



# SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS REVIVAL: Regrouping for your SAP BusinessObjects Future

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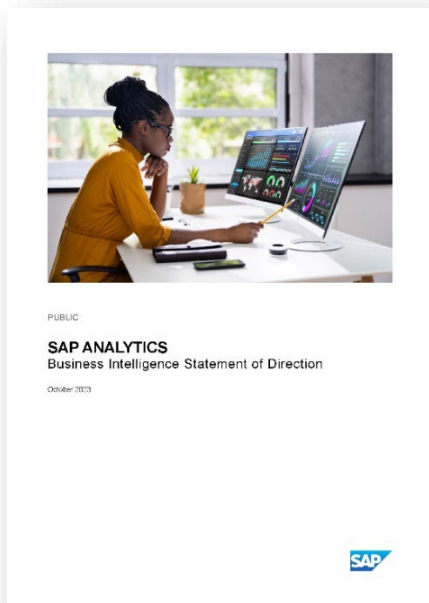




## REGROUPING – EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS

SAP’s redefined roadmap is bringing renewed attention and enthusiasm for the road ahead for SAP BusinessObjects deployments. Organizations are regrouping – refreshing their plans and repositioning for continued and expanded BI value from existing BI assets.

Whether you see SAP BusinessObjects as your primary BI strategy or as a parallel BI solution in a mixed Analytics portfolio, it is time to plan your next steps and define your investment into your SAP BusinessObjects deployment with an eye to optimizing BI results and driving ongoing BI value.



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*...thousands of you trust  
SAP BusinessObjects BI suite to  
reliably manage enterprise  
reporting use cases at scale:  
with version 2025 following 4.3,  
investments are safe beyond 2030.*

- [SAP Analytics Business Intelligence Statement of Direction](#)

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## THE ROAD AHEAD FOR SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS

In a recent webinar, we hosted SAP's Patrick Sims to discuss *The Road Ahead for SAP BusinessObjects*. (Watch on demand [here](#).) Here are the new features and topics he emphasized in the SAP BusinessObjects roadmap:

**Rationalization Strategy** – going beyond BI 4.3 to BI 2025, SAP BusinessObjects will focus on the most used tools: Analysis for Office, Web Intelligence, Crystal Reports Classic, and the Information Design Tool for UNX universes. Deprecated: Crystal Reports Enterprise, Analysis for OLAP, Live Office, multi-source universes, Universe Design Tool for UNV universes.

CURRENTLY USING:		CONSIDER ADOPTING:
Analysis for OLAP	→	SAP Analytics Cloud
Crystal Reports Enterprise	→	Crystal Reports Classic
Live Office	→	Web Intelligence Document OData Access
Multi-source universe users	→	Data blending in Web Intelligence or at the database level

**SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 SP04** focuses on:

- Extending the scope of specific key features (Crystal Reports, stability of the core BI Workspace, Web Intelligence Data Mode, cascading refresh of Web Intelligence documents better enabling them as a source and Web Intelligence OData service).
- Delivering the most wanted customer enhancements to Web Intelligence, the BI platform, and support for SAP Datasphere.
- Continuing to improve user experience.

For specific details, [view the webinar on-demand](#).



## REASSESSING YOUR ROADMAP

Now is the time to reassess your SAP BusinessObjects roadmap. Conversations with our customers have revealed the following priorities:

- 1. Take Stock of What You Have**  
– understand what business intelligence assets you have in your system, and a detailed view into how those assets are being used.
- 2. Assess & Action Unsupported Content**  
– categorize your content to identify and document what will remain supported, and what will not.
- 3. Right-Size Your System Content**  
– streamline your deployment to meet current and future needs and reduce technical debt.
- 4. Upgrade to BI 4.3**  
– position your deployment for stability and take advantage of mainstream support and new features.
- 5. Upgrade Universes to UNX Format**  
– UNX will no longer be supported in BI 2025.
- 6. Automate Efficient Management**  
– Take advantage of automation technology to reduce costs and simplify the management of your deployment.



Fortunately, APOS technology can help you tackle these priorities systematically.



## 1. TAKE STOCK OF WHAT YOU HAVE

The first step is understanding what you have, and determining what is necessary and what is unnecessary. You need to reassess:

### Content:

- What Web Intelligence assets exist in the system?
- What Crystal Reports assets exist in the system?
- What Lumira assets exist in the system?
- What universes exist in the system?
- What other content and assets exist in the system?

**APOS Insight**  
Unused Objects in Date Range

Unused Reports from: 01/01/2023 00:00:00 to 08/03/2023 00:00:00

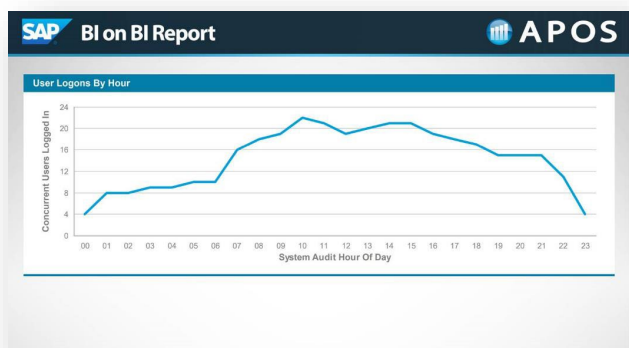
Insight User to Ignore: APOS\_Insight\_User

/Report Samples/Demonstration  
Comparative Income Statement

SI ID	Owner	Create Date	Last Update Date	Last Activity Date	Latest Activity	Latest Activity User
11919	Administrator	30/07/2015	13/05/2020 08:32:28	01/02/2023 19:10:35	View	APOS_Insight_User

Order Processing Efficiency Dashboard

SI ID	Owner	Create Date	Last Update Date	Last Activity Date	Latest Activity	Latest Activity User
11927	Administrator	30/07/2015	11/08/2022 13:09:43	01/02/2023 19:10:47	View	APOS_Insight_User

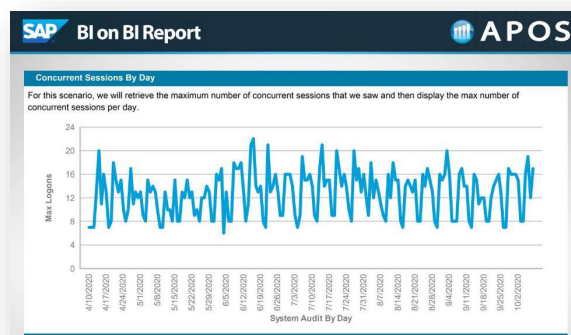


### Users:

- What users are in the system?
- What groups are in the system?
- What security structures exist in the system?
- What content Access and Rights apply to groups and users in the system?

### Utilization:

- What content and reports are being used?
- What content and reports are not being used?
- What users are active in the system?
- What users are not active in the system?
- What are the system content/usage patterns and trends?





## 2. ASSESS & ACTION UNSUPPORTED CONTENT

Some content types are being deprecated. Those content assets need to be identified, and an action plan needs to be set.

- **Lumira Designer** will remain in BI 2025, but Lumira Discovery and Server will be deprecated. SAP highly recommends that you move your Lumira workflows to Web Intelligence or SAP Analytics Cloud
- **Crystal Reports Enterprise** will be deprecated in BI 2025, but Crystal Reports Classic (CR2020, CR202x) will remain. Alternatively, you can move your Crystal Reports workflows to Web Intelligence.
- **Analysis for OLAP** is deprecated. SAP recommends moving these workflows to SAP Analytics Cloud.
- **Live Office** is deprecated. SAP recommends moving these workflows to Web Intelligence Document OData Access (BI 4.3 SP02).
- **Universe Design Tool / UNV Universes** must be replaced with the Information Design Tool and UNX universes.
- **Multi-source Universes (and associated connectivity)** are deprecated. You can achieve this functionality through data blending in Web Intelligence, or at the DB level.

Universe Folder and Name		Number of Reports	Universes/APOS Insight/Insight4 - SQL Server			
Report Folder	Location	Report Name	Report Owner	Report File Size		
Universes/APOS Insight/Insight4 - SQL Server					37	
Universes/APOS Insight/Insight4 - Oracle					35	
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - All Report Activity	Administrator	122211		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - Objects Scheduled by User	Administrator	150515		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - Reports Refreshed by User	Administrator	130472		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - Unused Objects in Date Range	Administrator	39828		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - User Login Activity	Administrator	94653		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Audit - User Login Activity Details	Administrator	101628		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Crystal - Search for Fields Used in Reports	Administrator	100847		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Crystal - Search for Tables Used in Reports	Administrator	100312		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Crystal - Structure	Administrator	100009		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Crystal - Summary	Administrator	144565		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Instances - Detail	Administrator	100891		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Instances - Historical	Administrator	101394		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Instances - Status	Administrator	98059		
Universes/Samplesofaction.uns	JAPOS Insight Reports/SQL Server	Object Listing - Content Types and Folders	Administrator	91423		

You will need to categorize your content into groups to identify and document how much content in your SAP BusinessObjects environment will be unsupported in future releases and migrations.

## 3. RIGHT-SIZE YOUR SYSTEM CONTENT

Many organizations have a significant amount of unused and unnecessary content residing in their system. Such content becomes unneeded 'Technical Debt' and constitutes a drain on administrative and system resources. Use the system analysis from your earlier reassessment work to decide which content should be removed.

Removing reports, universes, and users manually using the Central Management Console is a labor- and time-intensive process. Instead, using APOS technologies will allow you to automate the process with:



Before	After
Reports = 1,200	Reports = 350
Instances = 150,000	Instances = 73,550
Universes = 45	Universes = 20
Users = 750	Users = 500
Groups = 65	Groups = 30
Total Objects = 152,060	Total Objects = 74,450

End Result: SAP BI content and user count reduced by over 50%

- Comprehensive backup of system content assets: Stabilize and secure entire system; protect and retain assets for targeted future imports.
- Automated, rules-driven clean-up of system content: Systematic archival and removal of unnecessary content; streamline content to be migrated.

Next, you can restructure the remaining content and resources – scaling down, or scaling up, depending on the findings of your earlier system analysis. This may also include adjustments to your system infrastructure and licensing.

Right-sizing is what you do to adapt your SAP BusinessObjects deployment to suit changing needs and prepare for your next steps.

[View the \*Right-Sizing SAP BusinessObjects to Lower your Technical Debt Ceiling\* webinar on demand](#)

#### 4. UPGRADE TO BI 4.3

Many organizations have delayed their migration to Version 4.3, leaving them open to risks and pressure due to support timelines. Upgrading to BI 4.3 is a critical step in preparing for your SAP BusinessObjects future because:

- Mainstream maintenance has expired for version 4.2
- Timeline for Priority 1 Support expiry is drawing closer

When you upgrade to BI 4.3, you can:

- Enjoy the latest features and technologies
- Improve user experience for better decision making
- Implement new Enterprise Readiness & Hybrid features, improving the interrelationship between on-premise system and cloud systems
- Work in an environment where innovation directly impacts the success of your business





## 5. UPGRADE UNIVERSES TO UNX FORMAT

SAP has been clear that UNV format universes will not be supported in BI 2025. To go beyond SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 to BI 2025, you will need to convert your existing UNV universes to UNX format. You will also have to upgrade your Web Intelligence reports to repoint to the new UNX universes and validate the success of these conversion and repointing operations.

How large a project is this? How long will it take? We have worked with various SAP BusinessObjects customers who needed to convert hundreds of universes and tens of thousands of Web Intelligence reports, and in some cases hundreds of thousands of reports. These conversion, repointing, and validation projects can span across multiple years to complete. If your quantity of universes and reports is more modest, it will not take as long, but project organization and an understanding of the resources required are critical.

APOS technologies provide automation of this universe and Web Intelligence upgrade process. With this automation, even the largest SAP BusinessObjects deployments can address this necessary upgrade process with speed and efficiency.



### APOS UNX ADOPTION PROJECT COST ESTIMATOR

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Use the [APOS UNX Adoption Project Cost Estimator](#) to understand the size of your project and the resources necessary to complete it manually.



### BI UPGRADE FREEMIUM OFFER

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Knowing what automation options are available can help you formulate your migration strategy and plan your migration. We offer a limited, free version of our UNX conversion technology to help you gain that understanding and develop your UNX conversion project.

[Learn more about the BI Upgrade Freemium offer for SAP BusinessObjects](#)

[Learn more about APOS Migrator for Web Intelligence](#)





## 6. AUTOMATE FOR EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

Many of the tasks you undertake to prepare for, execute, and validate your upgrade should be continued on an ongoing basis to ensure you maintain your deployment's success and maximize efficiency. There are many repetitive and time-consuming tasks that APOS technology can help you with, such as:

### System Analysis

- Ongoing analysis of system utilization
- Ongoing analysis of report and Universe structures, impact analysis

### Managing change at the object level

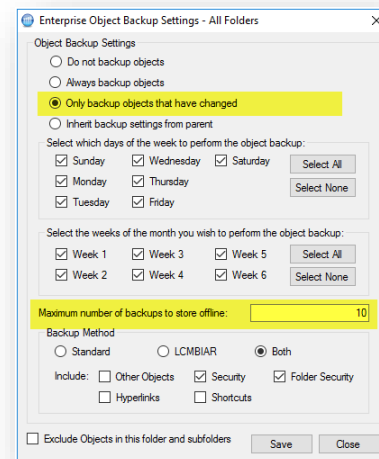
- Bulk updates to report properties and settings
- Bulk updating database configuration and password for all reports
- Bulk management and updates to security schemes for folders, users and groups

### Managing the content lifecycle

- Automate system and content cleanup
- Archive and back up objects and instances
- Simplify restoration of older versions of reports

### Managing governance and compliance issues

- Automated testing of reports
- Supports for system audits, financial and regulatory controls



## APOS AUTOMATION

APOS has been helping SAP BusinessObjects customers to do more with less and realize higher ROI since the beginning, by providing solutions that automate a wide range of system management and control capabilities, including deep system metadata, automating repetitive administrative tasks, and enabling system content lifecycle management.

Two specific APOS offerings that provide many of these automation capabilities in a solution-focused bundle are the [SAP BusinessObjects Upgrade Kit](#) and the [SAP BusinessObjects Operations Kit](#).



## THE SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS UPGRADE KIT

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The **SAP BusinessObjects Upgrade Kit by APOS** is designed to simplify and automate these tasks from upgrade readiness through migration execution, content validation, and ongoing operation. It will help you:

- Build the foundation for a successful migration
- Augment SAP tools for granular controls and focused needs in the target system
- Establish confidence in your successful migration
- Strengthen controls and reduce costs for your upgraded system

[Learn more about the SAP BusinessObjects Upgrade Kit](#)



## THE SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS OPERATIONS KIT

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If your organization has taken a wait-and-see position on your BI deployment, then you may have been neglecting some aspects of its maintenance, and consequently, its readiness for upgrade and positioning as an Analytics resource. Moving forward, you need to establish a proactive approach to system maintenance, platform administration, and content control.

Your BI and Analytics optimize your business processes. Our solutions optimize your BI and Analytics processes. Automate, simplify, complement, enhance and extend the capabilities of your BI system.

The **SAP BusinessObjects Operations Kit by APOS** will help you:

- Leverage enhanced metadata management and system analysis
- Automate backup, archive and restore capabilities
- Automate report testing
- Monitor and audit your BI system, infrastructure and environment in real time
- Use bulk administrative capabilities



Several APOS technologies are common to both the Upgrade Kit and the Operations Kit, but are utilized with a different purpose and focus on their given scenarios. Give your BI team the resources they need to adapt and thrive.

[Learn more about the SAP BusinessObjects Operations Kit by APOS](#)



## CONCLUSION

Whether you see SAP BusinessObjects as your primary BI strategy or as a parallel BI solution in a mixed Analytics portfolio, it is time to plan your next steps and define your investment into your SAP BusinessObjects deployment with an eye to optimizing BI results and driving ongoing BI value.



As you reassess your SAP BI roadmap, you will need to consider:

- Right-sizing your BI deployment
- Adopting the UNX universe
- Maintaining and increasing the efficiency of your BI deployment

The [APOS SAP BusinessObjects Upgrade Kit](#) is designed to simplify and automate your upgrade tasks from upgrade readiness through migration execution and content validation.

The [APOS SAP BusinessObjects Operations Kit](#) provides an integrated approach to BI platform management for SAP BusinessObjects, whether your deployment is on premise or hosted in the cloud.



## APOS CUSTOMER SUCCESS

APOS has been helping SAP BusinessObjects customers maximize efficiency and ROI for nearly 30 years. Here are some examples:

### WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY APOS ADMINISTRATOR

WKU uses SAP BusinessObjects as their reporting solution. They are currently running BI 4.2, but will upgrade shortly to BI 4.3. They were challenged by repetitive administrative tasks and change management as manual administration was time-consuming, labor-intensive and prone to human error. [Learn more](#)



*CLICK TO READ THIS SUCCESS STORY*

### HEALTHCARE APOS ADMINISTRATOR, APOS STORAGE CENTER

A US-based healthcare organization with close to 10,000 staff across hospitals and associated healthcare businesses uses SAP BusinessObjects in conjunction with an Epic EHR reporting system. They needed to find ways to manage SAP BusinessObjects changes efficiently at the object level while increasing flexibility and improving data governance. [Learn more](#)



*CLICK TO READ THIS SUCCESS STORY*



## DIVISION 1 UNIVERSITY

### UNIX ADOPTION

A US Division 1 university planned to upgrade their SAP BusinessObjects CMS data platform to Oracle 19c, but quickly discovered their UNV universes were not supported in later Oracle versions. With 80 UNV universes and 50,000 Web Intelligence reports, manual conversion would place a great strain on resources and substantially delay their Oracle upgrade. They needed to find a means of automating the conversion process. [Learn more](#)



### US Division 1 University

*CLICK TO READ THIS SUCCESS STORY*

## RESOURCES

### ON-DEMAND WEBINARS

- [On the Road\(map\) Again – SAP BusinessObjects](#)
- [The Road Ahead for SAP BusinessObjects](#)
- [MOVE IT OR LOSE IT! Automating Your Upgrade to UNIX Universes](#)

### BLOG POSTS

- [SAP BusinessObjects - Applying Automation to UNIX Adoption](#)
- [SAP Analytics Business Intelligence Statement of Direction](#)
- [UNIX Conversion Resources - APOS Migrator for Web Intelligence](#)
- [UNV is dead, long live UNIX](#) by Laura Vega, SAP
- [Automating UNIX Adoption – Overview](#) by Laura Vega, SAP



## APPENDIX: APOS SOLUTIONS FOR SAP ANALYTICS CLOUD



### APOS Live Data Gateway

Live connectivity from SAC to a wide range of data sources – Editions for SAC, Power BI, Snowflake, Ariba, S/4HANA, SAP Landscape, Premium Sources



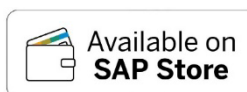
### APOS Publisher for Cloud

Broadcasting and distributing SAC content – Editions for SAP Analytics Cloud and S/4HANA



### APOS Insight for Cloud

Enhanced monitoring, auditing and validation of SAP Analytics Cloud



## APPENDIX: APOS SOLUTIONS FOR SAP BUSINESSOBJECTS



### APOS Insight

- BI System Auditing
- BI System Monitoring
- BI Query Surveillance
- BI Report Testing



### APOS Administrator

- Object Management
- Schedule Management
- Instance Management
- Web Intelligence Migration



### APOS Storage Center

- System Backup
- Content Archiving
- Content Versioning
- Automated System Clean Up



### APOS Publisher

- Systematic Content Delivery
- Advanced Document Bursting
- Enhanced Content Distribution
- Security and Encryption



### APOS Web Intelligence Migrator

- Bulk Convert from UNV to UNX
- High-Volume Web Intelligence Repointing
- Success Validation
- Controlled Workflow



## ABOUT APOS SYSTEMS

Since its beginning in 1992, APOS Systems has evolved from a custom business application development shop to a global provider of solutions promoting Well Managed Business Intelligence and Analytics.

APOS provides software products which deliver enhanced capabilities and strong agility in the management and administration of SAP BusinessObjects and SAP Analytics Cloud platforms, across the SAP solution landscape, and beyond. APOS well managed BI and well managed Analytics products improve return on investment and time to value for our global base of customers. APOS solutions simplify, automate, complement, enhance and extend BI practices, and focus BI and Analytics processes for greater agility in your organization's decision-making capabilities.



Available on  
**SAP Store**

APOS is a long-time SAP Partner with over 20 years of success in providing software solutions to enhance and extend SAP Analytics and Business Intelligence capabilities. APOS Data Connectivity solutions provide live, virtualized data connectivity for SAP Analytics Cloud to non-SAP data sources, including a wide range of relational and OLAP sources, and the vital cloud data platforms. APOS enables simplified analytics data processes for SAP Applications, such as SAP Ariba, SuccessFactors, Fieldglass and Concur. APOS Publishing solutions enable broadcasting and delivery of SAP Analytics Cloud and S/4HANA Analytics reports to targeted recipients. APOS BI Management solutions automate administration, testing, auditing, monitoring, and archiving for SAP BusinessObjects and SAP Analytics Cloud.



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