

SAP® BusinessObjects™ PLANNING AND CONSOLIDATION

VERSION FOR THE MICROSOFT PLATFORM

Transforming your organization into a more agile, aligned, and forward-looking enterprise requires an application that leverages open, scalable technology and integration between data, processes, and people. For the many organizations that need high usability and adaptability in their performance management solutions, improving performance must begin with choosing the right technology.

Introduce Order into Business Planning

Business planning is often a chaotic, frustrating, and ineffective process. Budgeting can quickly deteriorate into a “spreadsheet nightmare” when operations managers submit unrealistic budgets, executives change figures without the operations managers’ knowledge, and version-control problems spin out of control. Statutory consolidations can be equally problematic when data is distributed across different departments, systems, and countries. Separate applications for planning and financial consolidations can introduce inconsistent levels of detail and mismatched data elements and increase deployment time.

The SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, provides planning, budgeting, and forecasting functionality together with consolidated financial reporting to facilitate compliance with statutory and management requirements. The software utilizes native Microsoft Office application interfaces, providing business users with

access to a familiar software environment to further boost productivity. The application is also available as a version for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform.

With SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, all business rules, metadata, data, and deep processing power are delivered in one application. You get support for:

- Business planning – Budgeting and planning for sales and revenue, capital expenditures, headcount and staffing, expenses, and cash flow
- Forecasting – Rolling forecasts, continuous planning, and collaboration
- Consolidation – Intercompany matching and reconciliation, intercompany eliminations, currency translation, allocations, and management and legal consolidation
- Financial reporting and analysis – Ad hoc reporting and driver analysis (for example, industry, growth, and capacity)

Key features of the application include:

- Business process flows to help complete work consistently across the enterprise, thereby improving budget cycle times and accuracy
- Use of familiar desktop tools such as Microsoft Office (including Microsoft Excel) to accelerate adoption by business users
- Intelligent action panes to guide business users through the application, driving productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness

SAP offers a unified planning and consolidation application that helps streamline planning, budgeting, and forecasting and deliver a faster, more compliant financial close. The application leverages familiar Microsoft Office tools, including Microsoft Excel as a primary interface.





- Automated consolidation functions that facilitate compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and financial reporting requirements and organizations – including GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- Harmonized charts of accounts and automation of manual processes to enable you to work with greater accuracy and close the books faster
- A complete audit trail to reduce time and costs

The application is one of the SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management (EPM) solutions that can help your company capitalize on the value of your existing data assets. Your organization can become more agile and gain organizational alignment and visibility to give you greater confidence, optimal control, and competitive advantage.

Architecture

Built on a modern service-oriented architecture (SOA), SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, can be readily incorporated by IT departments with existing infrastructure standards. The application allows other SOA-based technologies to make calls to and from its services. It works with your existing financial and operational data, including unstructured data. It runs on Microsoft Windows and is accessible through your Web browser or custom portal. The application is:

- User-focused
- Process-oriented
- Unified to support planning and consolidation operations in a single application

Technical Advantages and Benefits

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, takes advantage of the following technical architecture (see the figure):

- A powerful Web server that provides a reliable, manageable, and scalable Web-based infrastructure
- An industrial-strength relational database that can efficiently process high volumes of critical performance data
- An online analytical processing engine that gives users the ability to quickly retrieve, organize, aggregate, and present multidimensional data in real time
- A client for “zero footprint” collaboration, data collection, budgeting, reporting, analysis, and report distribution
- A native interface to Microsoft Excel, as well as to Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint
- A tool that automates routines for extracting, transforming, and loading data from heterogeneous sources

New and Enhanced Features

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation 7.5, version for the Microsoft platform, includes the following new features:

- Integration with SAP BusinessObjects business intelligence (BI) solutions – Leverage Xcelsius® software to create highly interactive dashboards using data from SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation; allow users to create ad hoc reports over the Web using SAP BusinessObjects

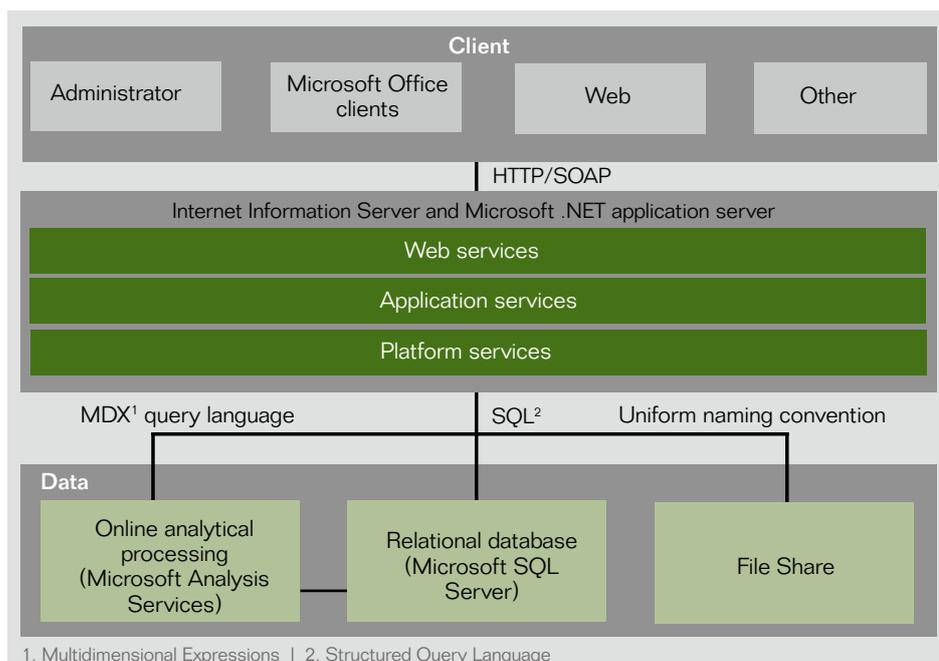


Figure: Architecture

Web Intelligence® software; deliver an intuitive interface for exploring data and charts using SAP BusinessObjects Explorer software, and more¹

- Support for the SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management application – Utilize SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management to load data into SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation; SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management provides extensive connectivity to SAP and non-SAP applications, as well as between SAP BusinessObjects EPM solutions²
- Enhanced business process flows (BPFs) – Enable contributors and reviewers to reopen completed or closed steps and reset specific BPF instances
- Microsoft Excel client enhancements – Fully leverage the Excel ribbon for quicker, easier access to menus and tools
- Easier-to-use business rule editor – Right-click to copy, cut, paste, and delete business rule syntax; leverage easier-to-read business rule definitions; and more
- Script logic enhancements – Utilize new logic debugger to test and debug logic files before executing and take advantage of updates to the logic assistant that make it easier to configure and run logic functions
- New extensible business reporting language (XBRL) functionality – Use the SAP BusinessObjects XBRL Publishing application by UBmatrix for faster, easier compliance with evolving regulatory requirements³

Available Languages

The languages supported include simplified Chinese, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, and Swedish.

Requirements

The following technical specifications are required when you plan to run SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation 7.5, version for the Microsoft platform. The lists include the software that must be installed on the server and on the client.

Server Software

The following are requirements for your server software:

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 or 2008
- Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) 6.0 or 7.0
- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5
- Microsoft XML Core Services (MSXML) 3.0 SP1, MSXML 4.0 SP2
- Visual Basic 6 and Visual C++ run-time libraries
- Microsoft Anti-Cross Site Scripting Library⁴
- Xceed Zip Compression Library, a product of Xceed Software Inc.⁴
- ADOMD.NET 8.02
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005 or 2008
- Microsoft Analysis Services 2005 or 2008
- Microsoft SQL Server Information Services 2005 or 2008
- Microsoft Reporting Services 2005 or 2008

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Client Software

The following are requirements for your client software:

- Microsoft Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Windows 7⁵
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 through 8.0
- Visual Basic 6 and Visual C++ run-time libraries
- Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007
- MSXML 3.0 SP1, MSXML 4.0 SP2
- Microsoft .NET 2.0
- Xceed Zip Compression Library⁴

Authentication

Microsoft Active Directory is a requirement for authentication.

For More Information

For more information about SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, please contact your SAP representative or visit www.sap.com/solutions/sapbusinessobjects/large/enterprise-performance-management/planningandconsolidation.

1. Requires licensing of the SAP® BusinessObjects™ BI solutions

2. Requires licensing of the SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management application

3. Requires licensing of the SAP BusinessObjects XBRL Publishing application by UBmatrix

4. Installed prior to the installation of SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation; available from SAP

5. Support for Windows 7.0 planned for delivery in a service pack of SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation 7.5, subject to change

Summary

The SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, brings agility to planning processes by helping you plan, budget, and forecast more quickly and effectively. With embedded support for financial consolidation, the software facilitates compliance with regulatory and financial reporting requirements.

Business Challenges

- Accelerate cycle time for planning and budgeting and increase business user productivity
- Improve the accuracy of planning and forecasting
- Model potential business strategies and decide on a course of action that maximizes value creation
- Streamline the statutory consolidation process
- Keep compliance and auditing costs down

Key Features

- **Business planning and budgeting** – Support top-down and bottom-up planning and budgeting, leading to timely, more accurate plans aligned with strategic goals
- **Forecasting** – Enable continuous planning and rolling forecasts to meet rapidly changing business conditions
- **Reporting and analysis** – Generate production and management reports (including exception reports) on the fly
- **Consolidation** – Fulfill legal and management consolidation and reporting requirements for a faster, more compliant close

Business Benefits

- **Reduce cycle time** in creating and approving budgets by enabling finance and line-of-business managers to collaborate to align budgets
- **Increase planning agility and accuracy** via a unified solution that supports continuous planning, rapid re-forecasting, and standard business processes
- **Empower business users to own and modify common business processes without IT assistance** via a solution they can maintain themselves
- **Increase business user productivity** with native access to familiar tools such as Microsoft Office
- **Minimize business and compliance risk** by enabling transparent financial reporting with a fully documented audit trail from a single data repository

For More Information

Call your SAP representative or visit us online at

www.sap.com/solutions/sapbusinessobjects/large/enterprise-performance-management/planningandconsolidation.

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