



Unlocking the Value of Data with APOS Live Data Gateway

Data is the lifeblood of businesses today. Smart organizations collect and use data to make decisions across the organization from sales and marketing to manufacturing and maintenance. However, with so much data being gathered in so many different places, it can often feel impossible, overwhelming, or both to wrangle it intelligently.

[A research report on business intelligence](#) showed that on average companies were drawing from more than 400 different data sources. Too many data systems and disparate data sources are a huge challenge for enterprise organizations looking to make the most of their data. Without one system of record, data will quickly become outdated and reports won't be accurate, causing employees and other stakeholders across the organization to lose trust in the data altogether.

That said, going without data isn't an option, and using data from a single source likewise isn't an option. Some [94 percent of organizations](#) report needing access to multiple data sources to support their decision-making. But connecting data cleanly and efficiently is not always an easy task. In fact, about one-third of companies report experiencing trouble simply connecting those sources together, let alone pulling accurate or meaningful insights from them. The only way to harness the true power of data is to manage the chaos – create a live, connected single point of truth for your analytics program.

That's why now is the right time for organizations to examine their current data infrastructure, identify the pain points and challenges they face, and explore the technology solutions that could be the answer.

Challenges in Data Connectivity

Successful analytics require accurate data from all available systems across the organization. While this may seem like a no-brainer, connecting that data can be a constant struggle for many organizations. Here are a few of the main challenges facing organizations today:

Access to data. Successful decision-making requires live, comprehensive access to all data sources, without moving it, so the data is always current. Relying on humans to manually connect or transfer data is unrealistic and not scalable in the enterprise. Transferring data from storage locations like the cloud can also pose an issue. If data files are too large, transferring can take an excessive amount of time, ultimately proving an ineffectual way to consume data. Without live access, businesses can face costly errors that can hurt the bottom line.

Consistent data modelling. In general, data modelling and security need to come from where the data is originally stored. But having several sources means several different ways of doing things, often leading to incohesive data management across the enterprise.

Ensuring security. Ensuring security is of critical importance, and data must remain securely behind a firewall. In fact, many regulated organizations legally cannot allow data to leave specific geographical jurisdictions, making the maintenance of data from multiple sources incredibly complex and challenging.

Space and storage requirement. With so much data coming in and being stored in different locations, companies are spending more than they need to on storage space, whether in the cloud, on-prem or via a hybrid model. This kind of data redundancy can also cause latency, which can ruin one's business.

Enabling Live Data Consumption with the Right Connection

It's clear that leveraging data is an imperative today, and that all decisions made within the organization should be made based on data collected from various sources. But we also know that imperative does not come without challenges: managing data from disparate sources is difficult. The good news? With the right technology solution, that's something that can be easily solved.





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That's what led us to evaluate APOS Live Data Gateway for the SAP Analytics Cloud solution. With a simple user interface, APOS Live Data Gateway helps companies expand their data capabilities by unifying data and making it simpler and easier to access. Organizations gain live virtualized, governed access to data from a vast range of relational, OLAP, cloud, Hadoop and applications sources. Data is utilized via its existing location using a single, consistent connection point, and customers can leverage existing data modelling and security to ensure that it's as easy as possible for employees to use. Here are a few things we really enjoyed about the APOS Live Data Gateway solution:

It's easy. The APOS solution is incredibly easy to use – with no need to install multiple drivers on workstations and servers. The only thing needed is connectivity to APOS Live Data Gateway to gain access to all of one's data sources. Access is virtualized, governed, and presented in business terms using a semantic layer to provide a single version of the truth to all consumers. This, in turn, improves both processes and productivity, and organizations can be confident that they are making the most informed decisions.

It's user-friendly. APOS Live Data Gateway gives an organization access to all of their data sources using terms that are understandable to business users and truly enables self-service analytics including ad-hoc reporting and ad-hoc modelling. No coding is required. This greatly reduces the need for IT resource involvement, enabling agile decision-making and rapid response to change.

It creates new opportunities. APOS Live Data Gateway's connectivity is especially valuable for accessing non-SAP data sources in the cloud, which are generally too large to import and require live connectivity. It connects live to 150+ data sources.

It's flexible. APOS Live Data Gateway gives you maximum flexibility to access your data and increase self-serve capabilities. There is modelling to help analysts easily address their needs, as well as powerful capacity for those who need more granular control.

It's powerful. APOS Live Data Gateway works very efficiently with big data environments and adds minimal overhead to the query process – allowing today's high-performance data platforms to shine. Working with data sets with more than a billion rows? No problem.

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Those are amazing benefits, but don't just take our word for it. While evaluating the solution, we were able to hear from customers who have found success with APOS Live Data Gateway. These are the stories we found most compelling:

WR Grace, a global leader in providing catalysts and related technologies for the chemical manufacturing process, turned to APOS Live Data Gateway to connect to important data within Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and Google BigQuery from SAP Analytics Cloud. The connection reduced time and resource requirements to streamline their fiscal-period financial close process by replacing a two-day manual effort with a near-immediate analytics process.

Another global organization in the human and animal nutrition space with hundreds of facilities and thousands of employees turned to APOS Live Data Gateway to connect their Denodo data virtualization platform with SAP Analytics Cloud. The result? High-performance data and data connectivity virtualization that allows them to stream live data from their non-SAP data sources into analytics from SAP Analytics Cloud.

Why Live Data Gateway?

Big data has big power, and it's power that every organization needs. But managing that data can be problematic. The volume of data being created and gathered by companies is growing so quickly, and monitoring that data and ensuring its accuracy for live decision-making is not something that most organizations can do on their own. That's exactly what AI analytics and machine learning were born to do – and why APOS Live Data Gateway is such a timely, exciting solution.

To ensure that data investments prove valuable, it's essential that today's companies use a single source of truth for the data being used within the company, regardless of where that data may

have been gathered. And, because there is so much data to monitor, it's necessary to rely on technology to help solve the problem. One of the most reliable solutions we have found is APOS Live Data Gateway, which is available now on [SAP Store](#).

Big data isn't going anywhere. In fact, it's piling up everywhere. Taking a proactive step to create a single point of truth is extremely important now to ensure that you are not losing money—or customers—in the future due to bad analytics. Remember: your data is only as valuable as it is clean. At this point in time, risking inaccurate data is simply too costly a decision to make.

