SAP Solution Brief
SAP BusinessObjects Portfolio of Solutions

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Performance Management Solutions

Empowering Finance Executives to Optimize Enterprise Performance

Quick Facts

Summary
Enterprise performance management (EPM) applications for finance, which are part of the SAP® BusinessObjects™ EPM solutions, cover the full lifecycle of financial management and put you in control of performance. The applications integrate enterprise data and processes to streamline traditional finance processes. You can gain strategic insight for calculated decision making and reliable legal and management reporting, and you can align your business processes more precisely with strategic goals.

Business Challenges
- Lack of alignment between enterprise strategy and day-to-day operations
- Inability to realign resources with changing market demands
- Limited understanding of which customers and products create value

Key Features
- **Strategy management** – Align strategy with execution to achieve operational excellence
- **Planning** – Streamline planning, budgeting, and forecasting processes to reduce performance management cycle times
- **Profitability and cost management** – Understand what drives cost and profitability across any business dimension
- **Financial consolidation** – Accelerate closing, manage reporting cycles, comply with regulations, and streamline "the last mile of finance"

Business Benefits
- **Greater strategic alignment** through synchronizing goals with initiatives and processes to access the information needed to improve performance
- **Improved visibility** because all stakeholders own, maintain, and share information in context and in real time so they can identify areas for improvement
- **Increased agility** with improved business processes to speed performance management cycles and accelerate every stakeholder's ability to execute on a commonly understood plan of action
- **More confident actions** thanks to consistent, trusted data for decision making and regulatory and management reporting

For More Information
For more information, visit www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

Being an effective CFO and financial manager today is all about increasing efficiency, partnering with the business to drive growth and value, and empowering your people to be more risk sensitive, productive, and informed when making decisions. Enterprise performance management (EPM) applications can help you achieve these objectives and respond to changing corporate finance priorities. But are fragmented point solutions the best way to address these needs?

Most finance executives think about EPM solutions when they have a burning issue to address and want to implement a "solution" to their current problem – whether it's mitigating the risk of restatements, improving budget cycle times, or aligning resources and execution with strategic goals. But what's the cost of having a patchwork of disparate EPM tools from multiple vendors? More than you may think. For example, fragmented solutions hard-wire process inefficiencies and create silos of data, which limit visibility and control. They also drive up the cost of finance because people waste time moving, reformatting, and verifying data.

The alternative is to gradually deploy a natively integrated set of EPM solutions designed to run on the same enterprise-class platform. This technology approach has real business benefits. For example, it allows you to access centralized, trusted data from all applications and from any location; integrate data and processes to streamline finance processes; and deliver strategic insight via real-time reporting and analytics. The right platform can also deliver global scalability and availability and a consistent user experience that boosts productivity.

That's why forward-looking CFOs are choosing EPM applications for finance from SAP. Part of SAP® BusinessObjects™ EPM solutions, these applications cover the full lifecycle of financial management through an integrated set of modular solutions that run on a single platform – and put you in control of performance. And because they equip you to work more effectively with the business to deliver growth and value, you're positioned to be a finance superstar.

UNIFIED, COMPLETE, AND TRANSFORMATIONAL EPM SOLUTIONS

With EPM applications for finance, you can deploy solutions gradually – in a modular fashion to address specific needs – and realize the benefits of a unified, complete, and transformational EPM solution. These applications include:

- **SAP BusinessObjects Strategy Management** – Communicate plans and objectives, align business units and allocate resources to key priorities, monitor and report on progress, and proactively take action when issues arise.
- **SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation** – Leverage combined planning, budgeting, and forecasting functionality with management and legal consolidation to shorten budget cycle time, close the books more quickly, and help ensure compliance.
- **SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation** – Deliver faster, more reliable consolidations and move beyond mere reporting into analysis of the why and how of your financial events.
- **SAP BusinessObjects Intercompany** – Enable business units – rather than corporate finance – to reconcile intercompany balances in real time via the Web.
- **SAP BusinessObjects Disclosure Management** – Reduce the time, risk, and cost associated with the production and approval of both financial and nonfinancial regulatory statements, disclosures, corresponding eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) submissions, and other associated output formats.
- **SAP BusinessObjects Profitability and Cost Management** – Accurately measure product, customer, and channel profitability, and dynamically test ways to improve each one.

Comprising best-of-breed functionality, these applications integrate enterprise data and processes to streamline and accelerate traditional finance processes. Because the user interfaces of the applications are harmonized, your users benefit from a consistent experience that eases adoption, reduces learning curves, and boosts productivity. You also gain strategic insight for calculated decision making – including key risks to your strategic plans and performance targets. And by combining them with in-memory computing (through the SAP HANA™ platform) and mobile technologies, you can transform the way people work together – for example, by equipping them to be more agile and responsive as they collaborate to achieve performance targets.

IMPROVE BUSINESS PROCESSES TO ACHIEVE FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

Performance management is not a one-time event; rather, it is an iterative, ongoing process that must be driven from the top down. EPM applications for finance from SAP support the entire performance lifecycle – from strategy development, planning and execution, and monitoring and analyzing, to modeling and optimizing for better performance outcomes.

Strategize and Prioritize

SAP BusinessObjects Strategy Management helps both line managers and corporate executives develop and execute strategic plans. By clearly linking strategic goals to initiatives, key performance indicators, and people, you can set clear priorities with accountability and risk awareness that all stakeholders understand and can act on with confidence.

The software helps you transform written plans into living documents so that you can define, discuss, and update goals with employees. Documents can include rich contextual visualizations that drive greater adoption of key objectives across your organization. In addition, you can intelligently manage resources and exceptions to focus on initiatives that will have the most impact.

Plan and Execute

With SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, available in versions for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform and the Microsoft platform, you can streamline the bottom-up and top-down financial and operational planning processes using a single application. Familiar applications, such as Microsoft Excel, as well as intuitive, Web-enabled thin clients serve as native interfaces to the software, allowing you to minimize training, plan more efficiently, and improve budget cycle times.

With innovative features such as business process flows, you can rest assured that processes such as annual budgeting or closing the books are carried out according to corporate guidelines. In addition, you can enable more calculated decision making by incorporating predictive analysis and risk-adjusted planning.

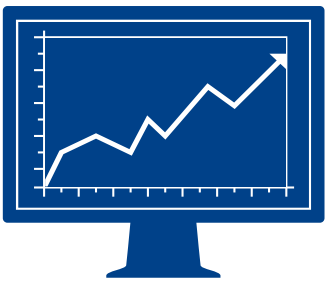
Monitor and Analyze

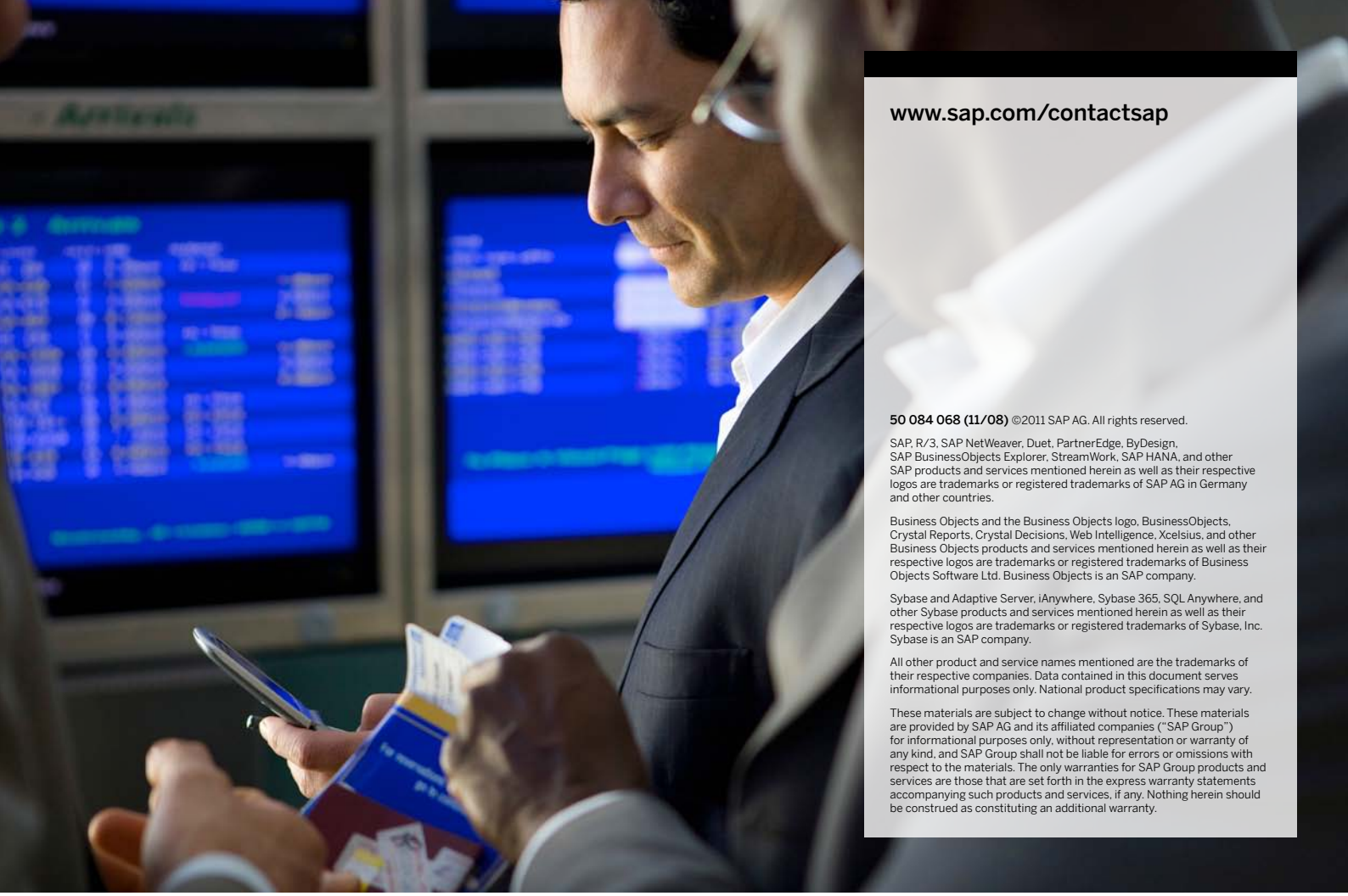
SAP applications cover all the requirements for performing your financial consolidation. For example, SAP BusinessObjects Financial Consolidation supports automated consolidation processes that meet all legal and reporting requirements, including those for GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. The software also supports multiple currencies, currency translation adjustments, minority interest and equity calculations, and intercompany reconciliation. Automating processes and improving compliance with regulatory and financial standards – including a full audit trail and the generation of publication-ready reports with SAP BusinessObjects Disclosure Management – not only help reduce external audit costs but also enable the books to be closed more quickly and streamline "the last mile of finance."

Model and Optimize

SAP BusinessObjects Profitability and Cost Management delivers visibility into the true drivers impacting your bottom line. By linking operational activities and financial perspectives, you gain a deep understanding of the levers affecting organizational costs and profitability of any dimension of your business – your customers, products, and channels – both current and future. You can identify the causes of underperformance, test your assumptions, and take incisive action. You can also evaluate the cost of providing IT services to users within the enterprise. Modeling is rapid and model maintenance is minimal, giving a fast time to value and low total cost of operation.

Performance management is not a one-time event; rather, it is an iterative, ongoing process that must be driven from the top down. The goal is to improve the financial health of the organization on a continual basis.





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REACH GREATER POTENTIAL

With EPM applications for finance from SAP, you can now address your most pressing finance issues incrementally – deploying the applications one at a time – and realize the benefits of having an integrated, comprehensive EPM solution. As you add and upgrade SAP software, you can rely on ongoing integration between applications that work together to deliver:

- **Better performance** – Achieve operational and financial excellence by identifying and eliminating the sources of cost most crippling to your business and focusing on areas that maximize profitability.
- **Strategic alignment** – Synchronize goals with initiatives, priorities, resources, budgets, reports, risk management, and analysis processes to access the information you need to improve performance and close the gap between strategy and execution.
- **Improved visibility** – Help ensure that all stakeholders in your organization own, maintain, and share information in context and in real time so they can identify areas for improvement and evaluate strategic scenarios for maximum business impact.
- **Increased agility** – Improve business processes to speed performance management cycles and deliver trusted data to accelerate every stakeholder's ability to communicate, collaborate, and execute on a commonly understood plan of action, adjusting plans and execution as necessary.
- **Greater confidence** – Leverage a foundation of consistent and trusted EPM data for incisive decision making and for compliant regulatory, statutory, and management reporting.

FIND OUT MORE

EPM applications for finance are part of the SAP BusinessObjects EPM solutions, which help your company capitalize on the value of your existing data assets. To find out more, visit www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

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