

Reading Sample

This sample chapter discusses some of the criteria for choosing a cloud provider before looking at some specific providers. It also briefly walks through the SAP BW/4HANA cloud deployment steps.

- "SAP BW/4HANA in the Cloud"
- **E** Contents
- Index
- The Authors

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Chapter 4

SAP BW/4HANA in the Cloud

With the rise of cloud deployments, it's important to consider whether to deploy SAP BW/4HANA on-premise or in the cloud. In this chapter, we'll discuss the latter option.

SAP designed SAP BW/4HANA for deployment in the cloud. As of April 2017, there aren't a lot of differences between SAP BW 7.5 powered by SAP HANA and SAP BW/4HANA, but some of the developments that SAP has promised around data integration will provide flexibility to help integrate SAP BW/4HANA in cloud systems. You can deploy SAP BW/4HANA on the following cloud offerings, among others:

- SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud
- Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Microsoft Azure
- Virtustream by Dell EMC

Many of the providers offer infrastructure as a service (IaaS); hence, installing the SAP system still must be performed as described in Chapter 3.

In this chapter, we'll begin by discussing some of the criteria for choosing a cloud provider before looking at some specific providers. We'll end the chapter by briefly walking through the SAP BW/4HANA cloud deployment steps.

4.1 Choosing a Cloud Provider

Choosing a cloud provider is generally a separate process from SAP BW/4HANA system deployment. This section will cover some of the main selection criteria. However, before considering specific selection criteria, it's important for a company to define a cloud strategy.

Defining a company strategy for the cloud is recommended to avoid costly projects and later redeployments caused by changes in requirements and partners.

Several cloud providers offer cloud and datacenter strategy workshops that can provide initial strategy input and answer questions related to the specific provider.

The workshops normally include the following elements:

4 SAP BW/4HANA in the Cloud

- An analysis of your business drivers, priorities, investment objectives, and technology enablers
- Enabling a high-level IT strategy that supports your specific business objectives, such as market differentiation, innovation, and cost-savings
- Determining the appropriate action plan for your organization to meet the outlined goals and priorities

The strategy should include a long-term vision of where the company wants to go with cloud deployments and a roadmap for how to get there.

We generally recommend starting small and growing the cloud footprint, and most deployments we've been involved in have been hybrid cloud deployments that make use of both on-premise and cloud.

With the cloud strategy in place, a more specific selection process to find a primary cloud provider follows. From what we've seen in the marketplace, most companies might have a primary and a secondary cloud provider, depending on the size of the company and the offerings provided. Now, in the following subsections, let's look at the primary cloud provider selection criteria:

- Performance
- Technology and certification
- Service level
- Ecosystem and community
- Security
- Cost
- Preferred providers

4.1.1 Performance

Performance is always a main concern when moving to a cloud provider. Performance is multifaceted: Both agility in deploying a new system and the technical performance of the hardware used plays a role in the overall performance rating. Performance issues include the geographical distance of the application and data to the end user, network performance within the cloud provider and to the end users, and disk I/O access speed

between the compute and storage subsystems. Services and research reports such as CloudSleuth and CloudHarmony have attempted to measure the performance of cloud providers from various locations and for different application use cases.

4.1 Choosing a Cloud Provider

4.1.2 Technology and Certification

Some cloud providers have focused their offerings on specific applications. Because we're looking at deploying SAP BW/4HANA, it's important to verify that the provider has experience with and is SAP-certified for SAP HANA deployments.

In addition to the certification, it's also important to look at the tools and APIs provided for managing the cloud platform.

4.1.3 Service-Level Agreements and Reliability

Cloud providers offer guarantees for levels of service; the guarantee is only an indication of the consequences when the service fails, however, and you should compare the consequences with the service-level agreement (SLA) before reading too much into the numbers provided. A high SLA does not mean much unless there's a significant penalty when the service is down unexpectedly. We recommend talking with existing customers and using comparison services such as CloudSleuth and CloudHarmony.

4.1.4 Ecosystem and Community

Cloud providers all offer tools and APIs to build and manage applications. If you've started building tools on one provider's APIs, it can be costly to rebuild on another provider's APIs.

Amazon, Virtustream, and Azure allow customers to implement in-house clouds using their tools and APIs. This allows for hybrid cloud deployments, with some systems in the cloud and others on-premise.

4.1.5 Security and Compliance

Two of the biggest barriers for companies considering cloud computing continue to be security and compliance. The real concern for enterprises is not truly security threats themselves, but rather the company's inability to achieve compliance with security-related standards. Many cloud providers have security and compliance standards that exceed what companies have been able to build internally, so this concern

4 SAP BW/4HANA in the Cloud 4.2 Cloud Providers

should be reviewed and an appropriate provider selected that meets or exceeds the standards you want.

4.1.6 Costs

Normally cloud providers are compared on costs, but this isn't always easy; costing models among cloud providers vary quite a bit. Some providers charge for the capacity you signed up for and other for the capacity you actually use. Providers offer VMs that vary widely in memory capacity, CPU clock speed, and other features. Also, the units provided to customers are often virtualized, creating further confusion as to what the customer is getting and how it might be impacted by shared infrastructure on the same cloud.

One way to measure the cost performance of different cloud providers is to conduct an experiment with the same application or prototype on multiple providers and compare the results. For SAP BW/4HANA, SAP has done this work and certified Azure and Amazon for certain SAP HANA sizes that you can expect to be very similar in performance.

4.1.7 Preferred Providers

Most companies have a list of preferred vendors that they work with, rather than send out requests to all possible vendors that could provide a service. Existing hardware and software providers like HP, IBM, Microsoft, and Dell EMC have cloud offerings that provide a similar setup as Amazon AWS. The most flexible one seems to be Azure, but also Dell EMC's Virtustream cloud has proven to be flexible specifically for SAP applications for which their tools exceed the capabilities of other providers.

It can sometimes be beneficial to work with providers that you have a long-term relationship with. However, it's important that a provider choice not made because of personal relationships or because it feels "safe" to choose one of the legacy companies.

Final Selection

When making a final selection, compare all the dimensions of the cloud offering. Once a cloud provider has been selected, it becomes easier to use that provider for subsequent systems because it's already set up and hence requires less effort to integrate into the network, security, and processes. Many large companies will have

more than one provider to ensure that they can get the right costs and have flexibility to move workload between providers if needed.

4.2 Cloud Providers

In this section, we'll cover some of the cloud provider offerings for SAP BW/4HANA. Certified IaaS details can be found on the SAP HANA certification website at http://global.sap.com/community/ebook/2014-09-02-hana-hardware/enEN/iaas.html.

Some additional options are available from cloud providers that are certified as TDI solutions.

4.2.1 SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud

SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud offers a platform as a service (PaaS) option. SAP can provide services up to the SAP Basis layer, allowing companies to just make use of the application. More details on SAP HANA enterprise cloud can be found at https://www.sap.com/product/technology-platform/hana-enterprise-cloud.html#.

We recommend contacting your SAP account executive to discuss the details of SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud. The following are some aspects to keep in mind when considering SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud to serve as your cloud provider for SAP BW/4HANA:

Deployment

SAP provides systems through IaaS providers such as HP, IBM, and Virtustream. It can take a few days to get a system deployed, depending on the provider.

Licensing

SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud uses *bring your own license* (BYOL) for SAP ABAP-based systems.

■ Supported SAP HANA scenarios

SAP supports most SAP software, including SAP BW/4HANA, for deployment via SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud. For specific scenarios, discuss your options with SAP.

Pricing and sizing

SAP doesn't have a public price list for SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud.

■ Regions available

SAP HANA Enterprise clouds is available where SAPs providers operate; there is no official list of available areas.

4 SAP BW/4HANA in the Cloud 4.2 Cloud Providers

4.2.2 Amazon Web Services

AWS provides a set of standard certified options for deploying SAP BW/4HANA on an IaaS platform. AWS worked closely with SAP to launch SAP BW/4HANA and had some of the first deployments running live when SAP BW/4HANA was announced in September 2016. Deploying SAP BW/4HANA on AWS generally takes less than a couple of hours to get a system provisioned, and then you can start development.

An overview of the SAP BW/4HANA options on AWS can be found at https://aws.amazon.com/sap/solutions/bw4hana/. We will cover the main details in this section.

SAP HANA on AWS can be deployed on either the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) or the Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) operating system. Certain SAP HANA scenarios are supported on a multinode cluster, providing up to 4 TB of total memory; see SAP Note 1964437 for additional details. The following are some aspects to keep in mind when considering AWS to serve as your cloud provider for SAP BW/4HANA:

Deployment

AWS Quick Start reference deployment for SAP HANA provides an automated process for deploying SAP HANA on AWS. This Quick Start option allows you to deploy single-node and multinode SAP HANA systems on AWS in less than one hour. The quick start reference can be found at http://docs.aws.amazon.com/quickstart/latest/sap-hana/welcome.html.

Licensing

SAP BW/4HANA on AWS uses a BYOL model for the SAP HANA license and SAP BW/4HANA license.

SLES and RHEL operating system licenses are provided by AWS, and their relevant license fees are combined with the base hourly fee of the corresponding Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) instance type.

■ Supported SAP HANA scenarios

The SAP HANA scenarios listed in Table 4.1 are supported by SAP for production on AWS.

Supported Scenarios on AWS

SAP BW/4HANA

SAP Business Warehouse and SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (SAP BPC) on SAP HANA

Native SAP HANA applications

Table 4.1 Supported SAP HANA Scenarios on AWS

Supported Scenarios on AWS

Data marts and analytics

SAP S/4HANA

SAP Business Suite (SAP ERP, SAP CRM, etc.) powered by SAP HANA

SAP HANA Live/sidecar

SAP Business One, version for SAP HANA

Table 4.1 Supported SAP HANA Scenarios on AWS (Cont.)

For additional information about supported SAP HANA scenarios, including SAP BW/4HANA, see SAP Note 1964437.

Pricing and sizing

Scale-out/OLAP workloads like SAP BW/4HANA, data marts, analytics, SAP BW, and SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (SAP BPC) are supported on multinode/scale-out configurations providing up to 14 TB of memory when using the x1.32xlarge instance type. AWS provides two options for deploying SAP BW/4HANA: co-deployment of SAP HANA and the SAP BW/4HANA application, and a distributed deployment in which the SAP BW/4HANA application runs on separate VMs. The co-deployed option is the most efficient, because the network traffic is always internal to the VM between the application and the SAP HANA database.

When the size of SAP HANA requires all the resources on the VM, we recommend distributing the SAP BW/4HANA application to a separate VM.

Table 4.2 and Table 4.3 provide estimates of sample SAP BW/4HANA configurations on AWS. To estimate the pricing for a multinode/scale-out SAP BW/4HANA cluster, multiply the cost of a single SAP BW/4HANA node configuration by the number of nodes required. For additional information about estimating AWS infrastructure pricing for SAP solutions, see the SAP on AWS Pricing Guide at https://dO.awsstatic.com/enterprise-marketing/SAP/sap-on-aws-pricing-quide.pdf.

Amazon EC2 offers both on-demand instances and reserved instances. We normally recommend using reserved instances unless for a temporary system, because the discounts are substantial.

■ Regions available

SAP HANA Infrastructure Services on AWS is currently available in all AWS regions except for Beijing.

EC2 Instance Type	vCPU	Memory (GB)	Supported for Production
r3.2xlarge	8	61	No
r3.4xlarge	16	122	No
r3.8xlarge	32	244	Yes
r4.16xlarge	64	488	Coming soon
x1.16xlarge	64	976	Yes
x1.32xlarge	128	1,952	Yes

Table 4.2 AWS Size Options for SAP BW/4HANA and SAP HANA Co-deployed

SAP HANA System				SAP NetWeaver AS System		
EC2 Instance Type	vCPU	Memory (GB)	Supported for production	EC2 Instance Type	vCPU	Memory (GB)
r3.4xlarge	16	122	No	r4.large	2	15.25
r3.8xlarge	32	244	Yes	r4.xlarge	4	30.50
r4.16xlarge	64	488	Coming soon	r4.2xlarge	8	61.00
r1.16xlarge	64	976	Yes	r4.2xlarge	8	61.00
x1.32xlarge	128	1952	Yes	r4.2xlarge	8	61.00

Table 4.3 1 Amazon EC2 Instance for the SAP HANA DB and 1 Amazon EC2 Instance for the SAP NetWeaver AS

4.2.3 Microsoft Azure

Microsoft Azure provides SAP HANA systems in different sizes, like AWS; Azure has a set of standard certified sizes and deployment options available, ranging from smaller systems to larger systems.

More details about the Microsoft Azure SAP HANA option and architecture is available on Microsoft's website at https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/workloads/sap/hana-overview-architecture.

The following are some aspects to keep in mind when considering Microsoft Azure to serve as your cloud provider for SAP BW/4HANA:

■ Deployment

Microsoft Azure's deployment can be handled on standard provided VMs or in its large instance stamp infrastructure. SAP HANA on standard GS5 VMs is limited in size to 448 GB for production use; smaller sizes are available for nonproduction use. SAP Note 1928533 (SAP Applications on Azure: Supported Products and Azure VM Types) describes the details of SAP deployments on Azure, including SAP HANA VMs. The large instance option includes sizes up to 2 TB for SAP BW/4HANA and can be configured as scale-out. SAP Note 2316233 (SAP HANA on Microsoft Azure [Large Instances]) describes the large instances on Azure. Note that the large instances don't run on VMs but instead are installed on bare metal; hence, a failure or shutdown of the system won't automatically fail over to another server.

The architecture of the large instances is depicted in Figure 4.1. The large instances run on certified hardware within Azure and on bare metal.

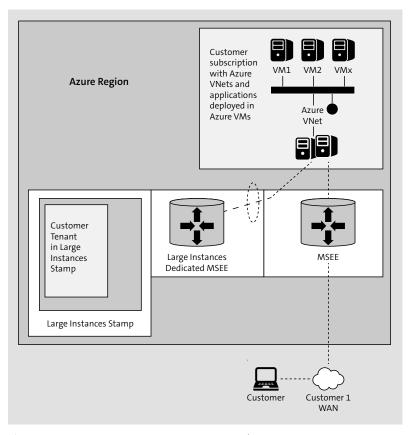


Figure 4.1 Azure Large SAP HANA Instance Architecture

Microsoft has a specific SLA for large instances, with 99.999 percent uptime. With 99.99 percent uptime, a 10 percent service credit is provided; with 99.9 percent uptime, a 25 percent credit is provided. The details are available on the Azure website at https://azure.microsoft.com/support/legal/sla/sap-hana-large/v1 O/.

Licensing

Azure provides IaaS; hence, it's required that licenses are purchased for the SAP HANA database and SAP BW/4HANA from SAP.

Supported SAP HANA scenarios

Azure supports most SAP software on their platforms, including SAP BW/4HANA, in both scale-up and scale-out approaches.

Pricing and sizing

Azure pricing is competitive with AWS, and pricing can be negotiated for large instances.

■ Regions available

SAP HANA is available in all Azure regions with large instance stamp infrastructure.

4.2.4 Other Providers

The list of other providers is long. Some of the big ones are IBM, Huawei, Virtustream, and HP, and as of April 2017 Google has been certified to run SAP HANA via Google Cloud. Most providers offer services, sizing, and pricing similar to those noted previously and provide certification via the SAP TDI certification. In addition, some providers have been certified for standard size deployments, which allows for easy sizing and deployment without additional TDI certification work. These providers can be found in the certified SAP HANA listing on SAP's website (see Table 4.4).

Vendor	Instance Type	RAM	Clustering	Scenarios/Limitations
Amazon Web Services	cr1.8xlarge	244 GB	No	OLAP/OLTP
Amazon Web Services	m4.10xlarge	160 GB	No	Sap Business One, SLES 11 SP 4
Amazon Web Services	m4.16xlarge	256 GB	No	SAP Business One, SLES 11 SP 4
Amazon Web Services	r3.8xlarge	244 GB	Yes	OLAP/OLTP

Table 4.4 Certified laaS Platforms as of May 2017

Vendor	Instance Type	RAM	Clustering	Scenarios/Limitations
Amazon Web Services	r4.16xlarge	488 GB	No	OLAP/OLTP, SLES 12 SP 1
Amazon Web Services	x1.16xlarge	976 GB	Yes	OLAP/OLTP, RHEL 6.7, RHEL 7.2, SLES 12 SP 1
Amazon Web Services	x1.16xlarge	976 GB	No	SAP Business One, SLES 11 SP 4
Amazon Web Services	x1.32xlarge	1952 GB	Yes	OLAP/OLTP, RHEL 6.7, RHEL 7.2, SLES 12 SP 1
Google Cloud Platform	n1-highmem-32	208 GB	No	OLAP, SLES 12 SP 1
Huawei Technologies Co.	h2.2xlarge	512 GB	No	OLAP, SLES 11 SP 3
Huawei Technologies Co.	h3.xlarge	480 GB	Yes	OLAP, SLES 11 SP 3
IBM Bluemix	BI.S1.H1000	1 TB	No	OLAP/OLTP, RHEL 6.7
IBM Bluemix	BI.S1.H2000	2 TB	No	OLTP, RHEL 6.7
IBM Bluemix	BI.S1.H512	512 GB	No	OLAP/OLTP, RHEL 6.7
Microsoft Azure	GS5	448 GB	No	OLAP

Table 4.4 Certified IaaS Platforms as of May 2017 (Cont.)

The certification list changes frequently, so always check if your provider is certified and ask for details about the certification process (TDI or certified hardware).

4.3 SAP BW/4HANA Cloud Deployment Steps

SAP provides three options for free trials of SAP BW/4HANA:

- SAP BW/4HANA XL Edition
- SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edition
- SAP BW/4HANA 1.0

In this section, we'll walk through deploying the SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edition on AWS. The estimated cost for AWS for this instance is \$1.40 per hour when active or \$25.30 per month when suspended—the software cost is a free trial from SAP.

The deployments are available in the SAP Cloud Appliance Library, as shown in Figure 4.2. You can access SAP Cloud Appliance Library at https://cal.sap.com/.

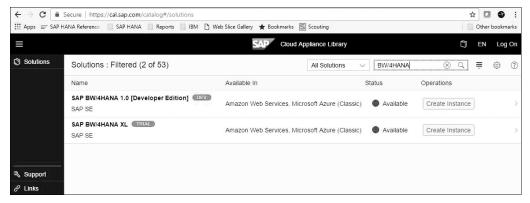


Figure 4.2 SAP Cloud Appliance Library SAP BW/4HANA Options

The deployment guides are updated frequently, so we recommend reviewing the latest documentation before deploying a system from the SAP Cloud Appliance Library.

4.3.1 Setting Up the Cloud Provider Account

The setup described in this section is specific to AWS, but similar steps are required for other providers. The first step is to set up an AWS account if you don't already have one. SAP recommends using a separate account to set up SAP Cloud Appliance Library instances and not use the root account used for other AWS instances. This example will go through the setup of a separate account.

To set up an account, go to https://aws.amazon.com/ (see Figure 4.3).

The signup process includes quick steps such as adding contact information and billing information; it should only take a few minutes.

Once you've completed the signup process, you should be able to launch the management console (see Figure 4.4), from which you can manage your AWS instances and access the learning materials that AWS provides.

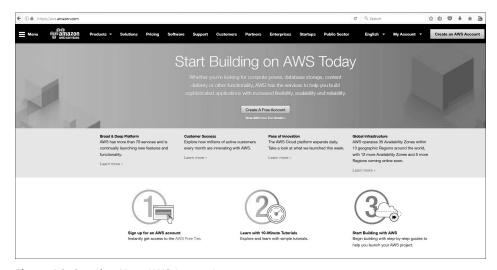


Figure 4.3 Creating New AWS Account

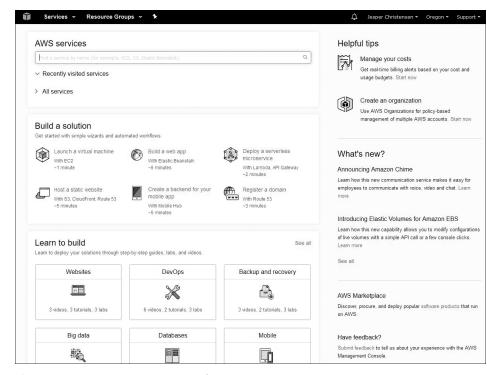


Figure 4.4 AWS Management Console

Click **Services** in the top-left corner (see Figure 4.4) and access the identity and access management (IAM) console, then create a user group so that you can grant only the required access for the SAP Cloud Appliance Library (see Figure 4.5).

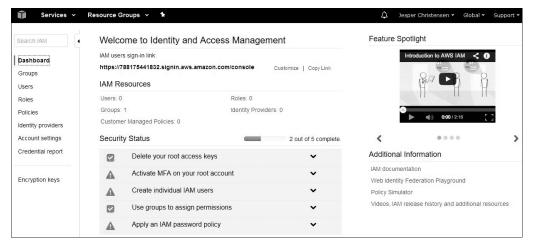


Figure 4.5 AWS IAM Console

Your IAM users for SAP Cloud Appliance Library require the following roles (see Figure 4.6):

- AmazonEC2FullAccess
- AmazonVPCFullAccess
- ReadOnlyAccess
- AWSAccountUsageReportAccess

Next, create a user that can be assigned to the user group. Make sure to select the **Programmatic Access** user option to generate an access and secret key pair (see Figure 4.7).

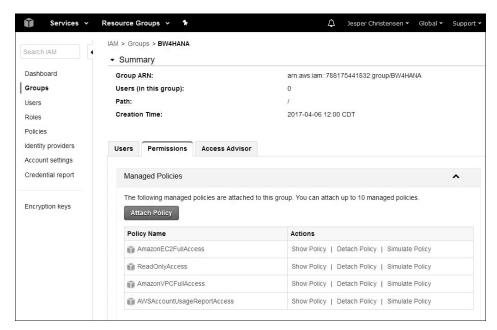


Figure 4.6 IAM User Group with Required Roles Assigned

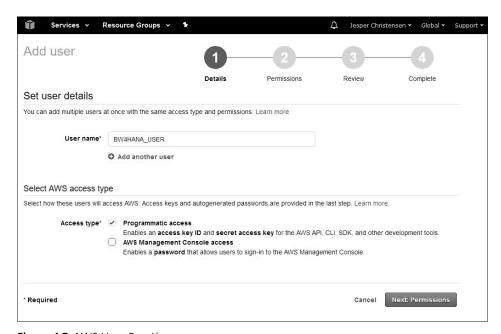


Figure 4.7 AWS User Creation

On the next screen, assign the user to the user group and click **Next** (see Figure 4.8).

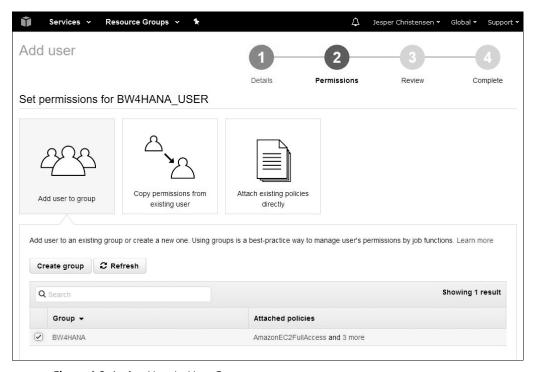


Figure 4.8 Assign User to User Group

A screen will show the user and the access key and secret key pair.

Now, you're ready to deploy an SAP BW/4HANA system from the SAP Cloud Appliance Library.

4.3.2 Selecting Your Deployment

Select the SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edition in the SAP Cloud Appliance Library. Once selected, you should see the deployment options (see Figure 4.9).

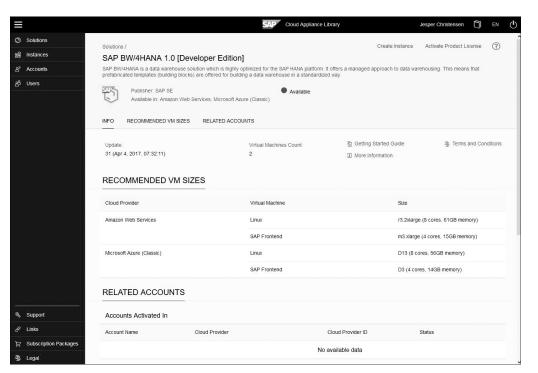


Figure 4.9 SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edition Deployment Options

You'll see that the deployment uses two VMs on AWS (see Figure 4.9):

- One Linux r3.2xlarge (eight cores, 61 GB memory)
- One SAP frontend m3.xlarge (four cores, 15 GB memory); starting instance

We recommend reviewing the Getting Started guide before continuing, because some steps might change. The Getting Started guide can be found on the main page of the SAP Cloud Appliance Library.

Once you're ready, click the **Create Instance** button in the upper-right corner.

Enter the **Name** and **Description** and select a **Cloud Provider** (see Figure 4.10). Here, we've selected AWS, but you can also use Azure.

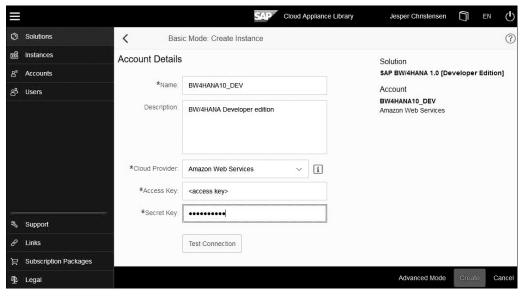


Figure 4.10 Naming Instance and Selecting Cloud Provider

Test the connection by clicking the **Test Connection** button (see Figure 4.10); you will be able to enter an instance **Name** and a master **Password**. Then, click **Create** in the bottom-right corner (see Figure 4.11).

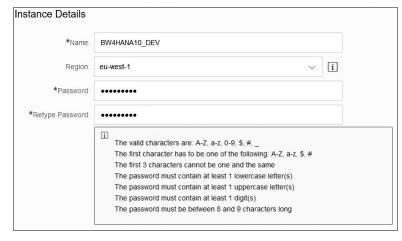


Figure 4.11 Name Instance and Password

A private key will be generated; download it for later use.

SAP will also display the restrictions that are enforced for the trial version and will note that the setup can take around one hour (see Figure 4.12). If you just created the AWS account, there might be a verification in progress for the account before the instance will be created.

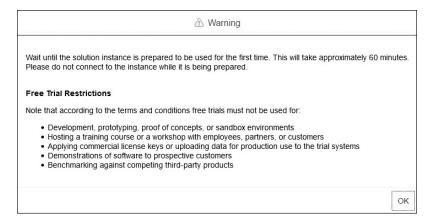


Figure 4.12 Instance Preparation on AWS

4.3.3 Logging On to the Instance

Once your instance has started, you can access it from SAP Cloud Appliance Library using your local SAP GUI, or via the remote desktop VM, which is part of the appliance deployment, using the **Connect** button at the top right (see Figure 4.13).

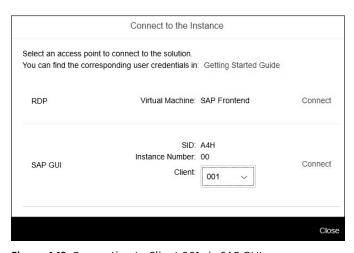


Figure 4.13 Connecting to Client 001 via SAP GUI

The user details are all included in the Getting Started guide, and the password is the master password created when setting up the instance.

The remote desktop protocol (RDP) provided with the SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edition includes the components in Table 4.5.

Component	Version
SAP GUI for Windows 7.40	740.2.5.1110
SAP HANA Studio	2.3.8
SAP Development Tools for Eclipse: ABAP Development Tools	2.64.3
SAP Development Tools for Eclipse: BW Modeling Tools	1.15.1
SAP Development Tools for Eclipse: SAPUI5 Tools	1.38.7
SAP BusinessObjects Design Studio	1.6

Table 4.5 Components Installed on RDP VM

4.3.4 Managing Instances

The SAP Cloud Appliance Library interface shown in Figure 4.14 provides a few ways to manage your cloud appliance:

■ Connect

Provides easy access to RDP and SAP GUI

■ Start

Starts the instance

Suspend

Stops the instance

■ Reboot

Reboots the instance

■ Terminate

Stops the instance and discards it

■ Backup

Creates a backup of the instance

■ Create Solution

Creates a new instance based on the current instance



Figure 4.14 Options for Managing SAP Cloud Appliance Library Instance

It's also important to note that security is managed for the SAP Cloud Appliance Library instance from the **Security** section of the page. Only certain ports are open by default when the instance is created (see Figure 4.15). We recommend reviewing this information and closing ports that aren't used.

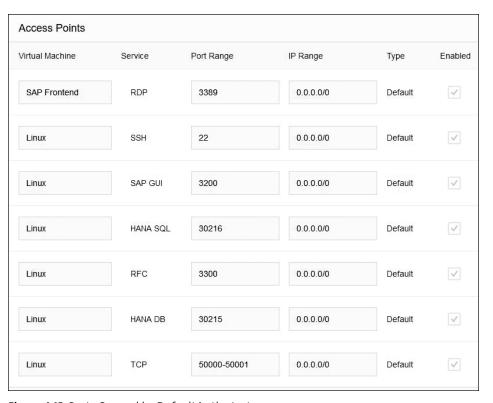


Figure 4.15 Ports Opened by Default in the Instance

In addition, you can set up schedules for when the instance will be running, and a default auto-stop feature will stop the instance from running after eight hours. These elements can all be managed from within the **Schedule** settings (see Figure 4.16).

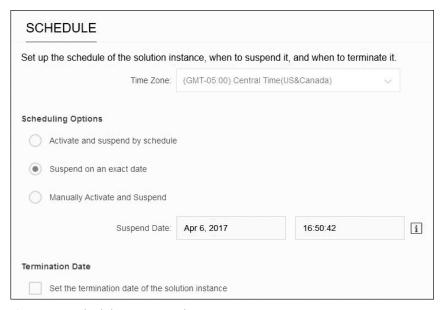


Figure 4.16 Schedule Options in the Instance

Most of these are basic management options; further options are available from within the AWS console.

4.3.5 Renewing Licenses

The licenses provided with the SAP BW/4HANA system are temporary, but it's possible to renew the licenses with a MiniSAP license key (see Figure 4.17). This option is described in detail at https://wiki.scn.sap.com/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=451058309.

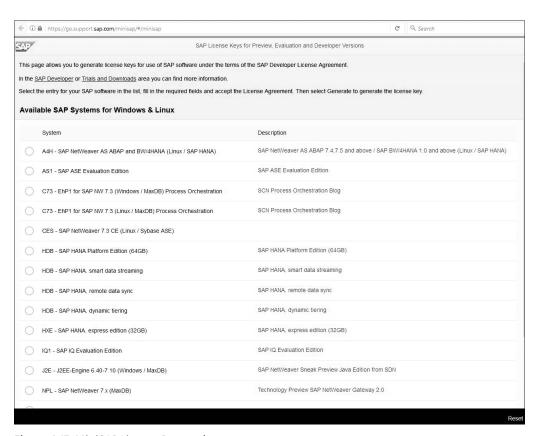


Figure 4.17 MiniSAP License Renewal

Renewing the license provides an additional 90 day extension beyond the expiration date.

4.4 Summary

It's clear that many companies look to the cloud for both cost savings and simplification of their IT organizations. SAP BW/4HANA is built for cloud, and many of the new features being included in SAP BW/4HANA in the future can be used with other cloud deployments for big data, data streaming, and analytics.

If you don't have a cloud strategy it may still make sense to consider deploying a sand-box system on one of the cloud providers to gain experience with cloud deployments. Later, you might decide to move your SAP BW/4HANA system fully to a cloud provider.

Contents

Prefa	ace		15
1	Intro	oduction to SAP BW/4HANA	19
1.1	Histor	y of SAP BW	19
	1.1.1	SAP BW Release 1.0	20
	1.1.2	SAP BW Release 1.2	20
	1.1.3	SAP BW Release 2.0 and 2.1	21
	1.1.4	SAP BW Release 3.x	21
	1.1.5	SAP BW Release 7.0 to 7.3	22
	1.1.6	SAP BW 7.4 and 7.5 Powered by SAP HANA	23
1.2	SAP B	W/4HANA Overview	25
	1.2.1	SAP BW/4HANA Design Principles	25
	1.2.2	Simplified Data Model	26
	1.2.3	Openness	28
	1.2.4	Modern Interfaces	30
	1.2.5	High Performance	31
1.3	Imple	menting SAP BW/4HANA	32
	1.3.1	New Installation of SAP BW/4HANA	33
	1.3.2	System Conversion of Existing SAP BW System	33
	1.3.3	Landscape Consolidation	36
	1.3.4	Recommendation for Implementing SAP BW/4HANA	36
1.4	Summ	nary	37
2	Intro	oduction to SAP HANA	39
2.1	What	Is SAP HANA?	39
	2.1.1	Traditional Database versus In-Memory Database	40
	2.1.2	SAP HANA	41
2.2	SAP H	ANA as an Application Platform	43

2.3	SAP H	ANA as a Database for SAP Applications	44
	2.3.1	SAP Enterprise Resource Planning	44
	2.3.2	SAP Business Warehouse	48
2.4	SAP H	ANA Deployment	49
	2.4.1	SAP HANA Hardware Options	50
	2.4.2	Scaled-Up SAP HANA Systems	51
	2.4.3	Scaled-Out SAP HANA Systems	52
2.5	Virtua	lization	55
	2.5.1	What Is Virtualization?	55
	2.5.2	SAP HANA Virtualization	56
2.6	Summ	ary	58
3	Inst	allation and Setup	59
3.1	Prepai	ration	59
	3.1.1	Requirements	59
	3.1.2	Installation Media	61
3.2	Install	ation	62
3.3		stallation	70
5.5	3.3.1	SAP HANA Database Technical User Setup	70
	3.3.2	SAP BW/4HANA Setup	71
	3.3.3	RFC and Parameter Configuration	72
	3.3.4	Configuring SAP BW/4HANA Workspaces	73
	3.3.5	SAP BW/4HANA Table Placement	73
	3.3.6	Client Copy	75
	3.3.7	Service Pack Upgrade and SAP License Installation	76
3.4	Summ	ary	76
4	SAP	BW/4HANA in the Cloud	77
		•	
4.1	Choos	ing a Cloud Provider	77
	4.1.1	Performance	78

	4.1.2	Technology and Certification	79
	4.1.3	Service-Level Agreements and Reliability	79
	4.1.4	Ecosystem and Community	79
	4.1.5	Security and Compliance	79
	4.1.6	Costs	80
	4.1.7	Preferred Providers	80
4.2	Cloud	Providers	81
	4.2.1	SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud	81
	4.2.2	Amazon Web Services	82
	4.2.3	Microsoft Azure	84
	4.2.4	Other Providers	86
4.3	SAP B	W/4HANA Cloud Deployment Steps	87
	4.3.1	Setting Up the Cloud Provider Account	88
	4.3.2	Selecting Your Deployment	92
	4.3.3	Logging On to the Instance	95
	4.3.4	Managing Instances	96
	4.3.5	Renewing Licenses	98
4.4	Summ	ary	99
		•	
5	Data	a Modeling	101
	Date	a Modelling	101
5.1	Model	ling Perspectives	101
5.2		ling Objects	104
5.3		pjects	106
	5.3.1	Characteristics	107
	5.3.2	XXL	113
		V . F'	
	5.3.3	Key Figure	114
	5.3.4	Key Figure Unit	114 117
5.4	5.3.4	Unit	
5.4	5.3.4 SAP BV 5.4.1	Unit	117
5.4	5.3.4 SAP B V	Unit	117 117
5.4	5.3.4 SAP BV 5.4.1	Unit	117 117 118
5.4	5.3.4 SAP BV 5.4.1 5.4.2	Unit	117 117 118 119

6	Data	a Acquisition	143
6.1	SAP B	W/4HANA Source Systems	142
	6.1.1	Creating a Source System	143
	6.1.2	Connection Type: SAP HANA Local and Tenant Database Schema	145
	6.1.3	Connection Type: SAP HANA Smart Data Access and Big Data	146
	6.1.4	Connection Type: File	149
	6.1.5	Connection Type: Operational Data Provisioning	149
6.2	SAP B	W/4HANA DataSources	154
	6.2.1	Creating a DataSource with the Native Eclipse-Based Wizard	15!
	6.2.2	Creating a DataSource for File-Type Source Systems	162
	6.2.3	ODP DataSources	166
6.3	SAP B	W/4HANA Data Flows	168
0.5	6.3.1	Creating a Data Flow	170
	6.3.2	Creating Transformations	172
	6.3.3	Currency Conversions and Unit of Measures Validation	17!
	6.3.4	Transformation Version Management	176
	6.3.5	Transformation Metadata View	176
	6.3.6	Transformation Runtime Status	17
	6.3.7	ABAP Managed Database Procedures	17
6.4	SAP B	W/4HANA Data Loading	178
	6.4.1	Creating DTPs	179
	6.4.2	Creating Process Chains	182
6.5	Manu	al Data Acquisition	18!
6.6	Summ	nary	187
7	Rep	orting and Analytics	189
7.1	SAP B	W/4HANA Queries	190
	7.1.1	Creating a Query with Eclipse-Based Query Designer	193
	7.1.2	Query Properties	19
	7.1.3	Filters	202
	7.1.4	Variables	20!
	7.1.5	Query Sheet Definition	212

	7.1.6	Query Elements	214
	7.1.7	Query Conditions	222
	7.1.8	Query Exceptions	224
	7.1.9	Query Transport	226
7.2	Interfa	ces for Analysis	228
	7.2.1	Multidimensional Interfaces	228
	7.2.2	Lightweight Consumption Interfaces	229
7.3	SAP Bu	ısinessObjects Tools	232
	7.3.1	Universes	233
	7.3.2	SAP HANA	233
	7.3.3	SAP HANA: Online	236
	7.3.4	SAP BEx	237
7.4	Third-I	Party Business Intelligence Tools	239
	7.4.1	ODBC Data Source	239
	7.4.2	OData Data Source	244
	7.4.3	OLEDB Data Source	246
7.5	Summ	ary	248
8	Inte	grating External Data	251
8	Integ	grating External Data	251
8 8.1		grating External Data	251
	SAP HA	ANA Smart Data Access	251
	SAP H /8.1.1	ANA Smart Data Access	251 252
	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access	251 252 253
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter	251 252 253 255
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter	251 252 253 255 260
8.1	8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter ANA Smart Data Integration Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Integration	251 252 253 255 260 261
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1 8.2.2	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources	251 252 253 255 260 261 273
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1 8.2.2 8.2.3	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter ANA Smart Data Integration Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Integration Create Remote Source with Smart Data Integration Adapter Create Remote Source Connection to Oracle	251 252 253 255 260 261 273 275
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1 8.2.2 8.2.3 8.2.4 8.2.5	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter ANA Smart Data Integration Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Integration Create Remote Source with Smart Data Integration Adapter Create Remote Source Connection to Oracle Create Remote Source Connection to Hadoop	251 252 253 255 260 261 273 275 277
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1 8.2.2 8.2.3 8.2.4 8.2.5	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter ANA Smart Data Integration Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Integration Create Remote Source with Smart Data Integration Adapter Create Remote Source Connection to Oracle Create Remote Source Connection to Hadoop Create Virtual Tables	251 252 253 255 260 261 273 275 277 278
8.1	SAP HA 8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3 SAP HA 8.2.1 8.2.2 8.2.3 8.2.4 8.2.5 Integra	ANA Smart Data Access Supported Remote Sources Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Access Create Remote Source via Smart Data Access Adapter ANA Smart Data Integration Configure SAP HANA Smart Data Integration Create Remote Source with Smart Data Integration Adapter Create Remote Source Connection to Oracle Create Remote Source Connection to Hadoop Create Virtual Tables Ation with SAP BW/4HANA	251 252 253 255 260 261 273 275 277 278

9	Data	Lifecycle Management	289
9.1	Data R	etention Strategy	290
9.2	Data T	emperature	296
	9.2.1	Warm Data in Extension Nodes	
	9.2.2	Cold Data in Near-Line Storage	303
9.3	Data A	rchiving	305
	9.3.1	Creating Near-Line Storage Connections	
	9.3.2	Creating a Remote Source in SAP HANA Studio	
	9.3.3	Using SAP IQ for Near-Line Storage	312
	9.3.4	Using Hadoop for Near-Line Storage	315
	9.3.5	Creating Data Archiving Processes	321
	9.3.6	Administration of Data Archiving Processes	324
	9.3.7	Reading Near-Line Storage Data in Transformation Rules	327
9.4	Summ	ary	330
10	Adm	inistration	332
10.1	Daily A	Administration Tasks	331
	10.1.1	Check Database Storage	
	10.1.2	Check SAP HANA Workload	
	10.1.3	Check ABAP Workload	
	10.1.4	Perform System Checks	347
	10.1.5	Automate Daily Tasks	355
10.2	Daily L	oad Monitoring	356
	10.2.1	Monitor SAP BW/4HANA Computing Center Management	
		System Alerts	356
	10.2.2	Monitor Process Chains	
10.3	Weekl	y, Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual Tasks	359
10.4	Summ	ary	361

11	Secu	rity	363
11.1	Auther 11.1.1 11.1.2	Application Server for ABAP Authentication	363 364 364
11.2	Author 11.2.1 11.2.2	Activity Fields	365 367 368
11.3	Standa 11.3.1 11.3.2 11.3.3	rd Authorization Objects Developer and Administrator Authorizations Reporting Authorizations SAP HANA Authorizations	369 369 372 373
11.4	Analysi 11.4.1 11.4.2 11.4.3	Creating an InfoObject for Analysis Authorizations	376 376 377 378
11.5	Roles 11.5.1 11.5.2 11.5.3	Administrator Roles End User Roles Role Templates	380 381 381 382
11.6	User Ac 11.6.1 11.6.2 11.6.3	Defining Users	385 385 387 389
11.7	11.7.1 11.7.2	Standard Authorization Errors	390 391 392
11.8	Summa	ary	396

12	The	Future of SAP BW/4HANA	397
12.1	SAP BV	V to SAP BW/4HANA Roadmap	397
12.2	Openn	ess	399
	12.2.1	Operational Data Provisioning Source System Type	400
	12.2.2	SAP HANA Source System Type	400
	12.2.3	Big Data Source System Type	401
	12.2.4	File Source System Type	401
12.3	Simpli	city	402
	12.3.1	Simplicity in Data Integration	402
	12.3.2	Simplicity in Modeling Activities	403
	12.3.3	Simplicity in Data Flow Maintenance	403
	12.3.4	Simplicity in Data Lifecycle Management	404
	12.3.5	Simplicity in Business Content	406
12.4	User In	terfaces	407
	12.4.1	Data Flow Modeler	408
	12.4.2	Process Chain Monitor	411
	12.4.3	Business User Interface	411
12.5	High P	erformance	411
12.6	Future	Innovations	412
12.7	Future	Migration Options	413
12.8	Summ	ary	414
The A	uthors		415
Index			419

Index

A	Authorization log
	Authorization object
ABAP BICS22	26 standard 369
ABAP central services (ASCS)6	Average response time
ABAP Development Tools 208, 20	09
ABAP workload34	40 B
ABAP-Managed Database Procedures	
(AMDP) 177, 20	9 Background processing 357
Access control list (ACL)	57 Big data146, 401
Active file35	Brownfield implementation
Active threads	343 Buffer size 343
Activity fields36	Business content 406
Administration	
daily tasks33	BW project 103, 144, 155, 193, 364
data archiving32	24 BW repository 103
long-term tasks35	59
Administration authorization objects 36	59 C
Administration console	52
Administrator roles38	31 Caching41
Administrator Workbench 10	02 CCMS BI Monitor 356
Advanced DSO24, 26, 35, 104, 125, 16	2, Central logs
302, 305, 321, 33	Central Management Console (CMC) 232
archiving32	Central processing unit (CPU)
model templates13	33 Certified IaaS platforms86
modeling12	Change log table 126
properties12	Characteristic InfoObject 106, 107, 186
tables12	26 attributes113
Amazon Web Services82, 8	38 data types 108
Analysis authorization 376, 38	32 definition 111
automatically generated37	78 hierachy table112
definition37	77 properties 109
Analysis Process Designer2	Characteristics
Analytic manager 19	OO Cloud performance78
Analytic permissions	70 Cloud provider 77, 81
Apache Knox Gateway32	21 set up88
Application Function Library (AFL)	31 Cloud security79
Archiving29	O2 CloudHarmony79
Archiving request	26 CloudSleuth79
statuses32	26 Cluster 52
Authentication	53 Cognos21
Authorization	55 Cold data297, 405
Authorization errors 391, 39	92 in NLS 303
Authorization fields	57 Component Object Model (COM)

Composite roles 380	Data temperature	29
CompositeProvider 23, 24, 26, 35, 104,	Data transfer process (DTP)23, 2	142, 178
134, 281, 286		182, 32
definition 135	creation	17
inner join 138	Data types	10
output structure 137	Data volume	14
union 135	Data Warehousing Workbench	306, 35
Compound InfoObject285	Database source system	14
Computing Center Management System	Database storage	33
(CCMS) alerts	Database usage	33
Condition parameter 223	Dataset snapshot	12
Conditions 190	DataSource 142, 152, 154,	400, 40
CO-PA (Profitability Analysis)	configuration	15
CPU usage 337	creating with Eclipse	
CPU utilization	customizing	
Currency conversion 175	file-type	16
Custom exits	ODP	16
	parameters	15
D	properties	15
	DBA Cockpit	
Daily load monitoring	central calendar	
Daily tasks automation	Decluster/depool tables	
Data access frequency	Delta caching	
Data acquisition141	Delta merge	
manual 185	Delta pointers	
Data archiving	Delta process	15
Data archiving process (DAP) 305, 324, 325	Delta storage threshold	
Data deletion296	Delta-enabled source	
Data Distribution Optimizer (DDO) 302	Denormalization	
Data flow blueprint410	Detail InfoProvider	
Data flow modeler	Developer and administrator	
Data flow modeling24	authorizations	36
Data flows 168	Direct SQL consumption	
creation 170	DSO	2
designer 170	DTP generation	
Data footprint	Dynamic tiering	
Data lake 401	, ,	
Data lifecycle management 30, 289, 404	E	
Data loading	_	
Data modeling	Eclipse27,	209.28
Data package	Eclipse-based modeling tools	
Data Provisioning Agent	Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)	
Data provisioning server	Encryption	
Data retention requirements	End user roles	
Data retention strategy	Enterprise data warehouse (EDW)	
Data source query		1
queij		

Enterprise information management	Hive JDBC	272
(EIM)	400 HODBC	141
Error log	352 Host	55
Error message	352 Hot data	296, 297, 405
Exceptions	191 HP	86
Expensive statements		321
ExtendedStorage server		229
Extension node	_	
deployment options	299 Hypervisor	55
Extraction method		
Extraction, transformation, and loading	1	
(ETL)		
,	IaaS platform	82
F	IBM	
1	IBM PowerVM	
Field-based modeling		
Filter collection		
Filters 190,		
Fixed-value filters		
Formulas	•	284, 376, 403
Free characteristics		
Fully qualified domain name (FQDN) 64,		
runy quanticu domain name (1 QDiv) 04,	InfoProvider 20, 35, 107, 117,	
	292 305 312 324	376 393 403
G	292, 305, 312, 324,	
	InfoSet	22, 23
Global filters	InfoSet	22, 23 22
Global filters	InfoSet	22, 23 22, 23 290
Global filters	InfoSet	22, 23 22 290 40
Global filters	InfoSet	22, 2322, 2329040
Global filters	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation H Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation H Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation H Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation H Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop 30, 253, 260, 307, 311, archiving recommendations Hadoop cluster 297, components Hadoop Distributed File System (HDFS) Hadoop Hive Hierarchies Hierarchy characteristics High availability Historical data Historical InfoProvider Hitachi LPAR	InfoSet	
Global filters Global structures Greenfield Greenfield implementation Hadoop	InfoSet	

Key figure types	115	N	
Key figures	213, 218		
Key performance indicator (KPI)	189	Name server	42
		Navigation attributes	285
L		Near-line process	
		Near-line storage (NLS) 196, 289	, 294, 328, 374
Language and forecast strategy	123	connection	307
Language dependency		connections	
Lightweight consumption interfaces	229	Надоор	315
Linux server		permitted changes	324
Local client copy	75	solution	316
Local logs	350	Nonactive data	297
Log file switch	350	Non-master data characteristics .	213
Logical data warehouse model	412	Nonvolatile RAM (NVRAM)	41
Logon information	387		
LSA++ architecture	289, 406	0	
M		Object classification	301
		Object permissions	70
Maintenance options	388	Object privileges	310
Maintenance planner	61, 65	OData	
Mass maintenance option		data source	244
Master data		OData query	230, 246
Master data characteristics		ODBC data source	242
Master data management		odbc.ini file	253
Master node		ODP Queue Monitor	150
Master password	64	ODS object	21
Memory capacity		OLAP engine	
Memory consumption		OLAP processor memory	
Memory tuning analysis		OLEDB data source	
Merge functionality		Online analytical processing (OLA	
Metadata repository		Online transaction processing (OI	
Microsoft Azure		Open Database Connectivity (ODI	
deployment		Open Information Warehouse	
instance architecture		Open ODS view24	
MIME type		- F	281, 282, 410
Model templates		association	
Modeling objects		data sources	
Modeling simplification		modeling	
MS SQL Server adapter		parameters	
MSSQL (GENERIC ODBC) adapter		OpenHub	
Multidimensional Expressions (MDX)		Operational Data Provisioning	20
Multidimensional interfaces		(ODP)	141 149 400
MultiProvider		framework	
Multiquery plan		providers and consumers	
Multitemperature data strategy		source system creation	

Operational delta queue (ODQ)	141, 289	Remote desktop VM	95
OracleLogReader adapter	276	Remote source	309
Organic growth	290	prerequisites	309
OS monitor	345, 347	Remote sources	252
		Remote tree	154
P		Reporting and analytics	
		Reporting authorizations	372
Package privileges	70	Representational State Transfer (RE	
Parallel processing	197	RFC connection	349
PartProvider	137	RFC protocol	229
Performance Warehouse	354	Role templates	382
Persistence layer	41	Roles	380
Predictive Analysis Library (PAL)	24	RSRV checks	357
Preferred providers		Runtime properties	197
Preprocessor	41		
Primary application server (PAS)	67	S	
Process chain monitor	358, 411		
Process chains	182, 356	SAP Access Control	389, 390
Process overview	341	SAP BEx 21, 191, 237, 281, 2	286, 393, 411
Processing type		SAP BEx analyzer	21
Product Availability Matrix (PAM)		SAP BEx query designer	191, 283
Productive mode		SAP Business Client	
Profile parameters	343	SAP Business Suite	45
-		SAP Business Suite on SAP HANA	45
Q		scale-out	53
		SAP BusinessObjects	21, 31, 232
Qlik	196	SAP BusinessObjects Analysis for	
Qlik Sense Desktop	240	Microsoft Office	411
Queries	190	SAP BusinessObjects BI	39, 354
Query	329	SAP BusinessObjects BI content page	ckages 27
conditions	222	SAP BusinessObjects Web	
elements	190, 214	Intelligence	235, 238
emergency mode	307	SAP BW	19, 48
exceptions	224	history	19
filters	201	maintenance end dates	399
properties	190, 195	release 1.0	20
transport	226	release 1.2	20
		release 2.0 and 2.1	21
R		release 3.x	
		release 7.0 to 7.3	22
Random-access memory (RAM)	40	release 7.4 and 7.5	23
Read-only mode	307	SAP BW 7.5 edition for SAP HANA	398
Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL)	82	SAP BW Administrator Workbench	101
Redo logs		SAP BW Modeling Objects	105
Remote connection		SAP BW powered by SAP HANA	48, 397
Remote desktop protocol (RDP)	96	scale-out	52

SAP BW, compatibility mode	49	SAP BW/4HANA (Cont.)	
SAP BW/4HANA39, 9		UI	407
administration	331	vs SAP BW objects	106
Administrator Workbench	102	workspaces	73
business content	406	SAP BW/4HANA 1.0	87
cloud	77	SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 Developer Edit	tion 87
cloud deployment options	87	SAP BW/4HANA query editor	228
content packages		SAP BW/4HANA XL Edition	
data loading		SAP Cloud Appliance Library	
data model	26	SAP Data Services	
data temperature	30	SAP ECC	45
data warehouse	71	SAP Enterprise Portal	22
design principles	25	SAP ERP	
implementation		SAP exits	
implementation recommendation.		SAP Fiori	47
implementation requirements		SAP Gateway	229
installation		SAP Governance, Risk, and Complia	
installation and setup	59	(SAP GRC)	
installation media		SAP GUI	
landscape consolidation	36	SAP HANA	39
license		application platform	
managing instances		authentication	
migration		data source	
modeling tools		database	
modeling UI		database revision	
new installation		delta merge	
object classification		deployment	
object conversions		hardware	
objects		hypervisors	
outlook		local and tenant databases	
overview		memory	
postinstallation		Online	
product path		overview	
pushdown		scale-out	
renewing licenses		scale-up	
roadmap		search for objects	
role templates		source system type	
schema		virtualization	
security		workload	
setup		SAP HANA analysis process	
statistics		SAP HANA analytics view	
supported operating systems		SAP HANA Cockpit	
system conversion		SAP HANA dynamic tiering	
table placement		SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud	
tables		SAP HANA nodes	
trial version		SAP HANA Planning Application Ki	
נונעו עבואוטוו	33	on Think Flaming Application K	

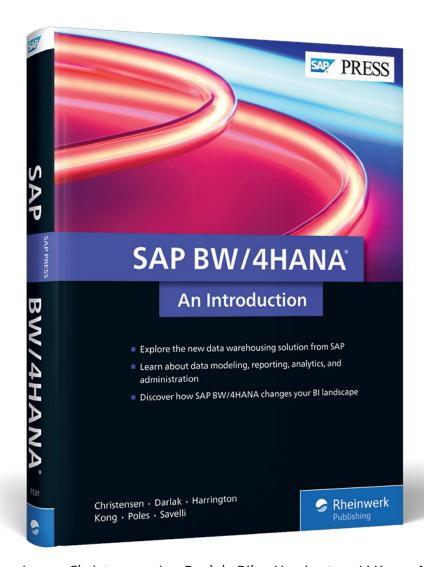
SAP HANA smart data access (SDA) 146, 251,	Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) 149
308, 312, 375	Simplified data integration 401
configuration253	Single sign-on
SAP HANA smart data integration	Slave node52
(SDI)251, 260, 400	Software Provisioning Manager
configuration261	(SWPM)60, 62
SAP HANA Spark Controller 142, 311	log reader69
SAP HANA Studio 73, 102, 193, 211, 252, 254,	Software Update Manager (SUM)
268, 281, 308, 309, 334, 337, 348, 408	Solution manager diagnostics (SMD) 354
SAP HANA views	Source system 142
generating 373	creation 143
SAP HANA XS43	Source type 121
SAP HANA XSA	SPARK SQL adapter259
SAP IQ	SQL console
adaptor 312	SQL editor 348
Partition Monitor 313	SQL object privileges255
SAP Logon Pad103	SQL plan cache
SAP Lumira	SQL server
SAP Lumira Designer 226, 411	SQL Server Management Studio
SAP mini checks	SQLScript 41, 210, 258, 275
SAP NetWeaver	Standard extractors
SAP NetWeaver ABAP43	Standby node52
SAP R/319, 45	Strategy workshops78
SAP router	Subscriptions 150
SAP S/4HANA45, 46	Summary InfoProvider
greenfield deployment47	SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES)82
landscape transformation47	Swaps
system conversion47	Sybase IQ
SAP Software Download Center 264	SYS BIC242
SAP Solution Manager	
SAPCAR61	SYS REPO schema
SAPSID63	SYS REPO
SAPUI5411	SYSTEM account
Schema SAPSR3	System checks
Schema selection	System landscape directory (SLD)67
SDA adapter	System log
Secure Network Communications (SNC) 364	System privileges
Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)	, 1
Security 97, 363	Т
Semantic groups	
Server internode communication	Tableau 196
Service-level agreement79	Tailored Datacenter Integration (TDI)50
Shared nothing architecture52	Tansfer tool
Sheet definition	Time characteristics
Short dumps	Time dependency
Simba ODBC driver259	Time slice archiving

Traces	392	Transfer and update rules	2
Transaction		Transformation metadata view	17
DB02	333, 336, 338, 340, 348	Transformation rules	32
DBACOCKPIT	353	Transformation version managemen	nt 17
ODQMON	150	Transformations	23, 17
OSS1	72	applying rules	
PFCG	380	Transport request	22
RSA1	101, 408	Troubleshooting	
RSB4HTRF	33, 413	G	
RSCUR	220	U	
	201		
RSDS	162	Union procedure	13
RSECADMIN	377, 379, 388	Unit characteristics	
	302	Unit InfoObject	
RSPC	179, 182	data types	
RSPCM	358, 411	Universes	
	199	Unix ODBC connection	
	226, 237, 393	Unix ODBC driver manager	
	220	Unix ODBC drivers	
		UoM validation	
		User administration	
	227	assigning analysis authorizations	
		defining users	
	208	tools	
		User Information System	
		Oser information system	30
	351	\ /	
	351	V	
		77-1: diah	10
		Validity characteristics	13
		Variable type	
		Variables	,
	76	creation	
		Virtual machine (VM)	
		Virtual providers	
		Virtual tables	
		Virtualization	
		Virtustream	,
	349, 352	VMware	5
		W	
	366	Warm data 29	
	391	extension nodes	
		Web Dynpro	
Transaction data		Web Dynpro ABAP	
Transaction number (TSI	N) 323	WebHCat	308, 32

	XXL attributes
X	Υ
X.509 client certificates	YARN







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