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SAP BTP SERIES:

OVERVIEW AND BUSINESS CASES PART 2

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In Part 1 of this series, Keith Johnson, one of our Practice Managers at Titan, focused on the overall concepts of a Technology Platform. In the following article, Part 2, Keith again joins us to dive into the components and architecture of SAP's BTP Platform.

— Warren Norris, Managing Partner

SAP Business Transformation Platform (SAP BTP):

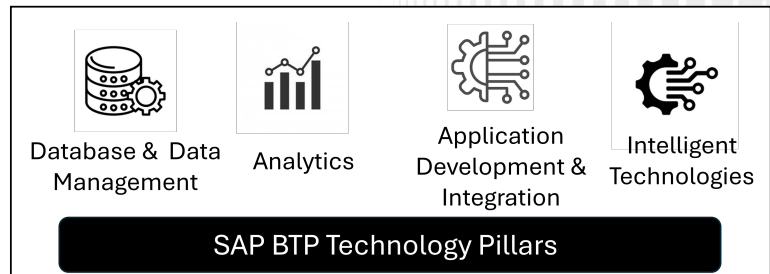
To fully grasp SAP BTP and how it supports a business, we need to peel back the layers from the Technology Pillars up to the SAP Business Process layer.

SAP BTP lies between the Technology Pillars and the SAP Business Processes. The Business Process layer includes processes such as Order-to-Cash, Hire-to-Retire, Procure-to-Pay, and more. Beneath this layer are the SaaS solutions that support these business processes, including SAP ERP, CRM, SRM, SCM, PLM, and others. We won't delve into the SaaS solutions or Business Processes here, as these layers are extensive topics of their own. For now, it's important to know that these layers consist of applications designed to address various business challenges, all integrated by SAP into one product: the SAP Business Suite.



Underneath SAP BTP are the Technology Pillars, which form the core foundation of BTP and offer essential capabilities for developing, integrating, and managing applications and data.

Each pillar supports specific aspects of digital transformation and intelligent enterprise initiatives by organizing relevant tools and capabilities into focused areas.



- **Database & Data Management:** Offers tools to store, access, process, integrate, and interpret data across your landscape. With in-memory databases, data is unified on demand in a single view to support informed decision-making.
- **Analytics:** Provides products for planning and forecasting by combining data from operational systems, data warehouses, structured or unstructured data lakes, spreadsheets, and external market data. This helps businesses track performance indicators and create intelligent planning scenarios for more accurate forecasting.
- **Application Development & Integration:** Supplies tools for process innovation, extension, and integration across hybrid and cloud environments. This pillar enables integration of both SAP and non-SAP solutions, whether on-premise or in the cloud, allowing for the extension of current SAP solutions.
- **Intelligent Technologies:** Includes capabilities to integrate Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and IoT into business processes. Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is also available to automate repetitive manual tasks, freeing up valuable resources and streamlining operations.

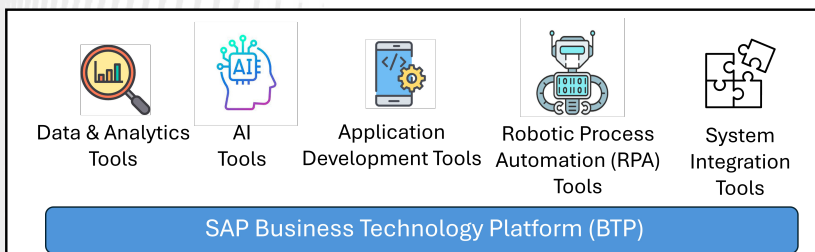
We have now arrived at SAP BTP. The SAP Business Technology Platform consolidates Data & Analytics, AI, Application Development, Automation, and System Integration into a single, unified platform, serving as the technological foundation for businesses to manage their operations. *For organizations seeking a standardized platform, SAP BTP is the ideal solution.*

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SAP BTP enables companies to transition from disparate systems to a cohesive platform for their business processes. Let's explore each of the components and examine how they integrate within this tool.

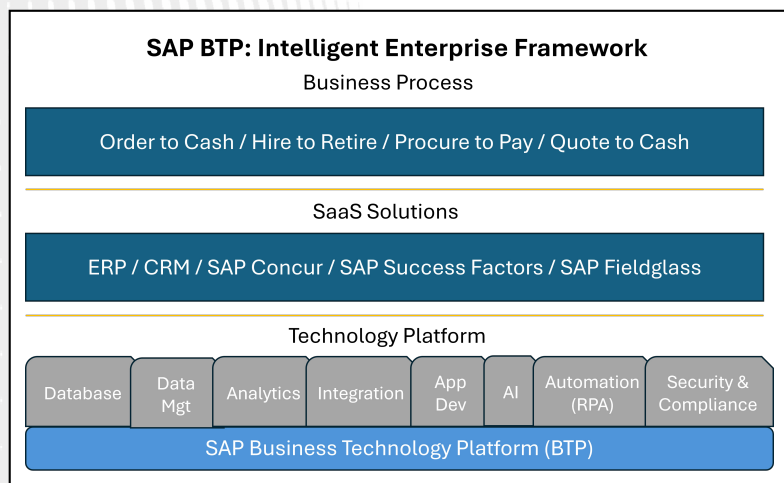


- **Data & Analytics Tools:** Focus on data storage and operations, offering capabilities to manage data and perform analytical processes that yield valuable insights.
- **Artificial Intelligence Tools:** Enable companies to enhance their operations with AI-driven capabilities.
- **Application Development Tools:** Support the development of applications in Java, Node.js, and ABAP, managing the entire application lifecycle from development and deployment to ongoing management.
- **Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Tools:** Allow for the automation of repetitive manual tasks using robotic automation. BTP provides tools to build, run, and maintain these robotic programs.
- **System Integration Tools:** Facilitate the integration of applications, enabling businesses to exchange messages and data across various systems.

- **Technology Layer:** This foundational layer includes the infrastructure, software tools, and cloud platform where SAP BTP resides. It integrates components such as data analytics, AI applications, application development, automation, and integration, while supporting enterprise applications that run on top of this platform.
- **Software as a Service (SaaS) Layer:** This layer consists of the SaaS tools that enterprises use to run their processes, such as ERP solutions like SAP HANA Cloud. For managing travel expenses, companies may use SAP Concur, while SAP SuccessFactors can be employed for employee engagement. This layer encompasses both third-party SaaS tools and in-house custom solutions, all operating on the SAP BTP.
- **Business Process Layer:** Every business has its unique process model, determining how they implement processes such as Hire to Retire or Source to Pay based on their specific requirements and operational needs.



Let's examine SAP BTP up to the Business Process layer to understand how it integrates into the IT landscape:



SAP BTP serves solely as a technology platform and is not used for business process modeling. The Business Process layer encompasses end-to-end processes that utilize the tools available in the Solutions layer. This Solutions layer relies on and operates within the Technology layer, which provides the foundation for building, deploying, and executing solutions. Therefore, *SAP BTP represents the technology layer on which a company can develop solutions or create custom applications tailored to their specific needs.*

Now that we have a clear understanding of how SAP BTP fits into the IT framework, let's take a closer look at the overall picture. SAP BTP encompasses tools and capabilities and offers various features designed to help enterprises adopt and utilize the platform effectively. The tools within these pillars support each of the technology layers, all integrated under one umbrella and organized into the four technology pillars.

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SAP BTP aims to address a singular challenge: making enterprises more intelligent by offering a unified platform for running business processes more efficiently. Once you register for SAP BTP, you can select the products or services that best meet your company's requirements.

Three perspectives from SAP illustrate the power of BTP and the value it delivers to an enterprise.

- **Integration of Business Processes:** The first power of SAP BTP is its ability to integrate business processes. Every enterprise must have the capability to connect its business processes and consolidate data in a central data warehouse for analytical purposes.
- **Data to Value:** The second power focuses on transforming integrated business processes into actionable insights. This involves not only consolidating internal data but also incorporating external data, such as customer feedback. SAP BTP addresses the challenge of centralizing all data to derive meaningful value from it.
- **Extensibility:** The third power of BTP is the extensibility it offers enterprises. This capability allows organizations to build new applications and extend existing ones to align with their specific business processes.

To sustain their operations and transition toward becoming an intelligent enterprise in order to stay competitive, SAP has developed various technology pillars. These pillars are organized with features and tools that allow businesses to concentrate on specific layers of technology, enabling them to enhance their business processes linked to those layers.

In conclusion, the SAP Business Technology Platform serves as a vital foundation for enterprises seeking to enhance their operational efficiency and drive digital transformation. By integrating key components such as data management, analytics, application development, and intelligent technologies, SAP BTP empowers businesses to streamline processes, make data-driven decisions, and foster innovation. As organizations navigate the complexities of the digital landscape, leveraging the capabilities of SAP BTP can significantly enhance their agility, competitiveness, and overall ability to meet evolving market demands. Embracing this unified platform not only positions businesses for success today but also equips them for future challenges in an ever-changing technological environment.

