SAP Solution Brief
Solution Extensions

SAP Application Visualization

Accelerate Requirements Validation with Interactive Visualizations

Quick Facts

Summary

Capturing clear, accurate requirements for software development projects is a notoriously difficult process. But it doesn't have to be. With the SAP® Application Visualization software by iRise, a leading enterprise visualization solution, you can help business and IT communicate better, define a shared vision, and reduce the risk of costly project overruns during development.

Business Challenges

- Lack of business-IT alignment on requirements
- Projects stuck in blueprint stages
- Out-of-control development activities
- Cost overruns

Key Features

- **Creation of working software visualizations** – Quickly construct visualizations of solutions using reusable content and templates
- **Closed-loop review processes** – Capture meaningful feedback from stakeholders to validate business requirements and user interfaces
- **Validated "pictures" of requirements for developers** – Empower developers to execute on projects by providing well-validated visualizations of requirements
- **Jump-start for test script development** – Use visualizations of requirements to create test scripts during any phase of the development process

Business Benefits

- **Reduce costs** by accelerating requirements validation and user acceptance and reducing rework
- **Increase productivity** by fully validating requirements and usability of the proposed design
- **Improve quality** via a thorough validation of business requirements by stakeholders
- **Drive continuous improvement** by accessing original visualizations and adapting them to meet evolving requirements
- **Boost self-sufficiency** with the ability to trace requirements from their initial development, through all aspects of change

For More Information

Call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sap.com/solutions/solutionextensions/index.epx.

Validating requirements for complex SAP® software implementation projects and changes to productive systems has never been easy. The biggest challenge is to align business and IT so that everyone understands what's needed and why. SAP Application Visualization software by iRise can help by enabling business analysts and functional experts to collaborate and quickly create a working preview of the solution.

It's no surprise that business requirements for software development projects and changes often get lost in translation. Words and spreadsheets just aren't enough to capture the intricacies of complex functionality, user interface preferences, and processes. And businesspeople and developers often have trouble interpreting written requirements and visualizing how the words on a page will be turned into a working application. In the end, stakeholders end up signing off on requirements that they think they understand – but aren't fully validated until the solution is delivered. This results in costly rework, project delays, and lost competitiveness and time to market. In today's economy, who can afford that?

VISUALIZE SAP SOLUTIONS IN HOURS, NOT WEEKS OR MONTHS

SAP Application Visualization enables you to rapidly create an integrated, interactive view of an entire solution design, or parts of it, depending upon your needs. These visualizations help you illustrate to stakeholders how standard and nonstandard elements of SAP and partner software would look and interact as part of a new or production landscape. This working preview, which can be completed in a matter of hours, encompasses integrated workflows, interfaces to existing solutions, and custom requirements. The visualization looks and behaves exactly like the desired solution so that stakeholders can "test-drive" and fully experience the proposed vision for the application design and provide feedback before any expensive coding takes place.

The end result is a complete "picture" of requirements that anyone can understand and helps ensure that business and IT are fully aligned around what's needed and how to execute on it. In most cases, business analysts and functional experts can learn and master the software functionality in less than a day.

SAP Application Visualization is delivered through a bundle of three components:

- **Studio** – This tool allows "authors" to create visualizations that bring their business requirements to life and share their vision with colleagues during all phases of the application management lifecycle.
- **Definition center** – The definition center acts as the hub for collaboration. Reviewers can interact with and fully experience the SAP software visualization using standard Web browsers and leave comments directly on the screens they are reviewing. Comments are collected and managed by the server for easy, secure access by analysts.
- **Reader** – Similar to Acrobat Reader, this tool allows stakeholders to review the visualizations in a fully interactive manner – exactly the same as if they were connected to the definition center. Reviewers can leave comments and view simulation guides.

Rapidly Create a Working Visualization of Software

To accelerate the construction of visualizations, SAP offers reusable content add-ons for core SAP products, as well as cross-application templates for general features, such as user interface components. For example, SAP currently offers reusable content for the SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SAP SRM) application, including:

- A comprehensive set of preconfigured scenarios
- Page templates
- Masters and styles for screens and workflows

This content can be leveraged to visualize configurations, extensions, and integrations early in the blueprint phase of an SAP SRM project, dramatically speeding up cycle times and improving quality. You can also create your own reusable content and leverage it across phased programs and global projects, as well as support your unique branding requirements.

Facilitate a Closed-Loop Review Process with Stakeholders

Using a standard Web browser, stakeholders can "experience" fully simulated solution designs, including the user interface, data interactions, and business logic provided by SAP and non-SAP applications **before** development work begins. Because these visualizations behave exactly like the final software solution, they drive meaningful feedback and collaboration regarding the accuracy of captured business requirements. For example, project teams can define review workflows, and stakeholders can comment on screens, direct their comments to one or more people, and centrally manage and track the review process from start to finish.

This closed-loop review process is especially helpful when designing user interfaces and solutions that will require a change to end-user behavior. Using SAP Application Visualization, you can gather feedback from end users early in the project and make changes that will increase user acceptance and adoption.

Empower Developers to Execute on Requirements with Confidence

SAP Application Visualization empowers developers – including external partners – to execute swiftly and with confidence on validated requirements. Rather than reading through cryptic written requirements as their only source of direction, developers can look at and interact with a visualization of a business requirement. Better understanding what needs to be built helps developers ensure that the first iteration of a solution or software change is right on target with stakeholder expectations.

Close collaboration between business and IT early in the solution definition process means that requirements are understood, agreed upon, and fully validated before coding begins, minimizing late-stage fluctuations in requirements. This saves time and money during project realization. Developers can also reuse solution design artifacts, such as business requirement definitions, across multiphased or multicountry programs, minimizing costly rework at each phase.

Jump-Start Test Script Development

Software visualizations are not only effective as proof point, development support, and change management tools, they also help quality assurance teams visualize an end-to-end test script. Your quality assurance team can leverage the visualizations you create to make test scripts at any phase of the development process – even as developers are building code – through the SAP Quality Center application by HP. Visualizations are stored in the SAP Solution Manager application management solution and then flagged as requirements for transfer to SAP Quality Center. These visualizations are then used in the test script and test scenario development process.

BOTTOM-LINE BENEFITS

With SAP Application Visualization, you can support the alignment of business and IT throughout the solution design process and realize:

- **Reduced costs:** The software accelerates requirements validation and user acceptance, enabling faster solution development while reducing costly rework.
- **Increased productivity:** By fully validating business requirements and usability, you can accelerate adoption and realize expected gains in end-user productivity sooner rather than later.
- **Improved quality:** SAP Application Visualization improves quality by driving a more thorough validation of business requirements by key stakeholders, enabling you to proactively discover inconsistencies, address gaps, and help ensure that the final product meets everyone's needs.
- **Continuous improvement:** As business needs change, you can easily access original visualizations and adapt them to meet new or changing requirements.
- **Self-sufficiency and freedom to focus on core competencies:** After your third-party implementation team leaves, you own the visualizations created using SAP Application Visualization and can access them at any time. So you not only get a complete set of documentation for your current solution, but also the visualization tools needed to document new requirements as your needs change.

A VENDOR-NEUTRAL TOOL

SAP® Application Visualization software by iRise is designed to create visualizations of any type of application, regardless of vendor. You can also create standardized libraries of your own graphics that can be reused across visualizations.

FIND OUT MORE

If you can dream it, SAP Application Visualization can help you document it, share it with others, and validate associated requirements so developers can build it. To learn more, contact your SAP representative or visit our Web site at www.sap.com/solutions/solutionextensions/index.epx.

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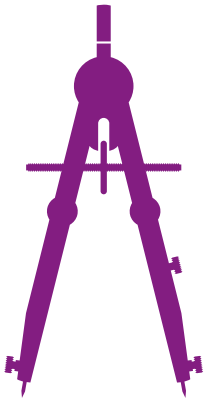

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