

## CONNECTIVITY, MAPPING, AND LOADING FOR BUSINESS USERS

### MAXIMIZE PRODUCTIVITY AND MINIMIZE THE COST OF COMPLIANCE

As the role of the CFO evolves to be more strategic, there's an ever-growing need for reliable, transparent, and repeatable data quality management. But managing financial information has proven to be challenging for the majority of organizations. In most cases, the data needed by enterprise performance management applications resides in multiple, heterogeneous source systems and general ledgers distributed throughout the enterprise. Accessing, mapping, verifying, and loading financial information presents a serious logistical challenge – often, resulting in manual reentry or the use of intermediate text files. These processes are not only labor-intensive, but also lead to poor data quality and inaccurate results.

You need a reliable, transparent, and repeatable financial information management process to maximize productivity, achieve transparency, minimize the cost of compliance, and increase overall confidence in financial results. That's why SAP offers the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Financial Information Management application, which provides powerful data connectivity, mapping, and loading functionality designed for business users. Now you can enable finance users to access and load information from source systems so everyone works with trusted data – while simultaneously facilitating compliance reporting.

#### **Achieving Financial Data Quality – From Source to Report**

With SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management, finance professionals can manage the process of

accessing, mapping, and loading information from source systems to the SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation application. The software combines ease of use with functionality that facilitates full compliance, builds trust, and helps ensure data reliability – from source to disclosure.

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management provides extensive connectivity to SAP and non-SAP applications. As a result, you gain robust data collection capabilities combined with strong finance controls, data validation functions, and comprehensive auditability, thereby helping to ensure the delivery of quality financial data.

#### **Ease of Use for Business Users**

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management acts as a staging room for all financial data across the enterprise. Finance business users can maintain sophisticated data mappings for any number of SAP and non-SAP applications, launch loading tasks at will, and monitor task execution in real time – directly from their desktops. Your central finance team defines the reporting framework and rules, and business users can see only the package loading tasks and target dimension members for which they have authorization.

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management is fully integrated with SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation, which makes it easier to map your data, accounts, and dimensions directly to the consolidated chart of accounts. Intuitive, Web-based dialogs help ensure that mappings are valid

The SAP® BusinessObjects™ Financial Information Management application helps reduce the risk, cost, and effort of collecting, mapping, and loading enterprise data into consolidation software. Now you can integrate directly with data sources, help ensure data loads correctly, and facilitate compliance reporting.



without the need for manual coding. The following sections describe additional features of the application.

### **Simplified Mapping**

Simplify mapping by selecting targets from automatically generated, drop-down pick lists available in a spreadsheet-like mapping area. Options in pick lists are pulled directly from your financial consolidation software, and users can only see options for which they have authorization.

### **Mapping Rules for Automation**

Create mapping rules to automate entry patterns, such as wildcards and complex expressions. Rather than having to create and maintain countless individual rules, you can create one rule that applies to a broad set of data.

### **Mapping Data Reuse**

Reuse mapping data contained in spreadsheets to simplify the configuration of SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management. You can paste individual cells, columns, or entire rows or grids directly from Microsoft Excel.

### **Multiple Target-Dimension Mapping**

Map accounts to multiple target dimensions by selecting up to six sources and targets per mapping. Now you can dissect each general ledger account so that data can be mapped in a one-to-many, many-to-one, or one-to-one fashion.

### **Package Loading Option Specification**

You can also specify package loading options, which further demonstrates the depth of the integration between SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management and SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation. For

example, when loading packages, you can choose to:

- Aggregate amounts
- Run package rules and controls
- Filter by dimension to specify specific data for loading to a category scenario (such as a budget or actual), reporting unit, or reporting period

### **Compliance, Trust, and Reliability**

As data is mapped, the software creates an automated and easily accessible audit trail for every data move. You can capture full mapping details, including the “from” and “to” values with time stamps for all affected dimensions. In addition, the audit trail tracks all launch and load task details, including task name, start and end time stamps, user, status, and detailed task feedback.

Once data from your source systems is fed into SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation, you can click any consolidated number in a report and instantly drill back to source data in SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management. This functionality, which is available through both Web and desktop clients, allows you to view the breakdown of data at a more detailed level – such as the subaccount level – than is stored in the consolidation application. You can also trace an aggregate amount across all contributing loading tasks.

Comprehensive validations in SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management help ensure that error-prone data is loaded correctly the first time. The software automatically detects invalid mappings and missing dimensions and performs custom validations. During actual loading,

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation also performs data validation activities; using intelligent checks, filters, and automated rules, the application facilitates compliance with the centrally defined reporting framework that you define.

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management also maintains a secure environment for data mapping and movement. The application is driven by user profiles, so each user has specific authorizations regarding which data they can map and to where. Users can also view their own audit trail, complete with mapping and load histories. If you are an audit user, you can see everyone’s audit history. Because the audit trail history contains sensitive information, IT users such as administrators may not be able to view audit trails.

### **Extensive Connectivity to SAP and Non-SAP Applications**

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management can support the connectivity needs of large multinational businesses with thousands of reporting entities – each with data scattered across dozens of different source systems. The application comes with – and is fully integrated with – the SAP BusinessObjects Data Integrator software, a market-leading data integration tool. You can integrate directly with heterogeneous application and database sources such as your general ledger and map data contained within them directly to your data model. Because you no longer need to use intermediate, flat files or manually rekey data in order to “move” data, the software saves time, reduces integration costs, and helps reduce the potential for human error.

### Examples of Application Connectivity

- SAP® Business Suite software
- SAP NetWeaver® Business Warehouse component
- J.D. Edwards software
- Oracle applications
- PeopleSoft software
- Siebel software

### Examples of Database Connectivity

- Oracle
- DB2
- Sybase
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Informix
- Teradata
- Netezza

The software also supports predefined, SAP BusinessObjects Rapid Marts® packages that speed implementation, lower costs, and facilitate compliance. Rapid marts complement adaptors by providing packaged, powerful, and flexible data integration content. They enable you to instantly leverage SAP's domain knowledge, best practices, and prebuilt data models, as well as transformation logic and data extraction expertise for both SAP and non-SAP data sources – including Oracle applications. You also gain complete visibility into data lineage; for example, you can trace data back to its source and view transformations and applied rules.

### Key Benefits

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management frees you and your team from the worries associated with data management – so you can focus on more strategic enterprise performance management activities. You benefit from:

- **Greater confidence in your financial data** – both in your department and across the enterprise; eliminate risks by helping to ensure data integrity as you collect, map, and move data
- **Lower compliance costs** – by standardizing processes, automatically generating comprehensive audit trails, and enabling complete process transparency across the enterprise
- **Higher staff productivity in the finance department** – because there's no need to use intermediate, flat files or manually rekey data to “move” it; replace these time-consuming, error-prone activities with efficient, direct importation of data
- **More accurate, consistent information delivery** – both to financial and reporting software, as well as applications used by other departments, operating units, and subsidiaries
- **Faster reporting, reduced closing cycles, and shorter audit time frames** – by leveraging automation to support daily activities, standardizing processes, and getting accurate, trusted information into your consolidation software without sacrificing data quality

### Part of SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Performance Management Solutions

SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management is part of the SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management solutions – a comprehensive set of solutions that help your company capitalize on the value of your existing data assets. With these solutions, your organization can become more agile, gaining organizational alignment, visibility, and confidence, which gives you optimal control and competitive advantage.

These solutions can work with the SAP Business Suite software; SAP BusinessObjects governance, risk, and compliance solutions; SAP BusinessObjects business intelligence solutions; and SAP BusinessObjects information management solutions. As a result you can maximize business profitability, manage risk and compliance, and optimize corporate systems, people, and processes.

For more information on how SAP BusinessObjects Financial Information Management can help your company, contact your local SAP representative or visit us online at [www.sap.com/epm](http://www.sap.com/epm).

When financial data resides in multiple, heterogeneous source systems and general ledgers, accessing, mapping, verifying, and loading it requires manual reentry or the use of intermediate text files.

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## Summary

Most businesses still rely on manual, error-prone processes to collect, map, and move data into their consolidation software. With the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Financial Information Management application, you can take the risk, cost, and effort out of these activities. It integrates directly with data sources – both SAP and non-SAP – and validates that data loads correctly into the SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation application.

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## Business Challenges

- Lack of confidence in consolidated financial numbers and reporting
- Extended or slow closing cycle times
- Rising compliance costs

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## Key Features

- **Data collection** – Connect to source general ledger applications – both SAP and non-SAP – to move data directly into the SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation application
- **Mapping** – Use intuitive, Web-based dialogs to define and maintain sophisticated data mappings, create mapping rules, and map accounts to multiple target dimensions
- **Loading** – Launch loading tasks at will and monitor task execution in real time – directly from user desktops
- **Audit trail creation and reporting** – Automatically generate detailed mapping and loading histories for each user and click any consolidated number to instantly drill back to source data
- **Security** – Give business users permission to access only the data needed to perform daily tasks

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## Business Benefits

- **Increased confidence in financial data** by reducing data integrity risk when collecting, mapping, and moving data
- **Reduced compliance costs** by standardizing processes, automatically generating audit trails, and enabling process transparency
- **Increased productivity of finance staff** by replacing manual activities with efficient, direct importation of data
- **More accurate, consistent information delivery** to other financial and reporting software
- **Faster reporting, reduced closing cycles, and shorter audit time frames** through streamlined financial consolidations and reporting processes

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## For More Information

Contact your local SAP representative or visit us online at [www.sap.com/epm](http://www.sap.com/epm).

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