

MANAGING BUSINESS PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND CONSOLIDATION

VERSION FOR THE MICROSOFT PLATFORM

Transforming your organization into a more agile, aligned, and forward-looking enterprise requires an application that leverages open, scalable technology and integration between data, processes, and people. For the many organizations that need high usability and adaptability in their performance management solutions, improving performance must begin with choosing the right technology.

Introduce Order into Business Planning

Business planning is often a chaotic, frustrating, and ineffective process. Budgeting can quickly deteriorate into a “spreadsheet nightmare” when operations managers submit unrealistic budgets, executives change figures without the operations managers’ knowledge, and version control problems spin out of control. Statutory consolidations can be equally problematic when data is distributed across different departments, systems, and even countries. Separate applications for planning and financial consolidations can introduce inconsistent levels of detail and mismatched data elements and increase deployment time.

The SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, provides planning, budgeting, and forecasting functionality together with support for financial consolidation and reporting operations to facilitate your compliance with statutory and management requirements. The software provides native support for Microsoft Office applications, giving users access to a familiar software environment to further boost

productivity. The application is also available as a version for the SAP NetWeaver™ technology platform.

With SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, all business rules, metadata, data, and deep processing power are delivered in one application. You get support for:

- Business planning – Budgeting and planning for sales and revenue, capital expenditures, headcount and staffing, expenses, and cash flow
- Forecasting – Rolling forecasts, continuous planning, and collaboration
- Consolidation – Intercompany matching and reconciliation, intercompany eliminations, currency translation, allocations, and management and legal consolidation
- Financial reporting and analysis – Ad hoc reporting, and driver analysis (for example, industry, growth, and capacity)

Key features of the application include:

- Business process flows to help get work completed consistently across the enterprise, thereby improving budget cycle times and accuracy
- Use of familiar desktop tools such as Microsoft Office to accelerate user adoption
- Intelligent action panes to guide users through the application, driving user productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness
- Automated consolidation functions that facilitate compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and financial reporting requirements and organizations – including those from the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

SAP offers a planning and consolidation application that helps you manage planning, budgeting, forecasting, and financial consolidation processes to comply with management and statutory requirements. The application leverages familiar Microsoft Office tools.





International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), International Accounting Standards (IAS), and Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)

- Harmonized charts of accounts, software to automate manual processes, and an interface to Microsoft Excel to enable you to work with greater accuracy and close the books faster
- A complete audit trail to reduce costs

The application is part of SAP enterprise performance management solutions, which can help your company capitalize on the value of your existing data assets. Your organization can become more agile and gain organizational alignment and visibility to give you greater confidence, optimal control, and competitive advantage.

Architecture

Built on a modern service-oriented architecture (SOA), SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, can be easily incorporated by IT departments with existing infrastructure standards. The application allows other SOA-based technologies to make calls to and from its services. It works with your existing financial and operational data, including unstructured data. It runs on Microsoft Windows and is accessible through your Web browser or custom portal. The application's architecture is:

- User focused
- Process oriented
- Unified to support planning and consolidation operations in a single application

Business planning is often a chaotic, frustrating, and ineffective process. Budgeting can quickly deteriorate into a “spreadsheet nightmare” and version control problems can spin out of control.

Technical Advantages and Benefits

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, takes advantage of the following technical architecture:

- A powerful Web server that provides a reliable, manageable, and scalable Web-based infrastructure
- An industrial-strength relational database that can efficiently process high volumes of critical performance data
- An online analytical processing engine that gives users the ability to quickly retrieve, organize, aggregate, and present multidimensional data in real time
- A client for “zero footprint” collaboration, data collection, budgeting, reporting, analysis, and report distribution
- A patented interface to Microsoft Excel – the de facto standard for performance management users – and to Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint
- A relational reporting solution for creating, managing, and delivering real-time financial and operational reports

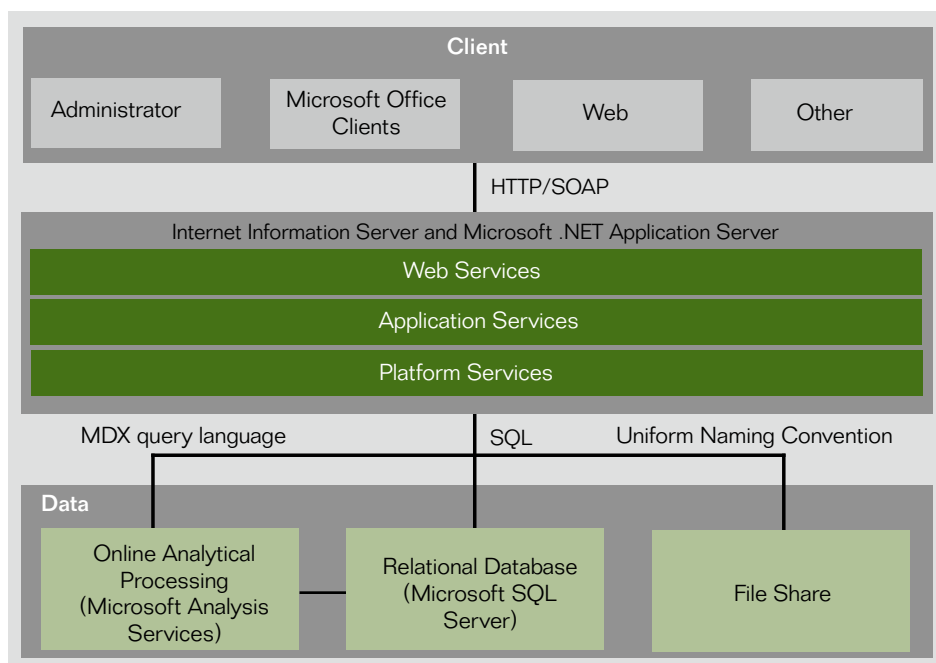


Figure: Architecture

- A tool that automates routines for extracting, transforming, and loading data from heterogeneous sources

New Features

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation 7.0, version for the Microsoft platform, includes the following new features:

- An optimized shared query engine that delivers faster query performance, greater scalability, and reduced memory usage
- A management console that allows administrators to view and manage logs and monitor system performance, processes, user activity, and the shared query engine – all in a single interface
- Support for multiple hierarchies on the time-type dimension (for example, fiscal and calendar year)
- Client-side support for Microsoft Vista
- Enhanced business process flows that allow for multiple reviewers and trigger automatic e-mail notification to reviewers when steps are completed
- Certification for HP LoadRunner stress test software from Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P.

Available Languages

The languages supported include simplified Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Requirements

The following technical specifications are required when you plan to run SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation 7.0, version for the Microsoft platform. The lists include the software that must be installed on the server and on the client.

Server Software

The following are requirements for your server software:

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Internet Information Services 6.0
- Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1/2.0
- MSXML 3.0 SP1, MSXML 4.0 SP2
- Visual Basic 6 and Visual C++ Runtime libraries
- Microsoft Anti-Cross Site Scripting Library*

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, provides planning, forecasting, and budgeting functionality integrated with financial consolidation and statutory and management reporting functions.

- Xceed Zip Compression Library, a product of Xceed Software Inc.*
- ADOMD.NET 8.02
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005/2008
- Microsoft Analysis Services 2005/2008
- Microsoft SQL Server Information Services 2005/2008
- Microsoft Reporting Services 2005/2008

Client Software

The following are requirements for your client software:

- Microsoft Windows XP/Windows Vista
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Visual Basic 6 and Visual C++ Runtime libraries
- Microsoft Office 2003/2007
- MSXML 3.0 SP1, MSXML 4.0 SP2
- Microsoft .NET 1.1/2.0
- Xceed Zip Compression Library*

Authentication

Microsoft Active Directory is a requirement for authentication.

*Note: Must be installed prior to installation of the planning and consolidation application; available from SAP.

For More Information

For more information about SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, please contact your SAP representative or visit

www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

Summary

The SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application brings order to your business planning processes by helping you more effectively plan, forecast, and budget. With embedded support for financial consolidation, the software facilitates compliance with regulatory and financial reporting requirements. The version for the Microsoft platform provides a native interface to Microsoft Office applications, giving users access to a familiar software environment to further boost productivity.

Business Challenges

- Reduce cycle time for planning and budgeting processes and improve user productivity
- Model potential business strategies and decide on a course of action that maximizes value creation
- Streamline the statutory consolidation process
- Keep compliance and auditing costs down

Key Features

- **Business planning and budgeting** – Streamline and automate activities by using a collaborative top-down and bottom-up approach
- **Reporting and analysis** – Gain rapid access to up-to-date production and management reporting and financial, operational, and multidimensional analysis results
- **Consolidation** – Centralize all performance-related data, shave weeks off consolidation processes, and improve compliance

Business Benefits

- **Reduce cycle time in creating and approving budgets** by enabling finance and line-of-business managers to collaborate to align budgets
- **Empower finance staff** to own and modify common business processes without IT assistance
- **Increase user productivity with minimal training** thanks to native access to familiar tools such as Microsoft Office
- **Minimize business and compliance risk** by ensuring fully transparent financial reporting with a fully documented audit trail from a single data repository

For More Information

Call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

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