

SAP NetWeaver® BUSINESS PROCESS MANAGEMENT

CREATE AND ADAPT BUSINESS PROCESSES FAST AND FLEXIBLY

The SAP NetWeaver® Business Process Management component enables business and IT professionals to compose processes jointly on the basis of a single, directly executable process model. This makes for fast, flexible process development and deployment – ultimately reducing costs.

In today's fiercely competitive markets, speed and agility are of the essence. To survive and thrive, you have to streamline your operational business processes and adapt them quickly in line with changing needs. Enterprise software, such as the SAP® Business Suite family of business applications, delivers proven support for your standard business processes – enabling operational efficiency throughout your organization. But what if you want to compose other new processes or adapt existing ones to differentiate your enterprise from the competition? Until now, the business experts who design these processes had to forward their requirements to their IT colleagues who handle composition and implementation. Trouble is, this transition from design to execution takes valuable time. And because business and IT teams generally use very different tools, vital details can be lost when the original process specifications are translated into software.

Accelerate Design and Execution of Business Processes

Now there's software that helps you overcome these issues: the SAP NetWeaver® Business Process Management (SAP NetWeaver BPM) component.

SAP NetWeaver BPM delivers a suite of state-of-the-art, standards-based tools that enable you to quickly and efficiently model processes geared to your real-world requirements – and execute them without time-consuming, error-prone coding. The component allows you to leverage the service-enabled standard functionality of SAP Business Suite applications and non-SAP software to create and modify differentiating processes (see figure below). What's more, it provides your business and IT professionals with a single, shared environment for jointly designing innovative new processes and adapting existing ones. That adds up to significant increases in speed, flexibility, and quality – all of which leads to lower costs.

SAP NetWeaver BPM helps you rapidly tailor your business processes to changing business needs in a number of ways. The software enables the following:

- Joint modeling of processes by business and IT specialists
- Central process execution via a Java-based process engine
- Provision of intuitive interfaces for business users
- Integration of business rules into your processes



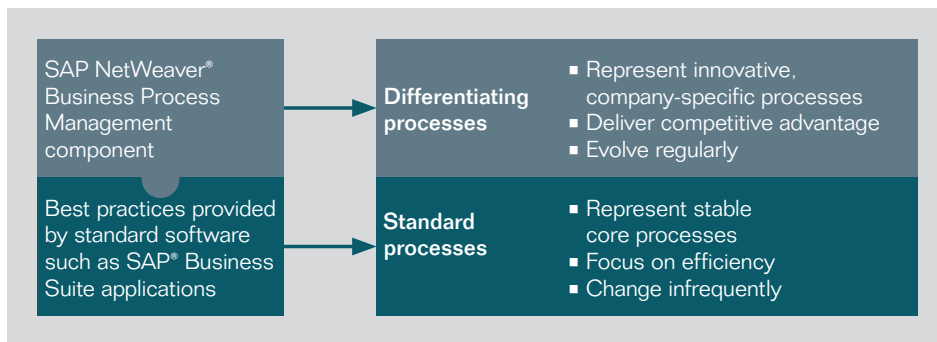


Figure: Types of Business Processes Supported by SAP Software

Enable Closer Collaboration via Shared Tools

SAP NetWeaver BPM supports closer, more effective teamwork by giving your business process experts a single set of powerful composition tools. Based on the open Eclipse* development platform, these tools enable business and IT specialists to create and adapt processes jointly using the business process modeling notation (BPMN) standard. This significantly reduces the risk of vital details being lost in translation between the design and development stages. The process composition functionality of SAP NetWeaver BPM supports the following:

- Comprehensive business process management – Handle all aspects of process management from initial high-level definition, to the integration of all technical details, right through to deployment
- BPMN-based process modeling capabilities – Define human and automated activities
 - Human activities – Trigger tasks performed by end users

- Automated activities – Execute Web services, supporting full integration with service-enabled SAP business applications

Go from Modeling to Execution Without Coding

After you designed a process in the past, it had to be painstakingly coded prior to deployment. Not anymore. With SAP NetWeaver BPM, you can efficiently create process models and execute them with no additional coding via the process server – a state-of-the-art, high-performance, Java-based runtime environment.

Create Intuitive Interfaces for Users' Daily Work

Once your new or improved business processes are up and running, you must enable the people who use them to access the associated functionality and information quickly and intuitively. The process desk of SAP NetWeaver BPM helps you do just that by allowing you to assign tasks to business users via various channels, including the universal work list functionality of the

SAP NetWeaver Portal component. This functionality provides a central inbox for work items, tasks, notifications, and alerts, involving business users directly with process execution. Furthermore, it allows employees to execute tasks collaboratively by involving additional business users.

You can also provide employees with dedicated interfaces for viewing task details and performing associated activities. And BPMN-based graphical representations give business users visibility into each process (for example, its status, start date, processors, and priority).

Integrate Business Rules into Your Processes

To enable agility and reduce manual effort, processes should be designed to respond automatically to shifts in your business environment, such as changes to a customer's credit rating. SAP NetWeaver BPM supports this agility by enabling you to incorporate clearly defined business rules into your processes from the outset. Tight integration with the SAP NetWeaver Business Rules Management (SAP NetWeaver BRM) component allows business users with no coding skills to create and modify rules – for example, via decision tables. Both components leverage the same Eclipse-based development platform. This provides a single environment for designing rules and processes on the basis of consistent metadata. The result: reduced scope for error and improved productivity.

*Written primarily in Java, Eclipse is an open-source software platform. It comprises extensible application frameworks, tools, and a runtime library, providing software developers and administrators with an integrated development environment.

Harness the Power of SAP NetWeaver

SAP NetWeaver BPM and SAP NetWeaver BRM are integral parts of the SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment (SAP NetWeaver CE) offering. So you enjoy access to a wealth of robust infrastructure components, such as software life-cycle management functionality (including versioning and transport) and security mechanisms. SAP NetWeaver CE also enables you to create user interfaces based on proven technologies such as the Web Dynpro development environment and SAP Interactive Forms software by Adobe.

SAP NetWeaver Business Process Management allows your business process experts to design, model, and execute new or adapted business processes without having to write code.

Moreover, you can enhance SAP NetWeaver BPM by integrating tried-and-trusted components of the SAP NetWeaver technology platform. These enable you to reap benefits including the following:

- Streamlined collaboration for greater employee productivity, plus unified user identification and access to business processes, via SAP NetWeaver Portal
- Open technologies for integrating your back-end software and business partner solutions via the SAP NetWeaver Process Integration offering

- Consistent master data across your applications and tightly meshed business processes via the SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management component
- Secure, role-based access to business processes across multiple applications and systems via the SAP NetWeaver Identity Management component

Gain Insight via Process Analytics

Through tight integration with business analysis software from Business Objects, an SAP company, SAP NetWeaver BPM delivers a variety of key analytic functionality, including process logging and monitoring. This provides you with valuable insight into process metrics (such as task execution time) and critical data (such as purchase order values).

Pave the Way to Service-Oriented Architecture

SAP NetWeaver BPM helps you tap into the benefits of service-oriented architecture (SOA), an IT paradigm that enables companies to define new processes cost-effectively using standard Web services. Powered by SAP NetWeaver, SAP business software is fully service-enabled and SOA-ready. The best-practice-based functionality of SAP Business Suite applications is available in the form of reusable services via Enterprise Services Repository. Using SAP NetWeaver CE and its integrated SAP NetWeaver BPM component, you can flexibly combine these services to build new composite applications. This allows you to leverage SOA for your business more quickly and efficiently.

Achieve Valuable Business Benefits

The SAP NetWeaver BPM component delivers a host of benefits for your organization as a whole, as well as for your business users and process experts.

Your organization can automate, monitor, and optimize its business processes faster and more effectively than ever before. And that translates into the following:

- Comprehensive management of agile processes
- Enhanced responsiveness to changing business imperatives
- Increased process efficiency and lower exception-handling costs

Business users can implement processes incorporating clearly defined activities, roles, and responsibilities. And that means users benefit from the following:

- Higher-quality processes
- Better decision making and lower error rates
- Increased visibility into process status

Business process experts can rely on one notation standard (BPMN) for rules definition and process modeling in a single integrated environment. And that adds up to the following:

- Better collaboration between process owners and IT staff
- Faster development and shorter time to quality
- Straightforward integration and modification of business rules

Summary

The SAP NetWeaver® Business Process Management (SAP NetWeaver BPM) component enables you to model and execute processes quickly and efficiently, without coding. SAP NetWeaver BPM significantly increases the speed, flexibility, and quality of process implementation – ultimately reducing costs.

Business Challenges

- Streamline operational business processes
- Rapidly adapt processes in line with real-world needs
- Accelerate design, composition, and implementation of processes
- Enhance collaboration between business and IT experts

Supported Business Processes and Software Functions

- **Collaborative process modeling** – Provide business and IT specialists with a shared environment for codesigning new processes and adapting existing ones
- **Process modeling and execution without coding** – Execute process models via a state-of-the-art, Java-based runtime environment
- **Provision of user-friendly interfaces** – Give business users intuitive access to applications and information via various channels
- **Integration of business rules** – Enhance responsiveness by incorporating business rules into processes from the outset
- **Enhanced functionality** – Provide consistent master data and cast-iron security mechanisms through integration with the SAP NetWeaver technology platform

Business Benefits

- **Complete business process management** through a suite of state-of-the-art, standards-based tools
- **Greater responsiveness to changing business imperatives** through more agile, adaptable processes
- **Enhanced quality, increased visibility, and better decision making** through incorporation of clearly defined activities, roles, and responsibilities
- **Better collaboration, faster development, and shorter time to quality** via a single, shared modeling environment for IT and business experts
- **Straightforward integration and modification of business rules** through integration with the SAP NetWeaver Business Rules Management component

For More Information

To learn more about SAP NetWeaver BPM, call your SAP representative today or visit us on the Web at www.sap.com/platform/netweaver/components/sapnetweaverbpm.

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