it's good to know what they need to do from both the configuration and the data loading point of view.

After you've accessed BW in transaction RSA1, you can see that there are different types of objects (covered in Chapter 3); notice the differences between the core BW objects that start with a Z, 0, or Y, and the ones that start with a /CPMB/. This, generally speaking, will define the BPC objects. In Figure 2.5, you can see the InfoAreas (icon that looks like a green double diamond) that show the different objects based on where they were configured.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note: Terminology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An InfoArea is a component of BW that allows the grouping of objects for use during configuration. The InfoArea can be found in two views: INFOPROVIDERS and INFOOBJECTS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also in Figure 2.5, you can see that a number of different types of objects are available. One that we'll discuss in detail in Chapter 5 is PROCESS CHAINS shown in the
MODELING list (at the left side of the screen). In this system, there are a number of process chains, but the ones specific to BPC show up with a technical name starting with /CPMB/, as mentioned earlier (see Figure 2.6). To get to this view of the BW ADMINISTRATION WORKBENCH, you click on the PROCESS CHAINS option in the left-hand navigation pane. Approximately 40 standard process chains are available for use to support the movement of data from multiple source systems to BPC.

As mentioned earlier, in BW, all of the different programs, function modules, and transaction codes for BPC start with “UJ*”. To see a list of one of these groups, and the transaction codes, execute Transaction SE16 and view Table TSTC. This table holds all of the transaction codes available in BW. In Figure 2.7, we’ve accessed transaction SE16 and entered the TABLE NAME “TSTC”. After this screen is executed, then use the filter UJ*, and you’ll see that there are 15 transaction codes available for BPC in BW, as shown in Figure 2.8.
Two initial setup activities that you should review before starting any configuration or testing are the EnvironmentShell parameters and the Model parameters. This is important because these parameters can help support some of the reporting and programming activities. As you’ll see, they can help define the number of columns/rows on your reports and also help with the setup of activities within the BPC system such as email availability, Journal Entries (JEs), and consolidation parameters. These can be found in the BW Implementation Guide (IMG). In BPC V7.5, these were found in the Web Administration screen. To review and tweak the parameters available, you use another Transaction, SPRO, to access this IMG. Execute this transaction, and then choose the SAP REFERENCE GUIDE to open a screen that looks like Figure 2.9.

From the Configuration Parameters line, you can access the parameters for applications and environments for use in consolidation and in planning and forecasting. Figure 2.10 shows the environment parameters that are commonly defined at the time of installation. Follow these steps to set up the parameters:

1. Open the Configuration Parameters node using the arrow to the left of the description.
2. Execute the Set Environment Parameters using the Execute button.
3. Choose the Environment that you want to affect with additional parameters, and use the Execute button.
There are well over 75 different system parameters for both the environment and models (the APPLICATIONS header was used in BPC V7.5) that can be used to help control and manage different aspects of the system for both performance and functionality. In BPC V10.0, there are approximately 45 different environment parameters. Following is a small sampling of the commonly used parameters:

- **MAXLRCOLUMNS**  
  Defaulted to 30 columns for an EPM report.

- **MAXLRROWS**  
  Defaulted to 10,000 rows in an EPM report.

- **ALLOW_FILE_SIZE**  
  Allowed file size to be loaded to the server.
ALLOW_EXTENSIONS
Normally uses ALL as a value. This is the allowable extensions on a file format.

DEFAULT_EXTENSIONS
Default file types that can be used in BPC.

CLR_COMMENTS_HISTORY
Controls the ability to clear the comments from the BPC tables.

ALLOW_SSO_HTTP
Allows the use of the Single Sign-On (SSO) functionality in BW.

To access the Model parameters, you click on the option Set Model Parameters, which is found under the Configuration Parameters node (refer to Figure 2.9). From there, you assign the environment and model to the screen and access the model parameters. If you want a complete list of these parameters, go to the SAP help website for BPC: http://help.sap.com/epm. Now that you've viewed the BW backend system and checked the parameters, you're ready to access the BPC web-based screens.

2.3 Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) System

By using the BPC web link to the Web Administration screen, you can execute all of your activities for both configuration and data loading processes. Again, this will be based on your security access, but for now, let's just look at the full picture and assume that you have full authorizations. The website links will be supplied by the Basis group after installation. The link will look something like this:

http(s)://<server name.com>:8000/sap/bpc/web

The user/password is generally the same as your user/password as the backend system, either BW or Microsoft. You also have to make sure that these links are available in your driver folders so that they can be accessed by others on the team. Go to C/WINDOWS/Drivers/etc/hosts to find a file that supports the URL files for SAP BPC. Figure 2.11 shows the resulting file to store these links. By following these links, you'll be able to set up the initial connections for the BPC Web service to communicate with BPC.

There are other approaches to accommodating the different URL connections versus accessing the user Host files. You will need to work with your Basis group to align the appropriate approach that will support the central maintenance of this component.
Now that the URL is set up, you can access the BPC Web Client Start Page screen. When you log on to the BPC Web Client Start Page screen, you'll see something similar to Figure 2.12. This screen is made up of a number of different sections. Quite a bit of functionality is available in each area, so we'll touch on each here briefly and go into more detail in later chapters that are directly related to each menu option. We'll reference the callout number as shown in Figure 2.12 in the following subsections.
Navigation Pane (1)

When you log in to the Web Client of Planning and Consolidation, the first screen that you see is the Start Page, which is the first node in the Home tab navigation pane. In the START PAGE, you’ll find the following features:

- **Favorites**
  This can be set up as a list that contains quick links to, for example, the workspaces, reports, input forms, and books that you access frequently during your normal activities. You can define your own list of favorites. You can add an object to this list by clicking the ADD TO FAVORITES link from many of the Web Client pages.

- **Create**
  The Create area contains shortcuts to the processes to create a new web-based report, input templates, or workspace.

- **Launch**
  When you first access the Web Client, the Launch area contains links to install the SAP EPM solutions, add-in for Microsoft Office, and the Administration area. After these components are installed, the Launch area contains links to the EPM add-in and a link to the Administration area.

From this Start Page, you can also do the following:

- Change the environment, which means changing from one set of data to another (e.g., changing the view from a set of consolidation data to a set of planning data).
- Set preferences that allow you to change the view of the information, for example, switching language, format of the dates, amounts, and time zones.
- Access help, which, if set up, takes you to the http://help.sap.com website for further information.

The next option in section one is Activities. This function displays the processes that contain steps requiring specific action by you as the currently logged-on user. When you first open the Activities view, the upper part of the view displays all processes that have activities requiring action by you. Selecting a process populates the Details window with all of the activities for that process that require action by you. Select the next activity that requires action by you, and choose Open. This opens the activity workspace where you perform the required tasks; you indicate that you’ve completed the actions required by choosing Complete in the activity workspace. This modifies the status in the Activities view and the status changes to Submitted if a review is required, and it changes to Completed if no review is
required. You can see only the activity contexts for which you are an owner or a reviewer. If you are the responsible reviewer for an activity context, you can choose to APPROVE or REJECT an activity that is ready for review. APPROVE sets the activity context to the status COMPLETED. REJECT causes the activity context to remain open until the responsible user resubmits it for approval.

The Process Monitor is the next option on the list. If you've been assigned access to the process monitor, you can see a complete list of processes and display the full set of information available for individual process instances. The process instance owner can finalize and reopen steps from the process monitor. When you open the process monitor, it displays the process name, process context, status (completion percentage, number of steps completed, in progress, pending), start date, and owners for each process instance. You can filter the processes displayed using Show Processes or Status. When you select a business process flow from the list, it opens the instance monitor to allow you to see the status of all steps and activity instances in that process instance. You can use Group By to group by step, process context, status, and action required. You can also filter using Show Activities.

The Library option listed next enables you to view, edit, and create planning and consolidation objects, such as workspaces, reports and input forms, SAP Crystal Dashboards, and books. The objects in the Library view are sorted by folders. You can select a folder to see the objects saved to it:

- **Groups**
  Users with the appropriate role assigned can create a folder under the top-level folder Groups. After an object is created below Groups, it depends on the creator as to which access rights they grant to others.

- **Public**
  This folder contains content that can be accessed and modified by all users depending on the permissions in place. It is possible to restrict access to this folder. Users with the task profile Update Company Folders can add and manage the content.

- **SAP**
  This folder contains predefined content, such as templates, provided by SAP. No users can write to this folder, but everyone has access to this folder.

- **Private**
  You can create your personal folder and save content in it that you don't want to share with other users. The content of this folder can't be accessed by other
users. If you have more than one personal folder, you can move content from one folder to another. You can share content stored in your personal folder with other users. Simply, select the users and the roles you want to provide access.

- **FAVORITES**
  You can add objects to this folder to group together the objects that you use frequently. The *Folder* column shows the folder in which the object is stored.

You can also create new folders under the *Groups*, *Public*, *SAP*, and *Private* folders.

**DOCUMENTS** is the next option in the list. This is a central repository for storing or sharing files and websites. You can use the features of the *Documents* view to post, share, and retrieve files or the contents of a website, and to manage the display of content.

The *Consolidation Central* module in the Planning and Consolidation functionality enables you to generate and manage consolidated data, giving you an accurate view of the financial situation of your organization. It consists of four components:

- **Consolidation Monitor**
  Execute, generate, and monitor consolidated data from data reported by group and entity members.

- **Controls Monitor**
  Execute and monitor controls used to validate the reported data.

- **Journals**
  Create and manage journal entries containing adjustments and eliminations used for correcting reported data.

- **Ownership Manager**
  Create and manage ownership-based hierarchies used for performing statutory consolidations.

The *Consolidation Monitor*, *Journals*, and *Ownership Manager* options will be covered in detail in Chapter 7, and the *Control Monitor* will be covered in detail in Chapter 8.

The final executable function in this section is *Audit*. This function allows you to prepare reports that contain system information and a history of administration and business user activities. As shown in Figure 2.13, audit reports enable you to report on any topics included in the *Security* section, such as *Users*, *Teams*, *Task Profiles*, and *Data Access Profiles*. In the *General* section, you can execute
reports to review Data Changes, Comments, Work Status, and Administration Activity. Finally, in the BPF section, you can run reports changes and statuses for Operation, Instance, and Activity.

![Auditor Screen from the BPC Home Page](image)

**Figure 2.13** Auditor Screen from the BPC Home Page

**Create Pane (2)**

Now that we have discussed the Navigation pane, we will move on to the CREATE Pane. The CREATE area contains the New Workspace, New Report, and New Input Form options for creating workspaces, reports, and input forms.

A *workspace* is a grouping of specific content that behaves like a folder and contains planning and consolidation items, such as reports, input forms, SAP Crystal Dashboards, and so on. In a workspace, you can include content from the library or create new reports or input forms. Content that you include is available both in the workspace and in the library. Reports or input forms that you create are part of the workspace and are not available outside the workspace. To create a new workspace, follow these steps:

1. Choose Create a New Workspace from the Start Page.
2. Click on the plus sign to specify the dimensions and members of the additional global context.
3. Click on ADD CONTENT to add to your workspace.

4. You can choose from the list of items (e.g., reports or SAP Crystal Dashboards) available in the LIBRARY view. Select an item, and then click OK.

The other two components of the CREATE section—NEW REPORT and NEW INPUT FORM—allow the user to create web-based reports or input forms for use. The process of creating these reports is as easy as dragging and dropping the dimensions into the sections for columns and rows. An example of the initial screen for creating reports is show in Figure 2.14. We’ll cover the creation of reports via the EPM add-in in Chapter 4, so much of what you do there will be transferrable knowledge to these components.

![Initial Screen for Creating a Web-Based Report in BPC](image)

**Figure 2.14** Initial Screen for Creating a Web-Based Report in BPC

**Launch Area (3)**

The last area we will discuss in the webclient Start Page is the LAUNCH Area. When you first access the Web Client, the LAUNCH area contains links to install the SAP EPM solutions add-ins for Microsoft Office and the ADMINISTRATION area. After these components are installed, the LAUNCH area contains links to the EPM add-in and a link to the ADMINISTRATION area. Each of these links directs you to a very different aspect of BPC. The first three links for the Microsoft components—BPM OFFICE ADD-IN EXCEL, BPM OFFICE ADD-IN WORD, and BPM OFFICE ADD-IN POWERPOINT—offer the initial screens for creating, changing, and formatting the different reporting components. In this case, we’ll defer the discussion of the add-ins until Chapter 4.
One thing to note, however, is that much of the development of the reports and input templates, as well as execution of the data loading process for BPC, is done in the Excel add-in. Any information or reports generated in this component can be displayed in a Word or PowerPoint document.

The other item in this list, the Planning and Consolidation Administration link, will open an additional tab on this screen to allow the user to configure BPC dimensions and models to the business rules and Script Logic. The business rules and Script Logic will be both explained and configured in later chapters in this book. In Figure 2.15, you can see some of the different tasks included in the Administration link after you execute it.

![Figure 2.15 BPC Administration Screen with Components](image)

### 2.3.1 Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) Add-In

If you’ve worked with the EPM products in the past, you probably realized that each of the toolsets had its own user interface (UI); however, with version EPM V10.0, that approach has changed. There are reporting options within each of the products that are inherent to the specific component, but the focus should be on using the Excel interface of the EPM V10.0 add-in for reporting on all components within this suite. If your focus is BPC, then this UI is required for the reporting and input functionality, as well as the direct access to the Data Manager portion to execute BPC-specific activities.
One of the significant by-products of the EPM V10.0 reporting component is that it not only supports the EPM products—including both the Microsoft and SAP NetWeaver versions of BPC, Strategy Management, Profitability and Cost Management, and Financial Information Management—but it also offers the ability to execute reports and templates using the core Business Intelligence InfoProviders in BW as well as database tables from other third-party systems.

**Note: BW InfoProviders**

BW InfoProviders are any objects within BW that are used for reporting purposes. There are several types of InfoProviders, including some that are very familiar to many such as Basic InfoCubes, Data Store Objects (DSOs), and others that are unique such as VirtualProviders and RemoteProviders. We’ll be focusing on InfoCubes in this book and will discuss these in more detail in Chapter 3. BPC can use either MultiProviders, DSOs, or InfoCubes to support the uploading of data from BW InfoProviders.

We now have another very useful reporting toolset to use against the BW InfoProviders, as well as the BEX suite and the SAP BusinessObjects components. As in all cases, we have to identify the group that will benefit from this reporting component. As you’ll see, this fits a wide range of users from hard-core Excel-based report users who want to use all of the functionality within Excel to help support the reporting from both the BW and the BPC sides, to the users who are used to Excel and want that same look and feel.

**Note: BEx and SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite**

The Business Explorer Web Analyzer (BEx Web Analyzer) as well as the SAP BusinessObjects Suite of reporting tools are available and have been the mainstay of the BW system for reporting purposes. These consist of a set of reporting components that are normally used to execute reports from BW.

From a reporting point of view, you now have to include the EPM V10.0 add-in into the mix of what component to use for reporting. You can choose from an impressive lineup of toolsets, including SAP Crystal, Analyzer, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, SAP BusinessObjects Dashboard Designer, BEx Analyzer/BEx Web Analyzer, or Business Explorer. Even though the Analyzer and BEx Analyzer support the use of the Excel component of the Microsoft Office suite, you’ll find that the EPM add-in separates itself from the rest in a number of different ways that might be of some interest to you. Figure 2.16 offers a view of the positioning...
of the EPM add-in with the rest of the reporting components. As you can see, this component crosses over multiple groups of users as well as types of reports and as such will be discussed throughout multiple chapters in the book.

![Figure 2.16  EPM add-in as a Part of the Reporting Strategy](image)

To access the EPM add-in, you must download and install the most current version from the SAP Service Marketplace website. You’ll find it in the Software Download section. You may need to have the Basis team do the installation depending on the authorizations you have for your company laptop. You may also want to run the EPM add-in cleanser, which is also found on the SAP Service Marketplace website, to collect any programs on your laptop from a past install process that might have an impact on the EPM add-in installation. At the end of the cleansing run, you can choose to delete or retain the files that may cause you installation issues.

After you've completed the installation of the EPM add-in, you need to set up a folder that will store the server connections after you create them for the EPM add-in. You need to be aware of the different connections so that during this discussion, you’ve identified the appropriate link. If you’ve installed the EPM add-in correctly, you should see something similar to Figure 2.17 after you open a basic Excel spreadsheet. Notice that EPM and DATA MANAGER tabs have been added to the end of your Excel ribbon. Generally speaking, the DATA MANAGER tab is
used during the BPC process, so we won’t discuss this option here, but it will be covered extensively in Chapters 4 through 7. In this situation, we are interested in the EPM tab.

Let’s open the EPM tab from the Excel ribbon to see what is available. In Figure 2.18, the initial set of options is shown. We haven’t logged on to the EPM add-in yet, so much of the ribbon is grayed out. Let’s now work through the process of logging onto a BW InfoProvider and note the different approaches for the BW InfoProviders versus the BPC-based InfoProviders. Just remember that this process is exactly the same whether you are using the BPC link to access your BPC cubes or you are using the BW Link (OLE DB Link) to access basic BW cubes. If you click on the Log On button, you’ll see a screen that is similar to Figure 2.19. You can use the button to the right of the CONNECTION field to access the connection options.

![Figure 2.17 Excel Ribbon with EPM Tabs](image)

![Figure 2.18 EPM Ribbon Tab Parameters](image)

![Figure 2.19 Connection Screen for EPM](image)
After you execute that option, you’ll see the screen shown in Figure 2.20. Now, you might see something slightly different depending on your authorization and EPM support patch level. As you can see, there are links to INFOCUBES that are available. You’ll also notice that there are connections to both true base BW cubes (the ones that start with either 0, Y, or Z) and the BPC-based cubes (the ones that start with CPMB). This means that even though you normally access the BPC cubes via other connections such as the Web services link, you can also get to a BPC cube using the OLE link. On the right-hand side, you’ll see the CREATE button, which you can choose to display all of the available connections (see Figure 2.21). The initial option for the different links—Planning and Consolidation, version for SAP NetWeaver, Planning and Consolidation, version for Microsoft, and Local—will dictate what other fields will be available to you during the creation process. In our case, we want to take a look at the Local connection. (We’ll be referencing the two different connections throughout this book, so we can name them the Local link and the BPC link.)

![Figure 2.20 Connections to InfoProviders via EPM Connection Manager](image)

After you access the Local connection, you see several parameters. Figure 2.22 shows that the next option is to access a system based on one of the different connections. You can get to the BW-based cubes either with the BAPI provider for
BW NW (if you don’t have the SAP GUI loaded onto your laptop) or the SAP BW OLE DB Provider; we’ll use the latter. Also, note that the Do not Load Members at Connection checkbox is new to the EPM add-in SP07 for the high data volumes (see Figure 2.22). If you know that the specific InfoCube you are linking to will have high data volumes whether it’s transactional or master data, check this parameter. This manages the amount of data that is uploaded into the local cache of the Excel component during the initial execution of the Excel document. If you have significant amounts of data, the ability to access the Excel frontend will be impacted. To avoid very long wait times, you can use this parameter and only upload the data required for the initial query to execute.

![Create Connection](image)

**Figure 2.21** Connection Types Available via the Connection Manager

**Note:**
The SP levels are referenced throughout this book because currently BPC is issuing ongoing SPs for both BPC and EPM.

This parameter works well with the combination of the SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator (BWA) to help with all of the data. This is the enhancement in EPM add-in SP07 that allowed the use of the EPM add-in against the BW InfoProviders. Without that option, it would be very difficult to sell your business users on the EPM add-in because the report runtimes would be impacted. This feature will also be available for use with access to BPC InfoCubes via the Web services approach to access.

After you choose the SAP BW OLE DB Provider option, shown in Figure 2.22, the rest is straightforward. Clicking the Connection button in the middle of the screen opens a dialog box that shows all of the connection information to the server (see Figure 2.23). After you fill this in, the connections are stored, and you don’t have to do this again for the same cube. The information for these fields is the same as you would do for the setting up access to enter the SAP system via the SAP GUI.
After you set this up, you’ll automatically be delivered to a screen that shows the link to an **InfoProvider**. Choose this, and the system will take you back to the original screen where you can then choose whatever cube or InfoProvider you like.

![Local Connections Available in the Create Connection Screen](image)

**Figure 2.22** Local Connections Available in the Create Connection Screen

![Create New OLE DB Data Source Screen for Connection Information](image)

**Figure 2.23** Create New OLE DB Data Source Screen for Connection Information
Figure 2.24 shows the final step in this process and the available InfoProviders. Remember that the InfoProviders are listed alphabetically based on the description and not the technical ID. You’ve now create the connection to a BW InfoProvider using the OLE link. After you identify the InfoProvider, you can log on just as you log on to an SAP system. Don’t forget about the Do not Load Members at Connection parameter for the high data volumes.

![Create Connection](image)

**Figure 2.24.** Available InfoProviders in the Create Connection Screen

After you’ve finished and logged in to your EPM add-in, it will show your characteristics and key figures for the InfoCube, and you’re ready to create your report. This view is very similar to what you would see after you log on to your BPC InfoCube. Some minor differences appear in the view of the list of objects in the REPORTS pane, but overall, you won’t have any issues transitioning from using BPC or BW InfoCubes. In Figure 2.25, you’ll see that most of the EPM tab options are now available.

Some of the options are specific to a BPC process, so those will still be grayed out, such as the Save Data option. As you can see, this is an entirely new component with quite a bit of functionality. We’ll cover much of this functionality in Chapter
4, but to show everything in-depth would require another book just on the EPM add-in.

![Sample of the Initial Screen for the EPM add-in](image)

**Figure 2.25** Sample of the Initial Screen for the EPM add-in

---

**EMP Add-In Test Case**

A recent comparison testing process for a company performed a side-by-side comparison of Essbase (Essbase is another reporting toolset that will help create reports for the user in Excel) and the EPM add-in. After the smoke cleared on a weeklong testing process with approximately 27 multiple-step test cases, the decision was made that the EPM add-in stood up to Essbase and in some cases exceeded Essbase in functionality in each test case. Not only did the functionality work to a satisfactory level, but testing was also done for performance, and some of the data volumes were extremely large, for example, the report testing was done on more than 1.2 billion records and more than 1 million values for all of the characteristics. More than 300 hierarchies were also included, and the reports ran in under 10 seconds.

In this section, we’ve just touched on the initial setup of the EPM add-in and the process of linking to it via the different InfoProviders in BW, but the process is very similar in the BPC version for Microsoft as well, except that in the BPC version for Microsoft, we aren’t linking to BW InfoProviders but to Microsoft tables. In Chapter 4, we’ll take this information and expand on it in detail.
2.4  BPC Starter Kit Information

SAP has delivered a series of starter kits that can be used for getting your BPC environment up and running in a short period of time. These starter kits have quite a bit of configuration already completed and can be of significant help in the overall process of setting up your BPC architecture. We’ll cover the standard objects that SAP delivers to give you some good ideas on processes and also best practices. The one area where standard information isn’t provided is in the master data (member) tables, which makes sense because everyone’s master data is a bit different. After you upload some master data and transactional data, you’ll have a fully functional sample environment. This will help in your ability to create demos and presentations for the business users, get early adopters on the system, and show the improved functionality of BPC. Although there are quite a few starter kits for the BPC V7.5, at this time, there is only one fully migrated starter kit for BPC V10.0: the IFRS Starter Kit. SAP will probably convert the other starter kits to the BPC V10.0 functionality in the future. If you have the luxury of having a BPC V7.5 system hanging around, you can install the starter kits and migrate them to the BPC V10.0 version based on the information in Chapter 10. This means you need to migrate your BPC V7.5 to BPC V10.0 and have already installed the starter kits you want. In any case, let’s take a look at some of the components you get with the IFRS Starter Kit in BPC V10.0.

Installing starter kits into your environment is very straightforward. After you access the website for all of the starter kits, you simply execute the download from the site and into a folder or some sort of drive. Then you access the BW system that supports your BPC and use Transaction UJBR to execute the RESTORE option to install the EnvironmentShell for the specific starter kit.

**NOTE: Website for Starter Kits**

- To access the starter kits for Healthcare and Public Sector go to [https://service.sap.com/swdc](https://service.sap.com/swdc)
- To access the starter kits for Banking and Sales & Operations go to [https://websmp106.sap-ag.de/swdc](https://websmp106.sap-ag.de/swdc)
- To access the starter kit for IFRS go to [https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/bpx/ifrs](https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/bpx/ifrs)
- To access the accelerators for Human Capital, P&L, Sales Planning, and Legal Consolidation go to [http://help.sap.com/bp_bpc70/html/BPC/BP2_EN_DE.htm](http://help.sap.com/bp_bpc70/html/BPC/BP2_EN_DE.htm) to access each change the number after the BP to either 2, 3, 4, or 5 to get to the best practices for each module respectively.
Follow these steps to use the parameters shown in Figure 2.26:

1. In the **Execution** area, select **Execute Restore**.

2. In the **Execute In...** area, select **Foreground**.

3. In the **Parameters & Procedures** area, enter the EnvironmentShell name (uppercase) in the **Environment ID** box, and then click the search button at the end of the file field to search for the file that is storing the starter kit EnvironmentShell.

4. In the additional parameters in the **Parameters & Procedures** area, identify the information you want to have restored into your BPC system, including **Backup Master Data**, **DM Data Files**, **Audit Data**, and other items. Then execute the process by using the execute button. After this is complete, a notification will appear that the installation was successful accompanied a green signal light.

After this is complete, the only remaining activity is to set up any missing security objects and then upload some transactional data. Now let's take a look at the individual starter kits.

### 2.4.1 IFRS Starter Kit

The IFRS Starter Kit, as mentioned, is the only one that has currently been switched over to the BPC V10.0 format, and it has significant amounts of objects and material. After the installation of the starter kit has completed, you can review the components
that are standard delivered for this purpose. If this is about a 50-60% fit to what you need, then you have a very good start on your configuration and implementation.

The basic material for the IFRS Starter Kit can be found on the wiki site for SAP:


The wiki site will give you links to download these starter kits as well as some generic information about the different kits. SAP also provides eight nicely done PDFs on the IFRS Starter Kit that offer detailed information on configuration, available data entry objects, installation, and two case studies for your review. To access these PDFs you can use any search site, and search for PC100NW_IFRS*.

The installed version of the IFRS Starter Kit shown in Figure 2.27 shows that it's delivered with three Models: Consolidation, Ownership, and Rates. These are the required models for the implementation of the consolidation process for IFRS. This could also help in the process of setting up other consolidation models such as GAAP-related processes. The business rules and other Script Logic must be reviewed based on any changes required due to the differences between the two processes. Remember that a model in BPC is the view of an InfoCube in BW. Basically, when you create a model in BPC, you're creating an InfoCube in BW. We'll discuss this in more detail in Chapter 3.

![Figure 2.27 Web Client Administration Tab of BPC – IFRS Model](image)

Within the business rules for consolidation, a number of components are already set up and available. Figure 2.28 shows that there are 12 methods, 42 method-based multipliers, 13 currency translations, and 29 eliminations and adjustments available to be aligned for your specific accounts and requirements. Also, more than
25 different reporting templates are provided for the basic consolidation reports, that is, trial balance, P&L, balance sheet, and comparison reports.

![Delivered Business Rules for the IFRS Starter Kit](image1)

**Figure 2.28** Delivered Business Rules for the IFRS Starter Kit

A quick review of a small portion of the method-based multipliers shows that much of the standard processes have been already designed (see Figure 2.29).

![Method-Based Multipliers for the BPC IFRS Starter Kit](image2)

**Figure 2.29** Method-Based Multipliers for the BPC IFRS Starter Kit
2.4.2 Other Starter Kits

Other starter kits are being migrated to the BPC V10.0 for the SAP NetWeaver as well as MS versions. As in the case of the IFRS Starter Kit, all of the others are helping to support the core functionality within a specific planning process. For example, the Capital Expenditure Planning Starter Kit helps you manage your capital expenditures based on your strategic goals. The key here is to offer the core dimensions or characteristics required to support a CAPEX (capital expenditures) planning process. Others that are available include a Liquidity Planning solution, a Sales Volume Planning solution, and Sales and Operation Planning Rapid Deployment Solution. Even though some of the starter kits might not be in the BPC V10.0, there are approaches that can be used to help install and implement them in your environment.

A number of others are also available specifically for the BPC version for Microsoft such as the Health Care solution, Public Sector solution, and Human Capital solution. For the most up-to-date information, additional contacts are listed on the SAP Community Network website to address more detailed questions about the availability of these other starter kits.

2.5 Summary

This chapter introduced the system architecture of BPC for both the SAP NetWeaver version and the Microsoft version. We also discussed the process of accessing the BPC systems both at the user frontend and the backend of the SAP NetWeaver BPC system, specifically BW. Then we logged on to both the frontend and backend to the BPC system using the SAP GUI for the backend and the BPC Web Client for the frontend. We discussed the three sections of the screen: Start Page, Create, and Launch. In each area, there were a series of links available to access other tasks within BPC.

We also reviewed and walked through a step-by-step process of setting up the EPM add-in for multiple different links to source systems. We specifically focused on the sequence to link a BW InfoProvider to the EPM add-in component, but all of the steps involved are required for any other connection as well.
In the final portion of this chapter, we discussed the starter kits that are available for BPC to get an accelerated start on your projects. Although starter kits are rarely an exact fit, they definitely help with questions concerning best practice and features.

For each of these topics, there is a huge amount of detailed information available that can't all be covered in this book; however, we'll discuss as much as possible in the upcoming chapters.
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