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SAP ANALYTICS

Business Intelligence Statement of Direction

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides guidance to our SAP BusinessObjects customers on the product directions of SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects solutions.

SAP Analytics Cloud is SAP's strategic analytics & planning offering and is changing the way our customers run their business, by allowing them to analyze their data in context and to make better and faster decisions. The integration of BI, planning and predictive in one native cloud solution allows to move from insight to action, brings analytics closer to the point of decision, and provides trusted insights from customers' most valuable data.

However, we don't want to leave any customer behind, and 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 BusinessObjects BI 2025

The successor of SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 will be

- enhanced to ease core workflows: report creation, access to information and integration with ever more complex landscapes,
- focused on our core strengths and most widely adopted solutions: SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, single source .unx universes, SAP Crystal Reports, SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office and the SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform,
- supported on Windows and Linux platforms.

We plan to release the first version in Q4 2024, followed by Support Packages every year.

As per our standard maintenance policy, SAP BusinessObjects BI 2025 will be supported until at least end of 2029 for mainstream maintenance, and 2031 for priority 1 support.

We will provide alternatives for the components not supported after 4.3.

As more of our customers shift their on-premises workloads to the cloud, we also offer **SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise, private cloud edition (PCE)**, which runs the BI suite in a managed cloud environment operated by SAP. The public cloud subscription model for SAP Analytics Cloud and the private cloud edition of SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise provide a flexible framework to adjust the number of users on either solution, and to adopt SAP Analytics Cloud at your own pace, as usage patterns evolve over time. Many of our largest SAP BusinessObjects customers already run both solutions side-by-side, during their transition to the cloud.

SAP Analytics Cloud

SAP Analytics Cloud's vision is to provide trustworthy analytics consumable by any user from any context. The closed-loop solution from insight to action allows customers to identify challenges, analyze options and execute decisions in one solution. Our superior knowledge of customer data and integration with core business processes will allow customers to deploy analytics faster and to solve their most important business problems.

You can review the main [features and scenarios](#) of SAP Analytics Cloud, and the detailed plan in the [SAP roadmap explorer](#).

At a high level, we have three main investments areas:

Enterprise Analytics

SAP Analytics Cloud allows every employee to consume critical information in their preferred way. End users can interact with governed stories, power users can slice and dice using Data Analyzer and designers can build no or low code dashboards.

SAP Analytics Cloud addresses common enterprise reporting scenarios, by allowing the creation of formatted stories, the ability to [schedule and distribute stories](#), and the export of large tables and stories to multiple-page documents. You can burst personalized reports to multiple people based on the security profile of the recipient. Going forward, we are planning to extend the calculation capabilities and the table formatting to allow for more powerful reporting.

One solution for BI, Planning and Predictive

SAP Analytics Cloud provides a full closed-loop solution from insight to action allowing customers to identify challenges, analyze options, execute decisions then monitor and evaluate results from one solution. This closed loop integrates all forms of analytics including planning, predictive and BI into a single system.

Customers use SAP Analytics Cloud to modernize their analytics ecosystem by going beyond visualization using machine learning and simulation. They also often replace classic distributed reports with stories which enable information consumers to answer many different business questions interactively from a single story on top of live data.

SAP Integration

SAP Analytics Cloud provides live connectivity to SAP data sources like SAP HANA, SAP BW, SAP S/4HANA, SAP Datasphere and SAP BusinessObjects universes. As we bring SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Datasphere closer together, customers will benefit from additional live data connectivity, cloud semantic layer, cross source modelling, and storage/compute elasticity.

More than 150 prebuilt [business content](#) packages, leveraging industry best practices, are included for many business processes and allow customers to accelerate their time to value, from a few months to a few weeks. These business content packages include pre-built dashboards, models, and semantic understanding, and can be deployed directly, only requiring a connection to the underlying SAP application.

SAP BusinessObjects BI

SAP BusinessObjects BI suite equips thousands of customers across the globe which rely on a robust and scalable solution for enterprise reporting scenarios to manage critical use cases. Proud of this heritage, we are committed to support every customer, and with version 2025, your investments are safe beyond 2030.

We strongly recommend you to upgrade to BI 4.3

As version 4.2 will reach end of priority one support at the end of 2024, and with BI 4.3 Support Package 3 available since December 2022, already several thousands of customers are live on version 4.3.

Version 4.3 brings a modern user experience for the BI Launchpad and for Web Intelligence, using HTML5, with no Java required, and many long-awaited improvements.

We strongly recommend all customers to upgrade to version 4.3 to benefit from the latest features, up-to-date platforms, connectivity, and security standards. Update from any 4.x version is simple as no artefact format has changed – which means that no migration is needed.

We give you the choice of deployment options

With **SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise, private cloud edition**, we offer a predefined package operated by SAP on the main hyperscalers, including software, support, technical managed services, and infrastructure. This is a great opportunity to shift from a maintenance contract to a subscription model while leveraging your existing investments in SAP BusinessObjects BI solutions.

Here are some of the key benefits:

- The latest version of SAP BusinessObjects BI is always available, thanks to yearly upgrades,
- 2-tier landscape: development/test and production by default, with optional additional tiers,
- Pre-configured hardware landscapes optimized for performance,
- Choice of hyperscaler infrastructure includes AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Microsoft Azure,
- End-to-end SLA 99.7%, backup and restore included within standard service scope,
- Opportunity to modernize the SAP BusinessObjects BI deployment, such as consolidate into one global instance, rationalize unused resources, simplify lifecycle management, and adjust license mix.

For customers ready to move to the cloud, SAP offers a conversion program called the Cloud Extension Policy that allows for a partial (or full) termination of SAP BusinessObjects BI on-premises maintenance when replaced with a new SAP Analytics Cloud contract or SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise PCE contract. In conjunction with a less expensive Web Intelligence focused license, the savings can be used to start moving your BI use cases to the cloud, and benefit from all the innovations in SAP Analytics Cloud.

In the future, customers will continue to have the choice for their infrastructure for SAP BusinessObjects BI solutions, either on-premises or in a managed cloud operated by SAP.

We will maximize your value

We plan to release the first version of SAP BusinessObjects BI 2025 in Q4 2024, followed by Support Packages every year. As per our standard maintenance policy, it will be supported until at least end of 2029 for mainstream maintenance, and 2031 for priority 1 support.

With this new version, we will continue the modernization started in version 4.3 (user experience, latest 3rd party components versions, JVM update) and streamline the BI suite by focusing on the core components while providing alternatives for unsupported ones.

To maximize the value for our customers, we will focus ongoing investments on the most-widely adopted SAP BusinessObjects BI solutions:

- SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform,
- SAP BusinessObjects Information Design Tool and single source .unx universes,
- SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence,
- SAP Crystal Reports (on Windows only*),
- SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office.

We want **SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform** to remain a trusted, robust and scalable platform for enterprise reporting scenarios. Therefore, we will simplify the upgrade to new versions so that the whole process is quicker and safer, we will improve the BI Launchpad, we will review notifications to facilitate monitoring, and we will provide better control on scheduling and user management.

We will certify the latest versions of supported platforms as well as the latest security standards. Likewise, we plan to certify new data sources and latest versions of already supported ones. Here again, we will focus on the most-widely adopted use cases: **single source .unx universes** and direct data connectivity.

On the client side, we will continue to offer the all-time favorites SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, SAP Crystal Reports and SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office.

SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence is a powerful business intelligence tool that enables organizations to make informed decisions based on actionable insights derived from data. Its value proposition lies to its strong link to the Semantic Layer (universes) and in its ability to deliver real-time data analysis and reporting. With its user-friendly interface and powerful features, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence allows business users to easily analyze and visualize complex datasets in order to make informed decisions based on up-to-date information. Going forward, we will focus on enhancing visualizations, interactivity, dashboarding and data manipulation capabilities with new visualization widgets that are both informative and engaging, new layout with auto-fit display, new visualization techniques and enhanced ad hoc query capabilities.

As the proven world standard of pixel-perfect reporting, **SAP Crystal Reports** will continuously provide easy to consume, highly formatted and information rich documents with enhanced Crystal Reports viewer. We also plan to support .unx universes and IDT connections, ease the migration experience from Crystal Reports for Enterprise (CR4E) to Crystal Reports (CR), enhance SDKs and address highly demanded customer requests.

SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office remains an important add-in for multiple data sources like SAP BW, BPC, S/4 and Group Reporting, is designed for financial analysts who require analytical capabilities in Microsoft Excel and can also be used with SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Datasphere.

**SAP Crystal Reports 2020 services are supported on Windows only from version 4.3 SP2 onward. Customers running the SAP BusinessObjects BI suite on UNIX or Linux clusters need to host SAP Crystal Reports servers on dedicated Windows servers. This distributed deployment is fully supported and this [blog post](#) details how to set this up.*

We will provide alternatives

We plan to remove the following components from SAP BusinessObjects BI 2025:

- SAP Lumira,
- SAP Crystal Reports for Enterprise,
- SAP BusinessObjects Universe Design Tool and .unv universes,
- Multi-source universes and associated connectivity,
- SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, edition for OLAP,
- SAP BusinessObjects Live Office,
- SAP BusinessObjects Mobile.

In terms of platforms, we plan to stop supporting AIX and Solaris after version 4.3 and will focus on our preferred operating systems: **Windows** and **Linux**.

As we did for the upgrade to version 4.3, we will make sure that the upgrade to the new release is as smooth as possible and will provide enough overlap so that each customer can upgrade at their own pace.

SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 is planned to be supported until end of 2027, with mainstream maintenance ending at the end of 2025, followed by two years of priority one support.

We are recommending alternatives for the following use cases:

- As communicated in this [note](#), SAP Lumira 2.4 will receive mainstream maintenance until end of 2025, followed by two years of priority one support until end of 2027, after which we plan to stop supporting Discovery, Designer & Server for BI Platform. We strongly recommend to transition analysis applications and data discovery use cases to SAP Analytics Cloud stories.
- SAP Crystal Reports for Enterprise was introduced with SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0, but never reached large adoption. We are therefore planning to stop supporting it and recommend customers to either use SAP Crystal Reports, or Web Intelligence. Different criteria in your current enterprise reporting configuration must be taken into consideration to decide which is your best target tool. Note that to help customers move to SAP Crystal Reports, we will start to support .unx universes with Crystal Reports 4.3 SP4.
- .unx universes authored with Information Design Tool already cover all Universe Design Tool and .unv universe use cases and we strongly recommend their use. Migration from .unv to .unx is fully supported by SAP tools. You can find more details on the migration process in this post: [UNV is dead, long live UNX](#).
- There are several types of multi-source universes. Different SAP solutions can be used to achieve same data federation use cases, from Information Design Tool to Datasphere. You can find more details on the alternative solutions in this post: [BusinessObjects Multi source Universes Alternatives](#).
- For SAP data sources BW and HANA, we recommend transitioning your AOLAP analysis to SAP Analytic Cloud Stories or Data Analyzer. For other OLAP data sources, an OLAP .unx universe can be an alternative, in conjunction with Web Intelligence. You can find more details on the alternative solutions in this post: [SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, edition for OLAP Alternatives](#).
- Microsoft Excel in combination with Web Intelligence OData access or SAP Crystal Reports OData access and Analysis for Microsoft Office can be strong alternatives for SAP BusinessObjects Live Office use cases. You can find more details on the alternative solutions in this post: [SAP BusinessObjects Live Office Alternatives](#).
- For report consumption on Mobile devices, we will improve the BI LaunchPad and report viewers responsiveness on smaller screens and recommend accessing reports through a mobile web browser interface.

We want to hear from you

The SAP BusinessObjects BI suite remains a key component of our Analytics strategy and we are committed to our customers. Please help us fine tune our roadmaps by providing your input through the dedicated influence channels: [SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform](#) and [SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence](#).

We appreciate your feedback and will answer your questions at sapaskanalytics@sap.com.

To know more about our portfolio, please visit www.sap.com.

