SAP Solution Brief
SAP Discovery System

Exploring Possibilities: Preconfigured Landscape Helps You Evaluate SAP® Software

Quick Facts

Summary

The SAP® Discovery system provides a convenient environment in which you can explore the newest SAP software and technology: the latest release of the SAP ERP application, the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform, SAP BusinessObjects™ solutions, mobile apps, the SAP Customer Relationship Management application, and components that can simplify integration with SAP HANA® appliance software (sold separately). It's an ideal tool for discovering how SAP software can help you meet the challenges you face.

Business Challenges

- Understand functionality of SAP software and technologies before you deploy them
- Evaluate the applicability of SAP products quickly and at a low cost
- Demonstrate proof of concept with software and technologies, without the expense of full-scale software deployment
- Educate internal personnel on the latest SAP software and technologies
- Model new business processes and integration scenarios before a merger or acquisition

Key Features

- **Risk management** – Minimize uncertainty by exploring SAP applications and technologies before an upgrade or new deployment
- **Business development** – Build a proof of concept to demonstrate how SAP products can support your business processes
- **Employee training** – Enable your business and technical professionals to "test-drive" SAP products before using them in a production environment

Business Benefits

- **Minimized risk** due to preliminary exploration of SAP products in the context of your own enterprise
- **Reduced costs** by working in a test environment that is delivered on premise or as a cloud-based virtual appliance
- **Accelerated implementation** through an understanding of SAP software and technologies
- **Innovation without disruption,** made possible with a preconfigured landscape ready for exploration

For More Information

Call your SAP representative, e-mail us at discoverysystem@sap.com, or visit www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/discoverysystem.

Do you need to see – or do you need others to see – how an SAP® application or SAP software upgrade can help you meet the specific challenges your organization is facing? Companies of all sizes rely on SAP software to resolve their most pressing business challenges: coordinating operational processes, accelerating innovation, optimizing business performance, and empowering users to make effective and informed decisions. And SAP software has proven repeatedly how well it can meet these challenges.

But how do you convince decision makers that an SAP product or upgrade can meet your specific needs? How can you train employees on the latest tools without disrupting operations? How can you develop a prototype without investing in hardware and software? The easiest, fastest, and least expensive way is to use the SAP Discovery system, available on premise or in the cloud.

A RISK-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR DISCOVERY

The SAP Discovery system bundles hardware, software, and content to enable you to evaluate and demonstrate the benefits of the newest SAP applications and technologies. It offers a preconfigured and preinstalled SAP software landscape to support innovation and exploration, serving as an ideal tool for evaluating SAP applications within the context of your enterprise and the challenges you face. Just some of the applications you can evaluate include the SAP ERP application, the unified SAP NetWeaver® technology platform, the SAP NetWeaver Business Process Management component, the SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment (SAP NetWeaver CE) offering, SAP BusinessObjects™ tools, mobile apps, and the SAP Customer Relationship Management application. Built-in components for the SAP HANA® platform simplify integration with SAP HANA appliance software, which is sold separately.[1]

Also new with the latest release of the SAP Discovery system is the addition of built-in and integrated add-on solutions. These add-ons expand the functionality of the core SAP Discovery system. Currently offered as an add-on to release 5 of the SAP Discovery system is the SAP BusinessObjects Sustainability Performance Management analytic application. Offered as a separate virtual machine, this application is made available after the SAP Discovery system has been purchased and license keys are activated. For details about obtaining add-on solutions, go to www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/discoverysystem.[2]

DEMONSTRATIONS, EXAMPLES, AND HANDS-ON EXERCISES

In addition to preinstalled SAP software, the SAP Discovery system includes hands-on exercises and a variety of best-practice configurations supported by SAP. This content can help you appreciate the rich features of the software and envision the value the functionality can add within the context of your environment.

An example of a hands-on exercise is the process experience workshop, which offers the opportunity to experience process orchestration using SAP NetWeaver CE 7.3 and SAP NetWeaver Process Integration (SAP NetWeaver PI) 7.3 offerings. Using a common business scenario – the investment approval process – and exercises, the workshop lets you experience end-to-end process integration flow.

The workshop includes the following modules:

- Introduction: Process Orchestration Strategy – Overview
- Module 1: Process Innovation – Creating a first composite application
- Module 2: Business Rules Management – Extending processes with rules
- Module 3: Service Simplification
- Module 4: Process Modularity – Loosely coupled process coordination

COMPONENTS OF THE SAP® DISCOVERY SYSTEM

Software components include:

- SAP® ERP application
- SAP enhancement package for SAP ERP, including enterprise services
- SAP NetWeaver® technology platform
- SAP NetWeaver Portal component
- SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management component
- SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse component
- SAP NetWeaver Process Integration technology
- SAP NetWeaver Business Process Management component
- SAP NetWeaver Application Server component
- SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment offering
- SAP NetWeaver Developer Studio tool
- SAP NetWeaver Visual Composer tool
- SAP NetWeaver Gateway 2.0 technology
- SAP BusinessObjects™ solutions
- SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence platform
- SAP BusinessObjects Data Services software
- SAP BusinessObjects Dashboards software
- SAP Crystal Reports® family of offerings
- SAP Customer Relationship Management application
- Sybase® Unwired Platform
- Afaria® mobile device management solution
- SAP Landscape Transformation software

Operating systems include:

- For server components: SUSE Linux Enterprise Server by Novell
- For client components: Microsoft Server 2008 R2 Standard (64 bit)

The virtualization infrastructure is VMware ESXi.

- Module 5: Process Analytics – Providing a unified view on process and business performance

The exercises, which involve SAP NetWeaver CE 7.3 and SAP NetWeaver PI 7.3, are the realization of dynamic business processes. One main business process and different subprocesses are supported by SAP NetWeaver CE. Depending on message content, SAP NetWeaver PI determines during runtime which subprocess to use.

The benefit is that message flow (or which subprocess is used) is handled by SAP NetWeaver PI, and process design and execution are handled by SAP NetWeaver CE. As a result, no modification of a standard business process, such as the order process, is necessary. Furthermore, the exercises show how to realize business processes with SAP NetWeaver CE and SAP NetWeaver PI in a JAVA-only environment.

The SAP Discovery system is configured to reflect best practices supported by SAP. For over three decades, SAP has collaborated with our most successful partners and customers to develop what has become one of our key offerings: SAP Best Practices packages, a source of knowledge informed by our proven expertise and available to our customers without charge. The SAP Discovery system offers an environment that is preconfigured to support many business processes. For example, you can see the SAP ERP application filled with data to support business activities involving logistics, financials, and human resources.

DISTRIBUTION OPTIONS

The SAP Discovery system, release 5, is available in two ways:

- Hardware appliance delivered on premise
- Cloud-based virtual appliance

	On Premise	**Cloud**
Delivery mode	On-premise hardware appliance purchased through an SAP® technology partner; customer retains ownership of the hardware	Cloud offering
Duration	6-month evaluation license period; continual use for licensed software	Minimum 1-month, maximum 6-month evaluation license period; monthly subscription extension available for licensed software
Use	Nonproductive use only	Nonproductive use only
Advantage	Best option for customers that want to perform heavy integration with legacy systems or load massive amounts of data	Best option for customers that do not want to be responsible for procuring hardware, managing environments, performing backups, and so on Image can be shipped to customers after the hosting period for use on premise (loaded to sandbox environment)
Contact information	Go to the SAP Discovery system Web site at www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/discoverysystem for the most up-to-date technology partners' contact information	Contact your SAP Services sales representative for more information

Review the table for details regarding each option

DISCOVER THE FUTURE TODAY

The SAP Discovery system allows you to model and demonstrate the value of SAP software and technologies in the context of your organization and business processes. You can use it to perform a gap analysis that identifies the differences between where your IT environment is today and where it could be tomorrow with new SAP software and technologies. If you are planning an integration strategy in advance of a merger or acquisition, the SAP Discovery system gives you the tools, technologies, and insight you need to

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model business scenarios, accelerate time to synergy, and streamline the consolidation of master data.

By preinstalling and preconfiguring SAP applications and technologies on a single server, SAP puts you in a singular position to make informed decisions about software, business processes, analytics, enterprise mobility, service-oriented architecture, and more. You gain hands-on experience, the opportunity to develop a proof of concept, and the perfect tool for training your personnel in advance of deploying a production system. And with the new delivery model of a virtualized infrastructure, you can create backups of your systems as snapshots and revert back to the initial settings at any time – which is great for evaluation and training. The SAP Discovery system may represent your SAP software landscape of tomorrow, but you can explore it today.

FIND OUT MORE

To learn more about how the SAP Discovery system can help your organization make the most of SAP software and technologies, call your SAP representative today, e-mail us at discoverysystem@sap.com, or visit us at www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/discoverysystem. You can review SAP engineered services at www.sap.com/services/overview/predefined-services/index.epx. These services, provided by SAP Services, are delivered with a predetermined statement of work, deliverables, and scope. Contact your account team and find out how these services can jump-start your discovery process.

TYPICAL USE CASES

The SAP® Discovery system is one of the fastest, most effective, and least expensive ways to:

- Quickly evaluate SAP software in a risk-free environment
- Prepare and accelerate plans for an upgrade
- Develop a proof of concept on business requirements and not on technical setup and hardware sourcing
- Train your staff on the latest SAP tools and technologies

FOOTNOTES

1. SAP HANA appliance software is not included with the SAP Discovery system, release 5, and must be purchased separately.
2. The SAP BusinessObjects Sustainability Performance Management analytic application is included with the SAP Discovery system, release 5. However, you may incur additional costs, depending on the deployment scenario.