SAP Business Data Cloud e-book powered by SAP User Groups Organization

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1 Introduction

Welcome to our SAP Business Data Cloud e-book, created in collaboration with SAP User Groups Organization, and dedicated to introducing you to the capabilities of SAP Business Data Cloud. This e-book is designed to illuminate the path to your journey with SAP Business Data Cloud.

SAP Business Data Cloud is a data platform that harmonizes all data from SAP and non-SAP sources, into a unified semantic layer of trusted data, to power advanced analytics and to build AI applications.

In this e-book, we provide a high-level overview of SAP Business Data Cloud, guiding you through its integral pillars and strategic vision.

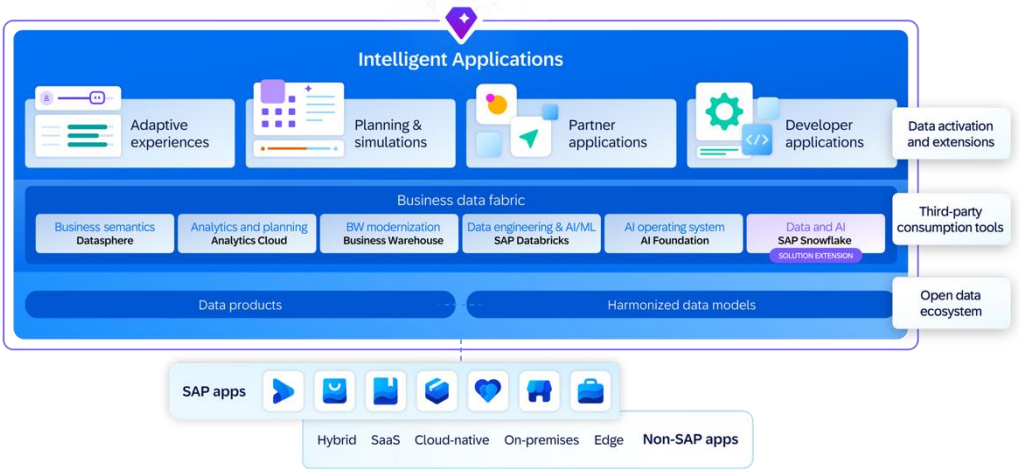
Knowledge Transfer for SAP User Groups

This e-book is subject to semi-annual update.

2 Get to know SAP Business Data Cloud

SAP Business Data Cloud (SAP BDC) is part of a comprehensive strategy for enterprise data designed to address complex enterprise data management challenges.

By integrating SAP's application ecosystem with advanced data capabilities, SAP BDC provides a unified platform for managing SAP and non-SAP data, enabling streamlined analytics, governance, and AI-driven insights.



Webcast: Strategy, Architecture, Vision

SAP Business Data Cloud integrates five key components:

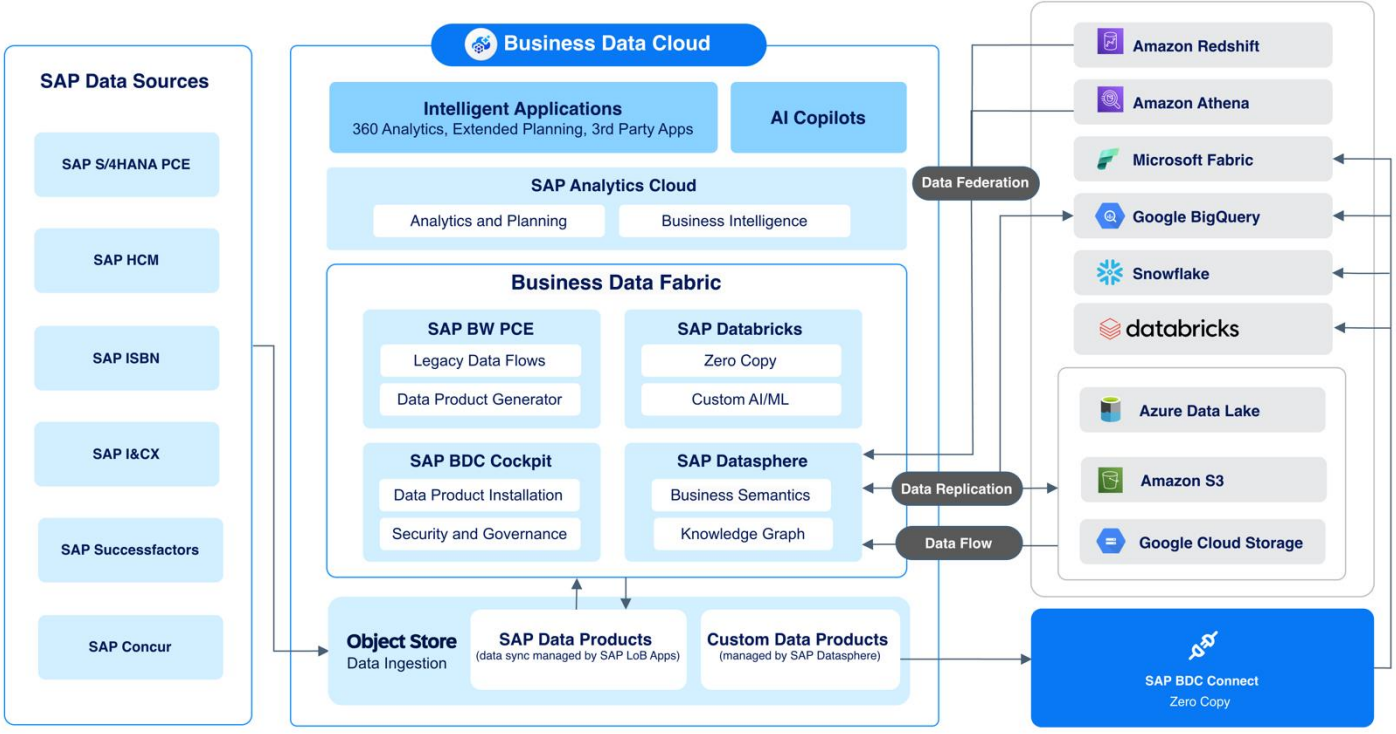
1) **SAP Datasphere**: Environment for data integration, warehousing, and governance.
2) **SAP Analytics Cloud**: Advanced analytics and planning capabilities.
3) **SAP Databricks**: Advanced analytics and data science on SAP and non-SAP data.
4) **SAP Business Warehouse Private Cloud Edition**
5) **Intelligent Applications and Data Products**: Business data objects and data applications, provided and operated by SAP.

Product Page

Product Tour

3 Evolution from Business Data Fabric to SAP Business Data Cloud

The SAP Architecture Center provides reference architectures and highlights how Enterprise Data Strategy can be transformed with SAP Business Data Cloud.



Planned General Availability for SAP BDC Connect

- 09-2025 – Databricks
- Q2 2026 – Google BigQuery
- H1 2026 – Snowflake
- Q3 2026 – Microsoft Fabric

All subject to change.

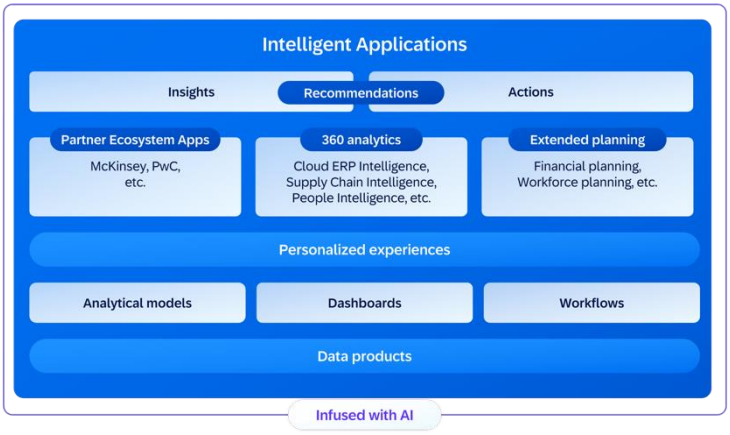
Architecture Center

4 Unlocking Value: Intelligent Applications Use Cases with SAP Business Data Cloud

Intelligent Applications in SAP Business Data Cloud provide pre-configured, SAP-managed dashboards and analytics based on underlying Data Products and models.

These apps leverage SAP Analytics Cloud as the key front-end solution for visualization, simplifying the process of creating interactive reports and dashboards.

Webcast: Accelerate Insights



SAP Business Data Cloud empowers every team:

1) Cloud ERP Intelligence Private: Bring together operational and financial data
2) Finance Intelligence: Transform finance operations to grow with speed and simplicity.
3) Supply Chain Intelligence: Connect planning, procurement, logistics, and operations.
4) People Intelligence: Deliver people, skills, and benchmarks to make talent decisions.
5) Spend Intelligence: Gain spend visibility with connected data and breaking silos.
6) Revenue Intelligence: Unify data across sales, service, marketing, commerce, and ERP.

Product Page

Explore: Working Capital Insight App

4 Unlocking Value: Data Products in SAP Business Data Cloud

Data Products in SAP Business Data Cloud serve as a standardized and efficient way to share and consume data across applications and domains. They enable analytic scenarios, AI applications, and facilitate data integration while being optimized for intensive reads. Managed with a product mindset, they are supported by high-quality metadata and governed by decentralized ownership principles.

Characteristics of Data Products:

Business Data Sets: consisting of one or more business objects entities, related objects, analytical data, documents...

Consumable: via APIs or via Events

Described: with high quality provided via Open Resource Discovery (ORD)

Discoverable: via Data Product Directory

Webcast: Data Products

Blog Post

Introduction Data Products

Business Accelerator Hub

Overview of available Data Products

Data Product Studio will allow users to create, model, and manage reusable data products using both visual tools and SQL-based transformations from a single workspace. Users can define schema, lineage, and logic to blend SAP and non-SAP data into governed assets with full version control and lifecycle management.

Blog Post

Data Product Studio

4 Unlocking Value: Reporting & Planning with SAP Business Data Cloud

SAP Business Data Cloud is equipped with powerful data management, planning & analytics (P&A) and innovative AI capabilities. It provides transformative insights, seamless integration, AI augmentation, and enhanced data quality. These capabilities are crucial for effective business decision-making and strategic planning.

Webcast: Planning & Analytics

Learn how the SAP Business Data Cloud solution enables unified, real-time planning and analytics to help businesses collaborate, adapt, and drive strategic outcomes. Discover through examples and real-time demos how organizations modernize planning, embed AI insights, and unlock the full value of enterprise data.

Webcast: Seamless Planning

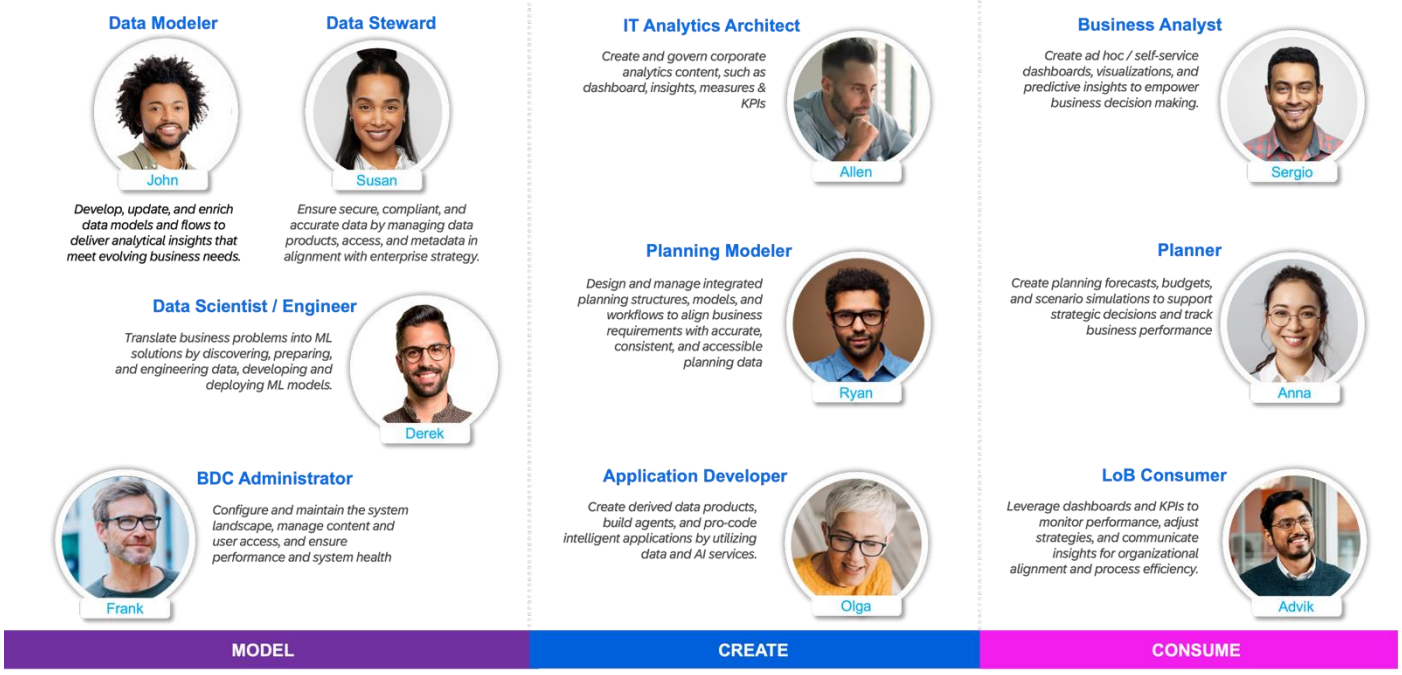
Discover how SAP brings together SAP Datasphere and SAP Analytics Cloud Planning to deliver Seamless Planning with SAP Business Data Cloud.

Blog Post: Business Steering

The blog series will provide valuable insights for decision-makers seeking to harness SAP Business Data Cloud to enhance operational efficiency, optimize resource allocation, and achieve long-term objectives. By featuring detailed planning & analytics topics, the series will illustrate the transformative impact of SAP Business Data Cloud.

4 Personas at a glance

SAP Business Data Cloud serves multiple personas. These Personas are fictional but realistic descriptions of typical or target users for SAP BDC.



SAP Business Data Cloud components relevant for the various personas:

SAP BDC Cockpit

SAP Analytics Cloud

SAP Datasphere & SAP Business Warehouse

SAP Databricks

4 Unlocking SAP Business Data Cloud for Enterprise Architects

This section unpacks SAP Business Data Cloud (BDC) and Databricks capabilities from an architect's perspective, offering a technical deep dive into how BDC integrates into enterprise landscapes.

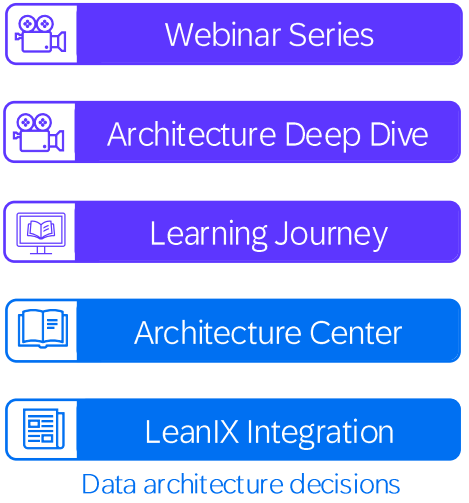
Designed by architects, for architects, the following series was built to help enterprise architects and data leaders turn data into intelligence.

- Data Inspired – Successful concepts for data-driven organizations
- Unleash your Data and AI with Irfan Khan and Timo Elliott
- Unpacking SAP Business Data Cloud for Enterprise Architects
- Enterprise Architects guide on SAP BW Modernization
- Planning your Transition Paths to SAP Business Data Cloud
- SAP Business Data Cloud and Databricks – Stronger Together

LeanIX aims to introduce data product portfolio management to equip enterprise architects with a deep understanding of the entire data landscape.

Key Focus Areas:

- Discovery of SAP Business Warehouse Systems
- Transformation Scenario Identification
- Holistic Data Product Portfolio Management
- Enriching the LeanIX Agent Hub



5 From Data to Intelligence: Succeed with AI

SAP Business Data Cloud establishes a harmonized data foundation, enabling customers to unleash Business AI across all their data and delivers the following benefits:

- Help businesses unleash transformative new insights with prebuilt analytical applications and curated SAP data products
- Connect all your SAP and third-party data with SAP and SAP Databricks in a fully managed Software as a Service solution.
- Use this to trusted data foundation to deliver the most reliable AI in our industry

SAP Knowledge Graph

Understand your data and their relationship, and transform them into business knowledge

AI Engineering

Gain new insights by applying data science and building AI/ML models with SAP Business Data Cloud.

Agents

Increase your efficiency with specialized AI agents to perform tasks autonomously across enterprise.

Embedding AI

Accelerate your planning and analytics workflows by benefitting from infused AI features and capabilities.

Joule

Democratize access to data insights and make most informed decisions and actions with SAP's conversational AI.

Product Page

Business AI Strategy

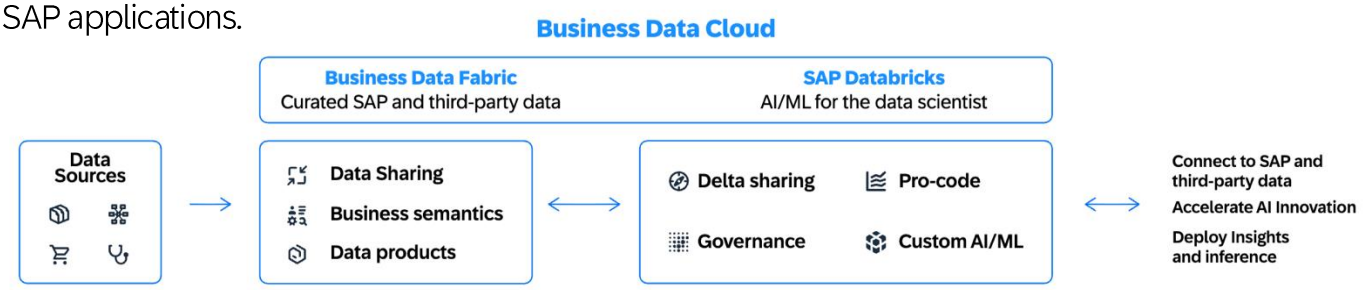
Business AI Catalog

Knowledge Graph

Overview of available Feature and Agents

5 From Data to Intelligence: SAP Databricks in SAP Business Data Cloud

SAP has integrated the power of Databricks Data Intelligence Platform directly into SAP Business Data Cloud. SAP Databricks is a fully SAP-managed solution that combines industry leading AI/ML, data science, and data engineering capabilities with semantically rich, business-ready data from SAP applications.



Webcast: SAP Databricks

SAP Databricks' key capabilities.

- Unify data with zero copies
- Deliver trusted data product
- Advanced SQL analytics
- Develop with pro-code tooling
- Build custom AI and ML

Example use cases with SAP Databricks.

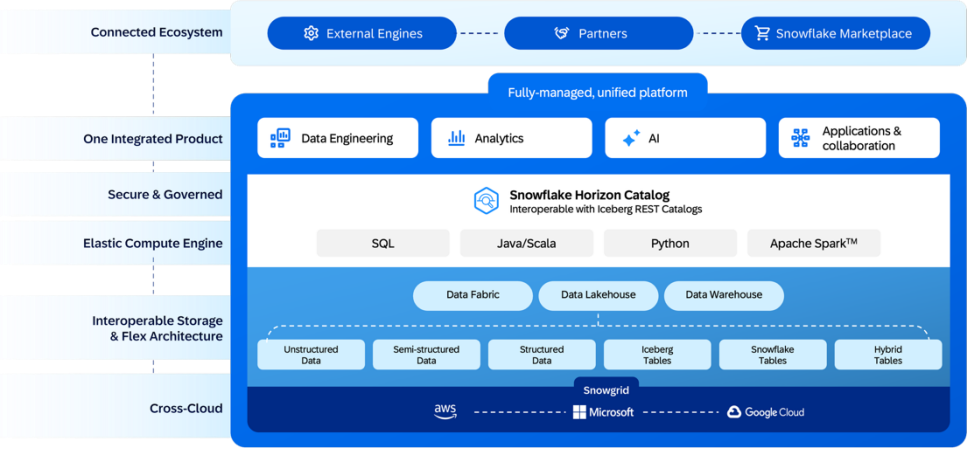
1) Cash Flow and Liquidity Forecasting - Use historical payables, receivables, and payment behavior to forecast cash positions accurately.
2) Supply Chain Risk Modeling - Anticipate disruptions by analyzing factors and using data, and alternative sourcing scenarios to maintain production continuity.

Product Page | Whitepaper | Documentation

6 Integration with SAP Snowflake

Snowflake's AI Data Cloud - offered as "SAP Snowflake" - an SAP Solution Extension for SAP Business Data Cloud, integrates Snowflake into SAP BDC's open data ecosystem and business data fabric.

The integration architecture leverages zero copy, bi-directional data access, enabling data and AI teams to work with semantically rich trusted SAP data products in real time without the added cost and complexity of ETL pipelines.



SAP Snowflake key features and capabilities

Data Engineering

Build a unified business data fabric to connect, transform, and orchestrate data of all types at scale

Applications & Collaboration

Develop and distribute intelligent applications using semantically rich data and leverage Marketplace for data and application sharing

AI and ML

Deliver enterprise-grade AI applications and models faster with Snowflake agents and secure, governed access to high quality mission-critical data

Analytics

Run high-performance analytics on a massive scale to deliver faster insights and enhanced data-driven decisions across the organization

Security & Governance

Maintain governance and preserve semantics and lineage as data products are shared between SAP BDC Catalog and SAP Snowflake Horizon

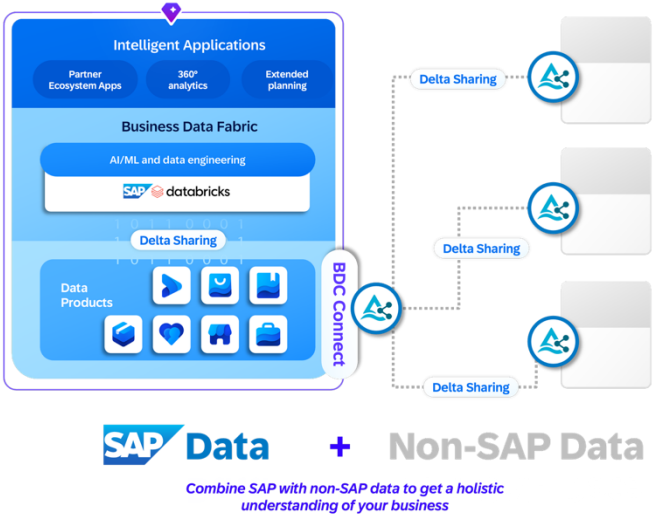
SAP BDC Connect for Snowflake, is a cloud service that enables seamless integration between the SAP Snowflake and SAP BDC. It also helps connect the Enterprise Snowflake with SAP BDC for customers that already have Enterprise Snowflake in their ecosystem.

Product Page

SAP Snowflake is planned to be generally available in Q1 2026. SAP BDC Connect for Snowflake is planned to be generally available in H1 2026.

7 SAP Business Data Cloud Connect

SAP Business Data Cloud acts as the business-centric integration layer for enterprises looking to harmonize SAP (e.g., S/4HANA, SuccessFactors) and non-SAP data across platforms like Snowflake, Azure, GCP, AWS, and Databricks.



Integration Options

1) SAP source integration options
2) Non-SAP (hyperscaler) data source integration options
   - BDC Connect / Delta Sharing integration
   - SAP Datasphere: Data Federation
   - SAP Datasphere: Replication Flows
   - SAP Datasphere: Data Flows

SAP Business Data Cloud (BDC) Connect

... is a part of SAP Business Data Cloud application suite and can be provisioned via the SAP BDC Cockpit. It enables secure and seamless, zero-copy sharing of semantically-rich SAP data into customers' existing external data platform environments. SAP Business Data Cloud facilitates bi-directional sharing and consumption of Data Products. This integration breaks down silos and provides real-time access to trusted, business-ready data, creating a unified business data fabric for enhanced analytics and AI capabilities.

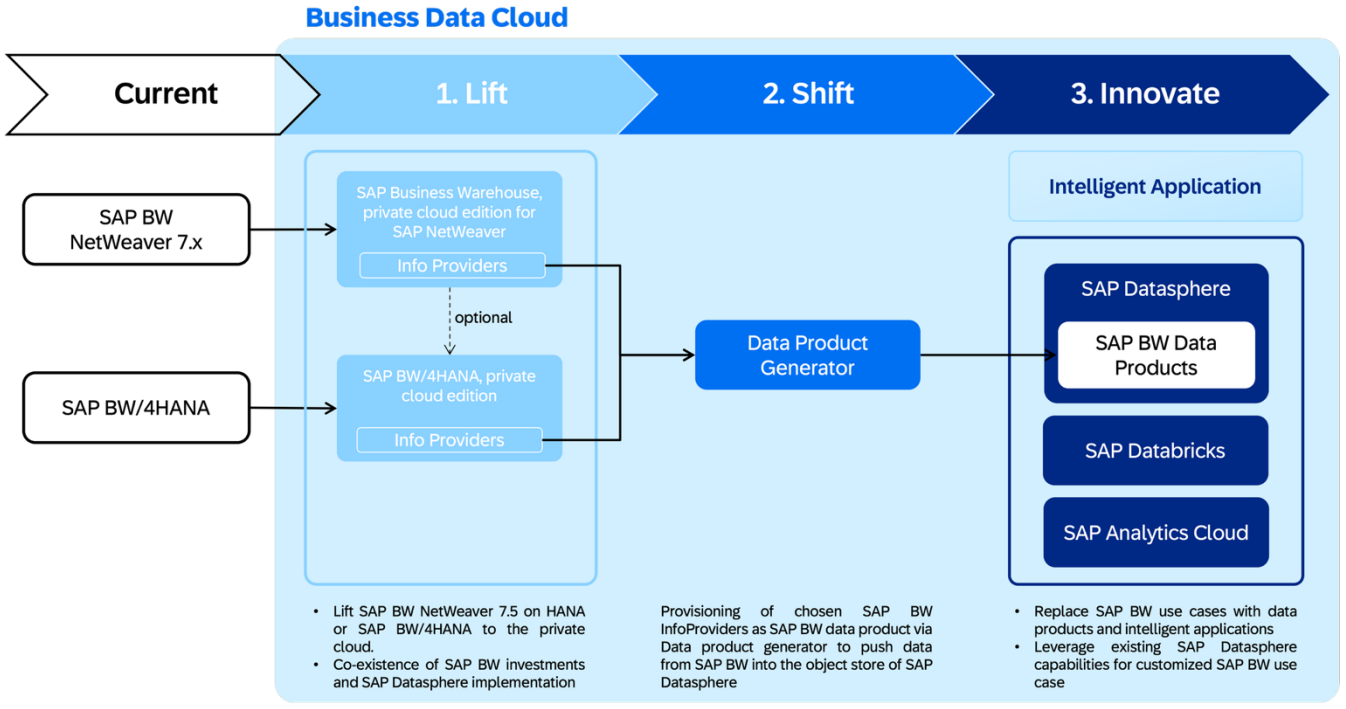
Architecture Center

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive

SAP Business Data Cloud offers the use of SAP Business Warehouse (SAP BW) data to support machine learning and AI models effectively.

This section outlines the key steps for the SAP BW modernization path that integrates SAP BW into an SAP Business Data Cloud landscape.

Webcast: The path forward for SAP BW



Whitepaper

Assessment

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive

Added value of SAP Business Warehouse, private cloud edition in SAP Business Data Cloud

Strategic Benefits

- Fully aligned with SAP Business Data Cloud
- Clean core principle reduce custom extensions and management costs
- Simplified system conversions and brownfield migrations into the cloud
- Application and technical operations from one vendor
- Mainstream maintenance until 2030 for SAP BW7.5 and 2040 for SAP BW/4HANA
- Simple commercial transition with common capacity units

Technical Benefits

- Allowing code enhancement and code modifications
- Scalable platform
- Extensive integration of SAP BW with data products
- Catalog integration of SAP BW, private edition

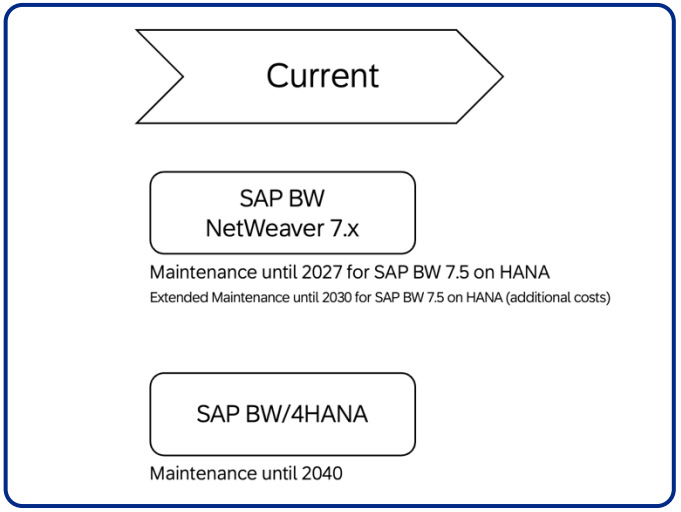
Operational Benefits

- Resilience and TCO of hyperscaler infrastructure
- Technical operations done by SAP
- Upgrade installation on customer request

Blog Post

End of Maintenance

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive



Current Status

Many customers have historically built their enterprise data warehouses on SAP BW. However, emerging market demands, including AI/ML enablement, lakehouse architectures, and open standards for more accessible and interoperable data, require a modernization strategy. SAP Business Data Cloud can address these challenges.

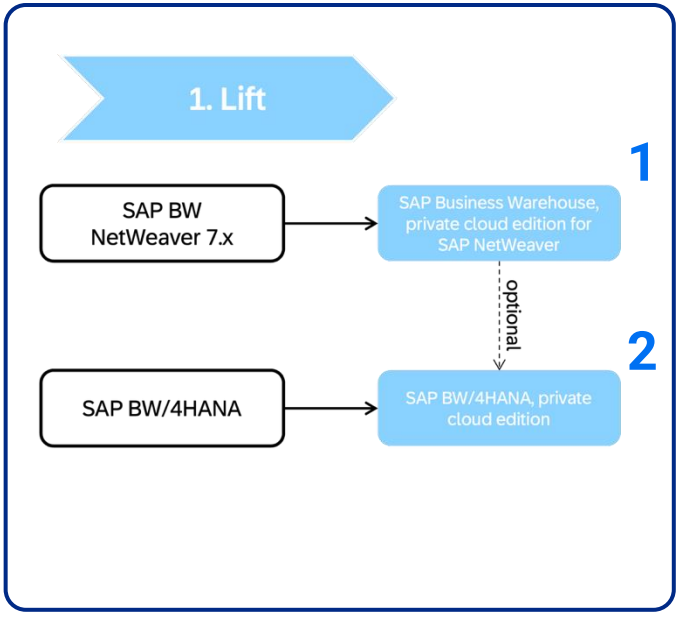
Migration Assessment

The SAP Business Data Cloud professional modernization assessment is the starting point for SAP Business Warehouse customers. It is a free of charge, limited-time and a complimentary readout that will give you deep insights into your SAP Business Warehouse, SAP BusinessObjects, and SAP HANA environments. Learn which investments are most active based on usage, what can be modernized, and receive best practices for an actionable modernization plan to SAP Business Data Cloud.

sap.com: **Migration Assessment** (Link)

Assessment

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive



Lift

The first step is to lift your existing SAP BW or SAP BW/4HANA on-premise deployment to the private cloud component of SAP Business Data Cloud. If your SAP BW on-premise system is still on a non-SAP HANA database, a migration to SAP BW on HANA is required. Optionally, you can execute a conversion to SAP BW/4HANA, either during the move to the cloud, or at any point while SAP BW NetWeaver is still supported. However, this approach is not recommended.

1

Lift to SAP BW, private cloud edition for SAP NetWeaver

- Leverage SAP BDC innovations directly from SAP BW NetWeaver and keep your SAP BW deployments as is and move to SAP Datasphere
- Utilizing SAP Business Data Cloud features such as data products
- Benefit from maintenance support until end of 2030

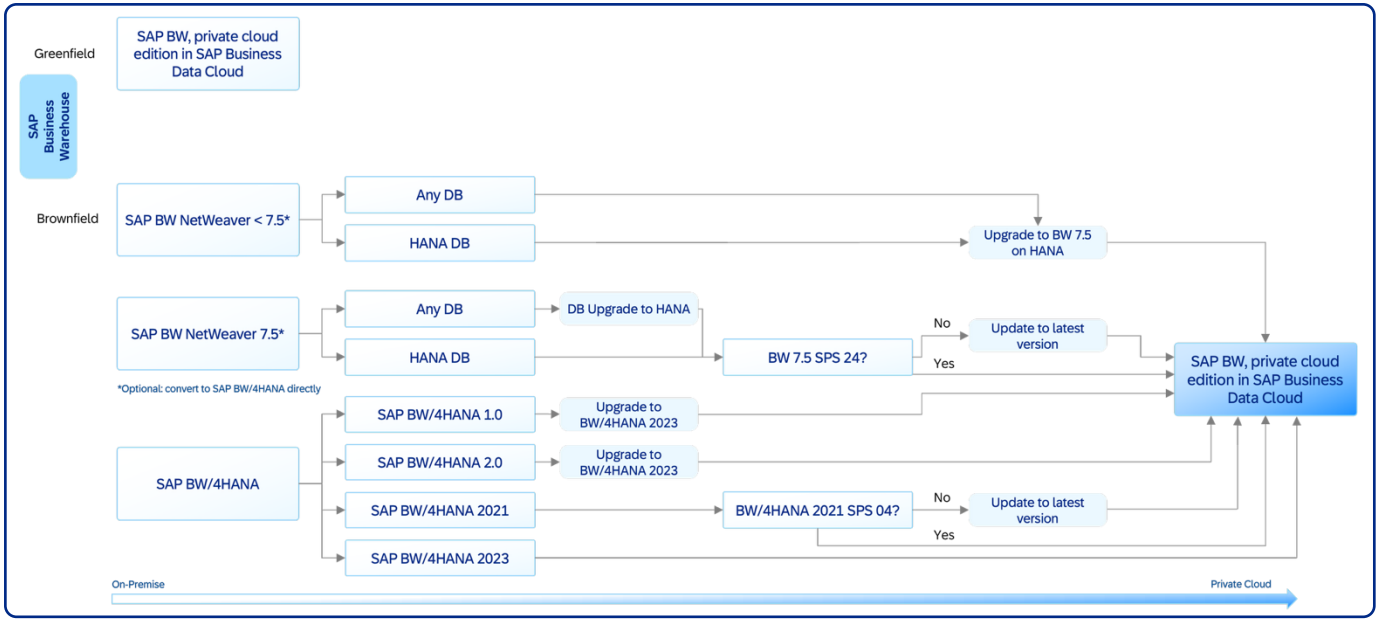
2

Optional: Conversion and lift to SAP BW/4HANA, private cloud edition

- Leverage the benefits introduced with SAP BW/4HANA, e.g. simplicity of modeling objects and enhanced DTO
- Continue with SAP BW/4HANA conversion projects already under way
- Benefit from maintenance support beyond 2030

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive

The Data Product Generator allows to replicate InfoProvider data to the managed Object store of the SAP Datasphere tenant in SAP Business Data Cloud. This data can be consumed in analytical and planning scenarios on top of the SAP Datasphere stack and can be shared shared with SAP Databricks. In the future the Data Product Generator will also create data products out of the InfoProvider data and semantics, and association information will be included.



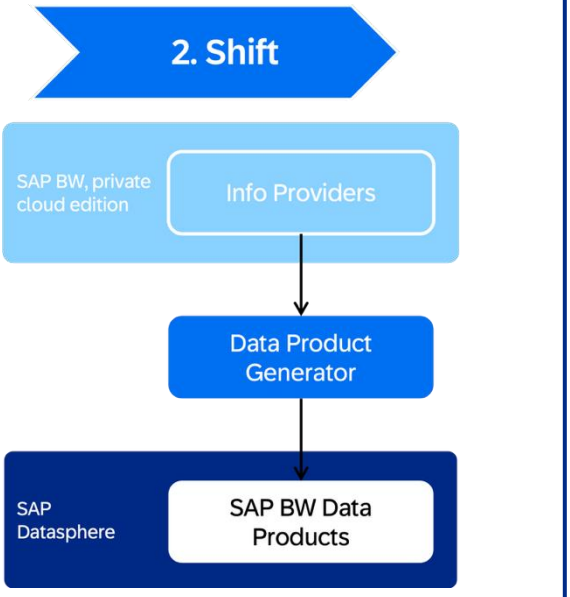
Technical Requirements for using the Data product generator

- SAP BW 7.5 on HANA SPS24+
- SAP BW/4HANA 2021 SP04+

Blog Post
Data Product Generator

Blog Post
End of Maintenance

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive



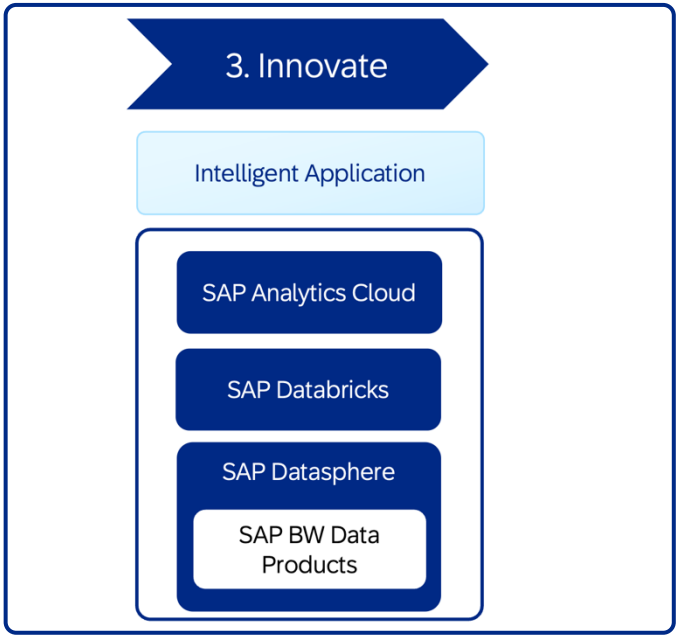
Shift with Data Product Generator

Once your SAP BW has been lifted to the private cloud, you will be able to use the Data Product Generator to make your SAP BW InfoProvider incl. its semantics available in SAP BDC. SAP BDC will then consume your InfoProviders through a Data Product created in the SAP Datasphere object store of SAP BDC based on delta tables / local table files. Data products are data sets that represent business subjects or entities. Data products contain transactional or master data and meta-data that describes the meaning of the data.

Data Product Generator Use Cases

- SAP BW Replacement - The following InfoProviders can be used in a subscription for the Data Product Generator:
  - InfoCubes, Datastore Objects (Classic and Advanced), InfoObjects (Masterdata)
  - Composite Provider, MultiProvider
  - Queries: Query-as-InfoProvider
- New Consumption via SAP Databricks - Zero-copy consumption of your SAP BW data in SAP Databricks

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Deep Dive



Innovate with SAP Datasphere and Intelligent Applications

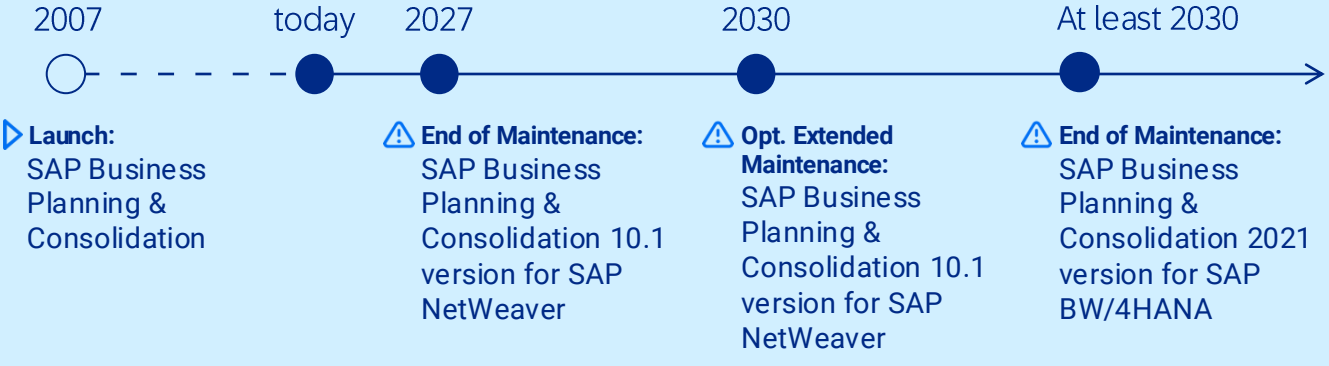
After shifting your SAP BW investment to SAP Business Data Cloud, you will be able to explore SAP-managed data products and Intelligent Applications to see if they could replace existing SAP BW scenarios.

Generating and leveraging SAP BW-generated custom data products, while adopting SAP-managed data products and Intelligent Applications will enable you to decommission your SAP BW system over time.

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Business Planning & Consolidation

Currently, many businesses rely on SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) for planning and financial consolidation. With the maintenance strategy timelines, continuing with SAP BPC poses increasing risks related to compliance, security, and innovation. This section outlines the transformation journey to SAP Business Data Cloud and presents the strategic options.

Timeline for SAP Business Planning & Consolidation on premise



Product	Built on	Maintenance
SAP BPC 10.1 version for SAP NetWeaver	SAP BW 7.5	31.12.2027 (Opt. Extended Maintenance: 31.12.2030) Product Availability Matrix
SAP BPC 2021 version for SAP BW/4HANA	SAP BW/4HANA 2021	31.12.2030 Product Availability Matrix
	SAP BW/4HANA 2023	31.12.2030 Product Availability Matrix

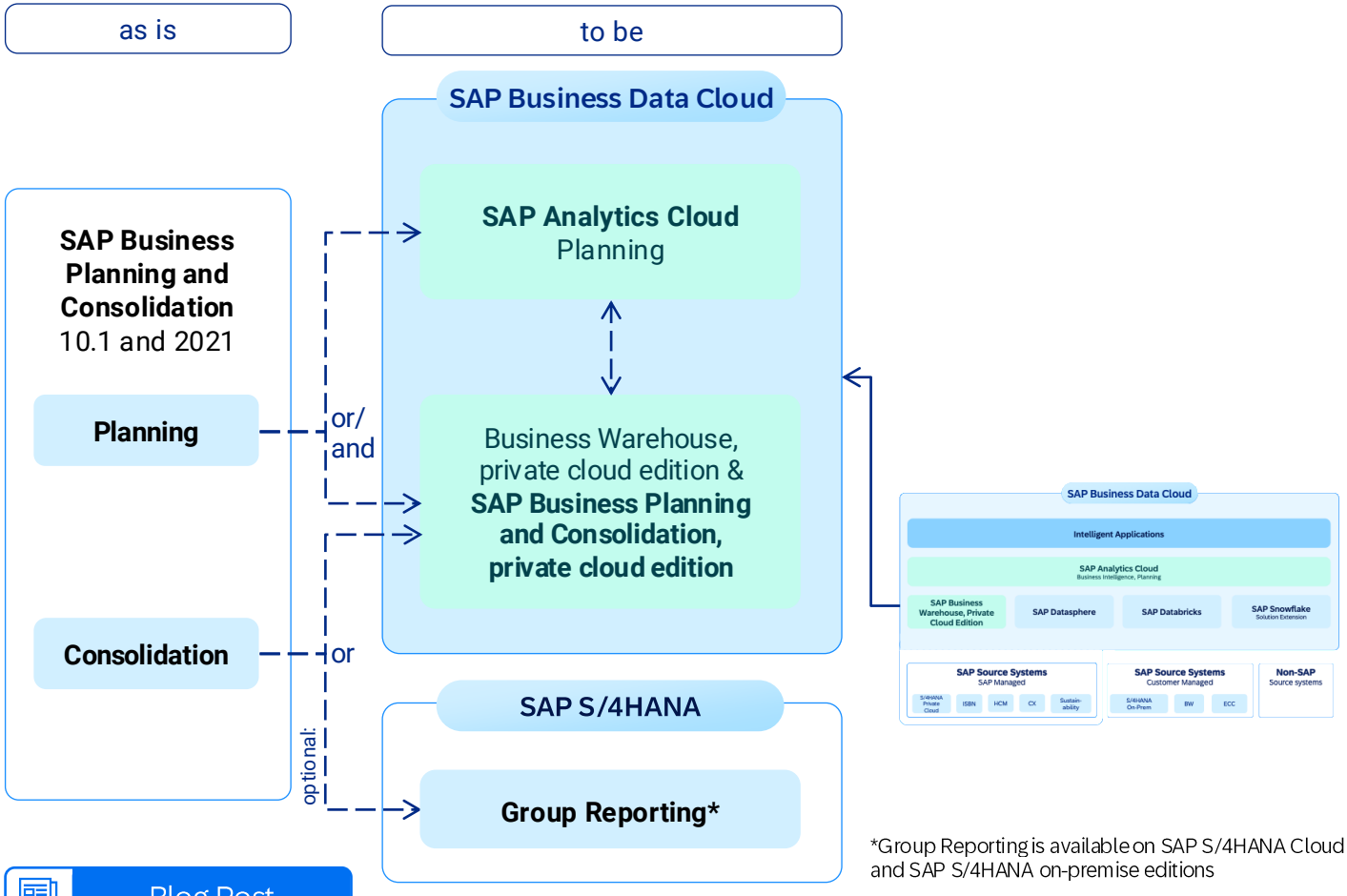
In general: The BPC product which supports the SAP BW/4HANA product line will be aligned with the SAP S/4HANA maintenance extension and will be maintained until at least 2040 → There will always be a corresponding SAP BPC/4HANA product version which supports the latest SAP BW/4HANA release.

Blog Post

End of Maintenance

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Business Planning & Consolidation

This section outlines potential approaches to transition towards SAP Business Data Cloud as the future-state landscape. The figure illustrates the SAP Business Data Cloud components that play a key role in the SAP Business Planning & Consolidation (BPC) transition.

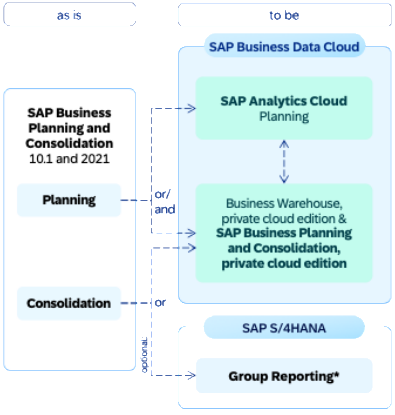


*Group Reporting is available on SAP S/4HANA Cloud and SAP S/4HANA on-premise editions

Blog Post

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Business Planning & Consolidation

There are three possible scenarios for transitioning SAP Business Planning and Consolidation to SAP Business Data Cloud. Each scenario is described in detail in the subsequent section.



3 Transition Scenario options

a Move to SAP Analytics Cloud Planning (Greenfield)

Planning use cases can be moved from SAP Business Planning and Consolidation into SAP Analytics Cloud (Re-implementation). SAP BDC Components such as SAP BW PCE and/or SAP Datasphere as possible cloud data sources. SAP BPC systems stays on-premise and can be phased out after Re-implementation completion.

b Complement with SAP Analytics Cloud Planning

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation can be moved into SAP BPC, private cloud edition of SAP Business Data Cloud architecture. SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC) can be used as a planning/forecasting data entry UX and as well for data analysis. SAP BPC PCE, SAP Datasphere or SAP BW PCE can be used as one of many cloud data sources for SAC.

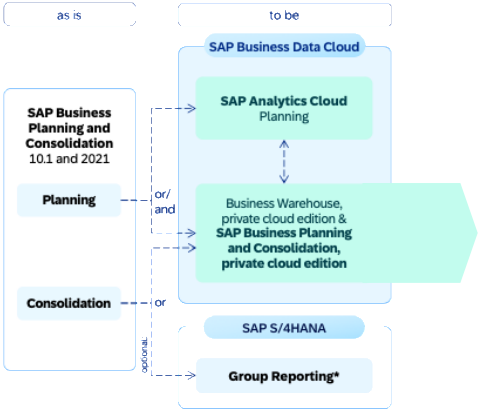
c Hybrid Transition

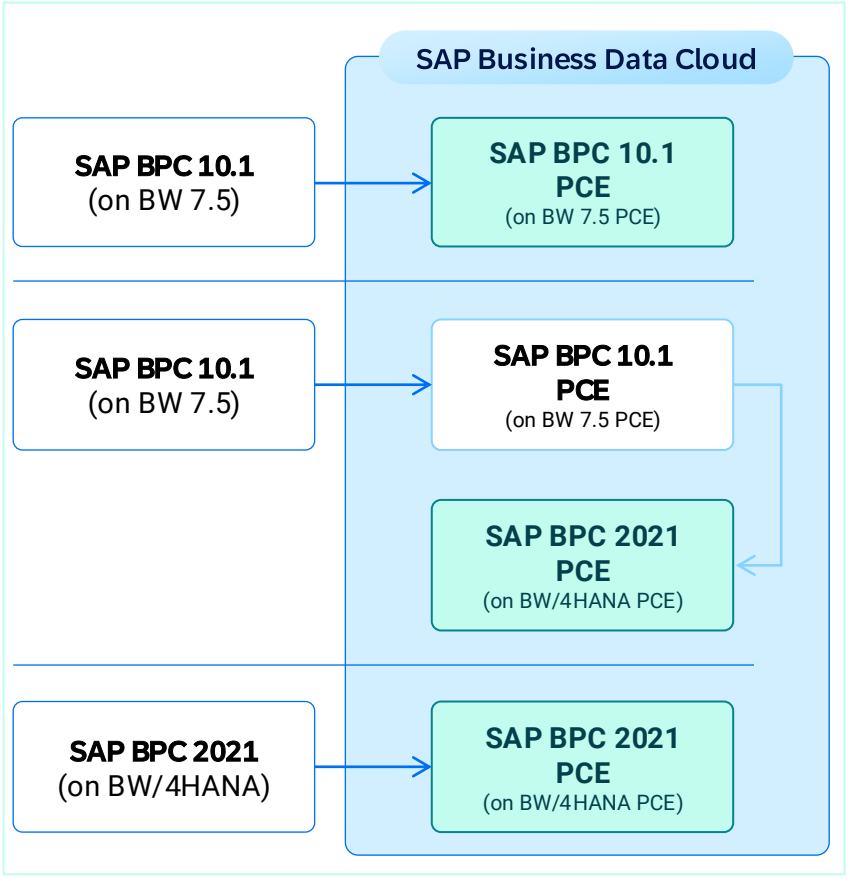
SAP Business Planning and Consolidation can be moved into SAP BPC, private cloud edition of SAP Business Data Cloud architecture. SAP Analytics Cloud can be introduced gradually, not only as front-end, but also as a planning engine, allowing phased transition.

Blog Post

8 SAP Business Warehouse Modernization: Business Planning & Consolidation

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation can be moved into SAP BPC, private cloud edition (PCE) of SAP BDC architecture. This move is supported for SAP BPC 10.1 version for NetWeaver as well as SAP BPC 2021 version for BW/4HANA:





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SAP Note 3308697
Contact movebpc@sap.com

Blog Post

9 Implementing SAP Business Data Cloud: A Step-by-Step Guide

Activate Methodology | Further Links | Expert Guide

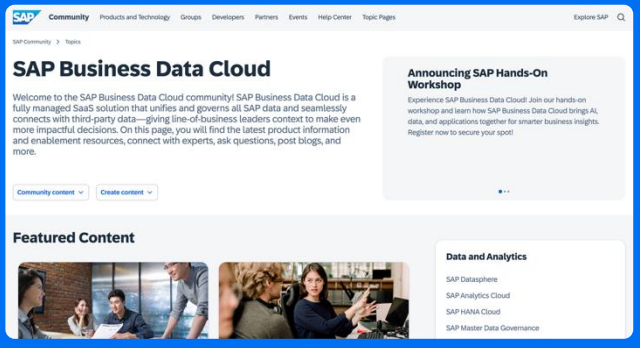
SAP Activate Methodology for SAP Business Data Cloud is intended to guide the implementation team through the Transition to SAP Business Data Cloud and provides a clear adoption process of structured and solution-specific best practices

The roadmap is comprised of six phases, multiple deliverables, and tasks which are enriched with accelerators such as links to important information and additional guides.

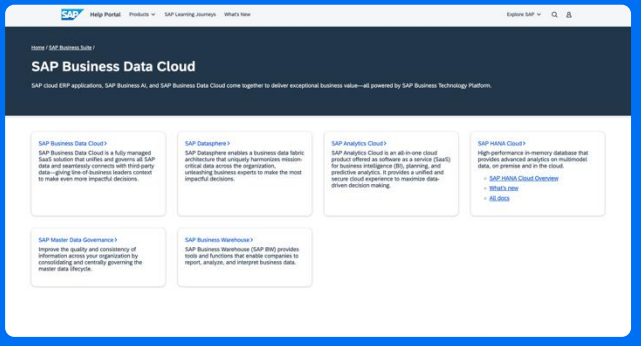
Roadmap

9 Implementing SAP Business Data Cloud: A Step-by-Step Guide

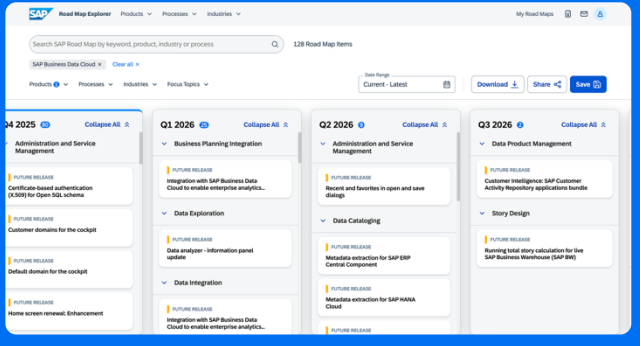
SAP Community Page



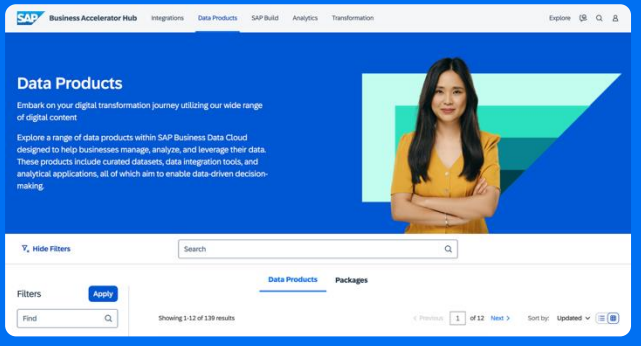
SAP Help Page



Roadmap Explorer



Business Accelerator Hub



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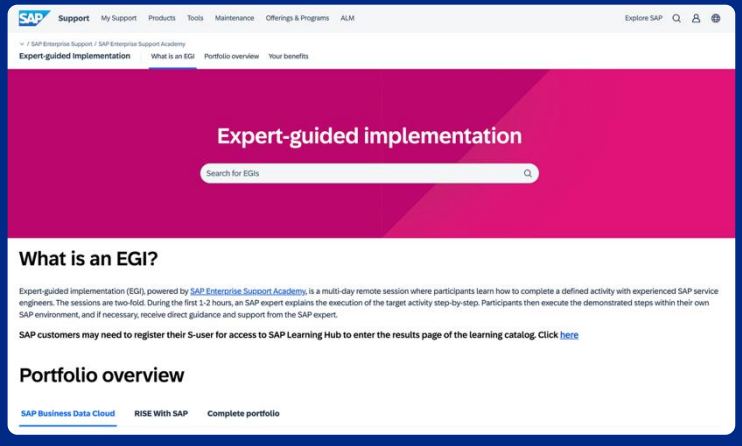
9 Implementing SAP Business Data Cloud: A Step-by-Step Guide

Activate Methodology | Further Links | Expert Guide

Expert-guided implementation (EGI), powered by SAP Enterprise Support Academy, is a multi-day remote session where participants learn how to complete a defined activity with experienced SAP service engineers. The sessions are two-fold. During the first 1-2 hours, an SAP expert explains the execution of the target activity step-by-step. Participants then execute the demonstrated steps within their own SAP environment, and if necessary, receive direct guidance and support from the SAP expert. For SAP Enterprise Support customers.



Expert-guided implementation

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