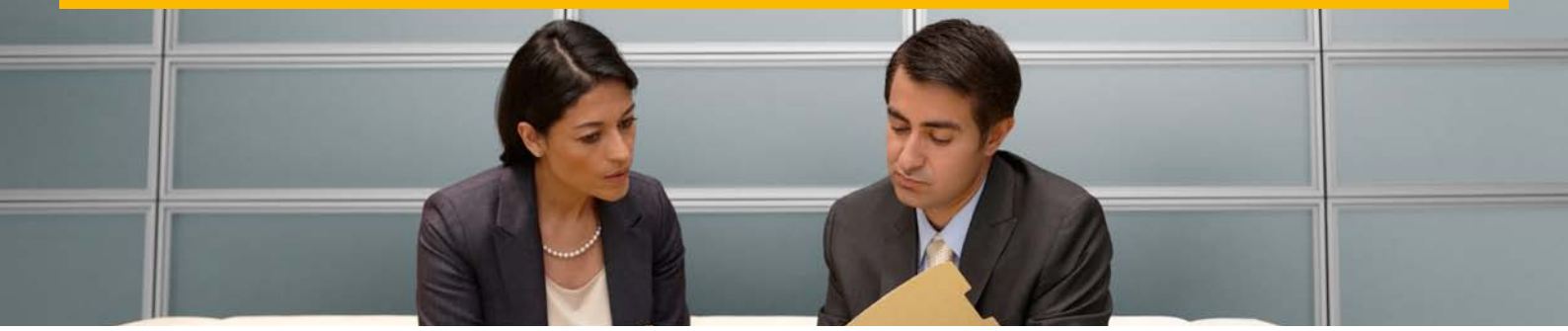
Frequently Asked Questions
SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse

The Next Wave of In-Memory Technology: SAP NetWeaver® BW Powered by SAP HANA®



SAP has recently announced that the SAP NetWeaver® Business Warehouse (SAP NetWeaver BW) component will now run on the SAP HANA® platform. SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA is the next wave of SAP's vision for in-memory technology that will enable SAP NetWeaver BW to use SAP HANA as a fully functioning in-memory database.

WHAT'S NEW? UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE

What does this mean for customers?

Customers can run their entire SAP NetWeaver BW component on the SAP HANA platform, leading to unprecedented SAP NetWeaver BW performance, a dramatically simplified IT landscape, and a business community able to make faster decisions.

What are the advantages of running SAP NetWeaver BW on SAP HANA?

The advantages include the following:

- **Dramatically improve performance** – Performance improvements occur in multiple areas including queries that run 10 to 100 times faster, data loads that run 5 to 10 times faster, and calculations that are 5 to 10 times faster. The performance improvements reduce data latency and increase availability.
- **Simplify administration and streamline the IT landscape** – SAP HANA helps customers lower total cost of ownership, reduce IT workloads, and respond more quickly to business requests for information. Greater operational efficiency helps customers gain competitive advantage by reducing waste and increasing the use of data to run their business better.
- **Unlock the power of your data across the enterprise** – Businesspeople will have faster, easier access to all their data at any level of detail, which drives competitive advantage through greater business flexibility.
- **Preserve your investment in SAP NetWeaver BW without disruption** – Customers can easily transition their SAP NetWeaver BW environment to run on SAP HANA without disruption. A database migration is required, but there is no impact to the SAP NetWeaver BW component layer itself – meaning that there are no changes required to existing business content, logic, queries, and so on.

What is the difference between SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA and SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator software?

SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator software was the first step in bringing the innovation of in-memory computing to data warehousing. A portion of SAP NetWeaver BW data was replicated to a separate "accelerator" server in order to improve query performance in SAP NetWeaver BW.

In contrast, SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA actually runs the entire SAP NetWeaver BW component on the SAP HANA database, which improves data load and calculation performance in addition to query performance.

WHAT'S CHANGING? REQUIREMENTS, LICENSES, UPGRADES

What is required to implement SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA?

Customers must be on SAP NetWeaver BW version 7.3 with service pack 5 applied and running Unicode. The process to move to SAP HANA is a simple database conversion and does not require an SAP NetWeaver BW upgrade or migration. This means that, for a customer, there are no changes to data flows, transformations, data models, queries, dynamic shared objects, information cubes, and so forth. In addition, since analysis authorization for SAP NetWeaver BW is supported, no changes are needed to key authorization objects such as roles and authorization rules. And if a customer is using the SAP NetWeaver Identity Management component for provisioning and single-sign-on functionality, SAP HANA will integrate with the existing setup. The result enables innovation without disruption.

Is the entire SAP NetWeaver BW database including metadata converted from the relational database (RDBMS) to the in-memory database?

Yes, the RDBMS is completely removed from the technology stack and, by default, all data is moved. However, SAP recommends that customers review their data schema and models and determine what they want to keep in memory, what to move to near-line storage or to archive, and what to delete.

Is there direct upgrade support to SAP NetWeaver BW version 7.3 for all SAP NetWeaver BW releases?

Yes. There is direct upgrade support from the SAP NetWeaver BW 7.0 release. Customers running earlier versions can request an SAP® GoingLive Check service as part of their maintenance to determine how best to upgrade to the SAP NetWeaver BW 7.3 release.

Can customers running SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator reuse their current hardware for SAP HANA?

Customers should work with their hardware providers to determine if their equipment is sufficient or can be modified to meet the new requirements.

Can customers running SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator upgrade their licenses to licenses for SAP HANA when moving to SAP NetWeaver powered by SAP HANA?

Although SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator and SAP HANA are licensed as separate products, SAP offers an investment protection program that provides credit for existing licenses for SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator toward new licenses for SAP HANA. Please contact your SAP account executive for more information.

Does SAP NetWeaver BW administration and modeling change?

No. Day-to-day operations for SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA do not change. Modeling and administration can continue as before with the same SAP NetWeaver BW tools, but the workload will be reduced because of simpler data models, the elimination of aggregates, and reduced query tuning. However, customers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the modeling, monitoring, and administration features in SAP HANA.

Will the integrated planning (BW-IP) functionality be impacted for customers when moving to SAP NetWeaver BW powered by SAP HANA?

The integrated planning functionality in SAP NetWeaver BW will continue to work without the need to make any changes to existing planning models. SAP NetWeaver BW version 7.3 has improvements specifically in the area of integrated planning, which are supported in SAP HANA. In addition, most integrated planning models will perform much better due to the processing being pushed down from the application layer into the SAP HANA database and calculation engine.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have additional questions not addressed in this FAQ brochure, please contact your SAP representative or visit us at www.sap.com/hana, www.experiencesaphana.com/welcome, or www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/edw.

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