SAP ANALYTICS

Business Intelligence, Statement of Direction

NOV 2019

THE BEST RUN **SAP**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SAP Analytics portfolio includes SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite, (as well as Analysis for Office), SAP Business Planning & Consolidation, and SAP Analytics Cloud.

We provide solutions for a diverse set of customer environments including on-premise, cloud, mixed, and embedded analytics deployments. This paper describes our future direction for our Business Intelligence customers.

SAP Analytics Cloud is our strategic direction and is changing the way our customers run their business. It helps them understand their data in context to make fast and confident decisions. The integration of Business Intelligence, Enterprise Planning, and Augmented Analytics in a single engine allows for a smooth experience from reporting, to simulation, to enterprise planning, and back again, all augmented by machine learning. SAP Analytics Cloud gives everyone visibility on critical information by providing self-service analytics capabilities that extend to a wider audience than ever before. SAP Analytics Cloud provides scalability, security, and corporate data connectivity for enterprises.

Analytics without context has less value. As part of SAP's Intelligent Enterprise strategy, SAP Analytics Cloud will be embedded in SAP's Cloud Suite. With this change, not only can more users benefit from SAP Analytics Cloud, but we can also better meet the requirements in each different domain.

As we define the future of SAP Analytics Cloud, we are committed to including a future for our existing SAP BusinessObjects customers. SAP pays great attention to BusinessObjects Suite and will continue to invest in the future of this product. The BusinessObjects Enterprise maintenance extends until 2027 at a minimum, providing maintenance timelines among the longest in the industry.

We are delivering major innovations in the coming year with the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 release and will continue to do so through **continued maintenance**. As more and more customers are running both solutions simultaneously, we are proposing more interoperability and are working on defining tools and capabilities to help our customers transition their workloads to the cloud.

SAP ANALYTICS CLOUD

SAP Analytics Cloud delivers Business Intelligence self-service use cases, augmented analytics, and has also recently expanded to include application design. The application also provides full enterprise planning capabilities with process and workflow. For more details on the enterprise planning capabilities, please go **here.**

We want our users to focus on what really brings them value, so we provide automated insights helping them answer common business questions, detect patterns and trends, and forecast potential outcomes. A significant area of investment for SAP Analytics Cloud is the automation of key use cases and augmentation of hidden insights.

Being able to work productively requires creative solutions for different users and customers. This is why we offer different ways to access information including mobile, Digital Boardroom, and custom applications built with Analytics Designer. Similarly, we believe customers should be able to leverage their existing data assets, which is why we highly value our live connectivity to systems like SAP HANA, SAP BW, SAP S/4 HANA, and SAP BusinessObjects. Our connectivity

extends outside of SAP systems as we value giving customers oversight on their business wherever their data is.

Prebuilt content, which packages SAP's business domain expertise, is included for many industries and lines of business to help customers quickly realize value. SAP Partners also provide more than 35 solutions to extend the capabilities of SAP Analytics Cloud.

The most recent product updates of SAP Analytics Cloud are always **published here**.

The future direction of SAP Analytics Cloud is to bring together human-authored and automated analytics in one enterprise-grade platform so everyone can make decisions without doubt. The key investment areas are:

AUGMENTED ANALYTICS

Automation and augmentation via machine learning have been a key area of investment for SAP Analytics Cloud since its inception and we will continue to enrich these. Our goal is to ensure these capabilities work in an enterprise environment, with a focus on respecting security, avoiding data replication, ensuring trust, and working live against remote data sources. This helps ensure that we can deliver the user benefits while limiting corporate risk and management overhead. Conversational AI can be a faster way to get answers, and over time will receive a more prominent place in SAP Analytics Cloud. In addition, we are continuing our research and will expand our capabilities with the aim of delighting our users.
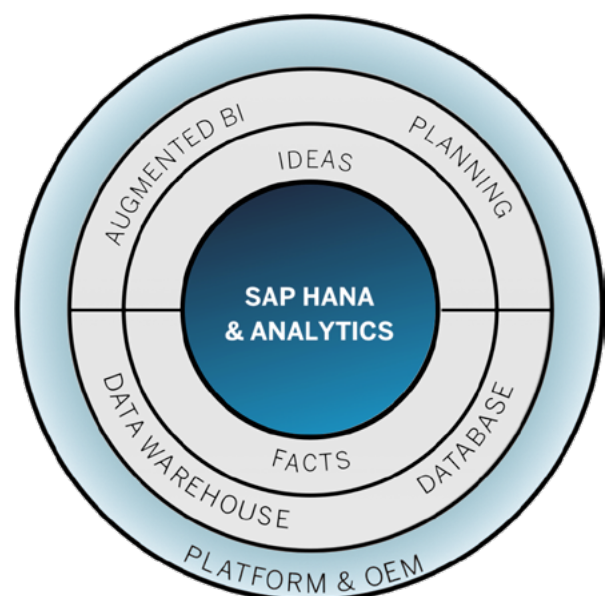
ENTERPRISE READINESS

We will continue to expand the core self service capabilities of SAP Analytics Cloud with a focus on user productivity, time handling, overall experience, and interactivity for the consumer. This is an important investment to ensure a smooth transition for those customers who prefer to replace their Bex Web, Web Application Designer, (WAD), Xcelsius & Dashboards, Lumira Discovery, or BusinessObjects Explorer initiatives with SAP Analytics Cloud.

We will also have a broader focus on addressing the additional needs of business intelligence in the enterprise. The bar has been set high by the BusinessObjects platform and we are proud to have achieved the industry standard. We are investing in these SAP strengths and expect to deliver scheduling and broadcasting of stories in the mid-term as well as sharing towards extranet. We will extend our layout options into reporting use cases as those continue to be important to our customers. We also expect to make investments in alerting, improved life-cycle management, auditing, enterprise semantics, and security to support better scalability.

INTELLIGENT ENTERPRISE

As the Intelligent Enterprise is an integral part of SAP's strategy, we can bring proven industry use cases and domain workflows directly in our analytics experience. By embedding this strategy into our applications, we will be tightly integrated in the Intelligent Enterprise, allowing our users to close the loop of insight to action. SAP is betting big on SAP Analytics Cloud as the analytics solution across all SAP Intelligent Enterprise applications, starting with C4C, (C4 Marketing), SuccessFactors, Ariba, and Fieldglass.

SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS BI SUITE

SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite is the best and most scalable enterprise reporting solution in the industry. SAP BusinessObjects Suite is currently in version 4.2. The next release, SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 is under development and is currently planned for mid-2020:

- We have listened to our customers and BI 4.3 brings a brand new, modern user experience for Business Intelligence Launchpad and Web Intelligence. The experience is now touch ready, using HTML5, with no Java required.

- Reducing the overall cost of ownership is an on-going priority, with improvements on security, and improved deployments on SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud (HEC) infrastructure. To aid hybrid deployments, customers will be able to onboard on-premise users to the cloud and keep them synchronized with their identity provisioning system.

- We are committed to help our customers use both SAP BusinessObjects and SAP Analytics Cloud to leverage their existing investments with innovations around language processing and Augmented Analytics in SAP Analytics Cloud.

We will continue to deliver features in the support packs following the release of BI 4.3. The future direction of SAP BusinessObjects BI suite includes refining the user experience for business users. We will accomplish this through improving interoperability capabilities, quality, and scalability. We will invest in simplification of use by means of installation and deployment options.

SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence and **SAP Crystal Reports** will see further development, including enhancements to the user experience, improvements to their foundational models and continued improvements in the hybrid capabilities, allowing SAP Analytics Cloud to reuse Universes and Web Intelligence data structures

SAP Lumira 2.3 was just released, and SAP Lumira 2.4 is currently planned for mid-2020. SAP Lumira Designer is set for selected feature and performance enhancements that will be continued into 2024.

SAP Analysis Office 2.7 is available as an Excel add-on, both as part of SAP BusinessObjects BI on premise, and a limited edition is also included as part of the SAP Analytics Cloud subscription. The version 2.8 is currently planned Q4 2019.

Following the end of support of Flash by Adobe at the end of December 2020, both SAP BusinessObjects Dashboards (Xcelsius) and SAP BusinessObjects Explorer will **no longer be supported** as they depend on Flash. However, those scenarios will continue to be supported via SAP Analytics Cloud. KBA **2739919** (Dashboards/Xcelsius), and KBA **2679783** (Explorer) provide more details.

SAP Predictive Analytics will continue to be supported until 2022 but future investment in tooling for data scientists will be directed to our new data science offering, **SAP Data Intelligence**. SAP Analytics Cloud will support a subset of predictive use cases targeted at business users and decision makers.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

For existing SAP BusinessObjects customers who have a Business Intelligence cloud strategy, we intend to work closely with them to continue building out their SAP Analytics Cloud capabilities.

> **Along this journey, our intention is to protect our customers' on-premise investments while we plan transition scenarios for moving on-premise workloads to the cloud.**

Our hybrid strategy will further advance in BI 4.3. This enables customers to better leverage use cases in a mixed environment, for example: using data discovery in SAP Analytics Cloud, and operational reporting with the SAP BusinessObjects platform. SAP is supporting customers on their journey to the cloud and provides many options to leverage their on-premise investments including universes, Web Intelligence documents, and existing row level security.

Live connection to on-premise data sources allows customers to leverage existing data, queries, and security without moving the data to the cloud. SAP BusinessObjects Live Data Connect has an architecture optimized for speed, that allows Analytics Cloud users to build stories leveraging existing universes for data access. In an upcoming version, currently planned in the same timeframe as BI 4.3, users will also be able to leverage SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence data models to build stories. With SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3, customers will be able to easily onboard on-premise users to the cloud and keep them synchronized with their identity provisioning system.

As part of our future direction for Live Data Connect, some selected innovations of SAP Analytics Cloud will be also made available in BusinessObjects. We plan to give customers further options to bring the critical parts of their existing universe investments into the future Semantic Layer on SAP Analytics Cloud.

SAP Analytics Hub is being unified with SAP Analytics Cloud to provide a single view of all your analytics including third party content. In SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3, an improved integration will allow easy publishing to the SAP Analytics Hub governed catalog.

It is important to us that we reward our loyal customers and provide them with incentives to consider SAP Analytics Cloud for their future use cases. SAP offers a conversion program called the **Cloud Extension Policy** to allow for a partial termination of on-premise maintenance when replaced with a new cloud contract. In conjunction with a new, less expensive Web Intelligence focused license, the savings can be used to start moving discovery use cases to the cloud, and benefit from the innovations in SAP Analytics Cloud. In addition to the capabilities coming in BI 4.3, we are also expecting to make additional investments to provide a continuum for our customers from their reporting workloads on BusinessObjects Enterprise today to SAP Analytics Cloud in the future

This Statement of Direction comes with following **FAQ document** with more details.