

Business planning and consolidation

LIFE AFTER SAP BPC: WHAT'S THE PATH FORWARD?



NTT DATA Business Solutions



NTT DATA
Trusted Global Innovator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Today's fast-moving economy requires agility, and that requires a budgeting and planning process that moves beyond basic revenue and expense planning. To remain competitive, your business needs a variety of in-depth plans that are more dynamic and proactive than ever before. Fortunately, modernised planning software is rising to the challenge.

If your business is still using the SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) solution, it's a good time to take a look at your current planning environment. SAP has announced it is to end support for its 10.1 version for Microsoft on 30/06/2026 and its 10.1 version for NetWeaver on 31/12/2027. Although those dates may seem a long way off, your business needs to consider its path forward for life after SAP BPC.

For the past few years, we have heard a lot about the next-generation SAP solutions that will supplant SAP BPC in supporting planning, forecasting, budgeting and consolidation processes. This includes SAP Analytics Cloud for planning, forecasting and budgeting (as well as analytics and predictive), and SAP S/4HANA Finance for group reporting (Group Reporting) for consolidation.

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and NetWeaver

However, these new solutions are still relatively immature and don't yet provide the same robust capabilities offered by SAP BPC. In the case of Group Reporting, it is also tied to SAP S/4HANA, so it may not be an option for customers that are still weighing or planning a move to SAP S/4HANA. That is particularly true for users of the SAP BPC Microsoft version, who are not necessarily SAP ERP customers. Once the SAP BPC Microsoft version exits mainstream maintenance at the end of June 2026, those customers will either be charged additional fees for support or forced to move to a new solution.

SAP BPC customers are a very diverse population in a lot of respects – industry, size, business case, usage – so it's difficult to provide a 'one-size-fits-all' answer.

This whitepaper explores several potential paths towards a more robust planning and consolidation solution that will support your business well into the future...



PATH 1:

Move to CCH® Tagetik for planning, forecasting, budgeting and consolidation

NTT DATA Business Solutions has a strategic partnership with CCH Tagetik, part of Wolters Kluwer, to offer its budgeting, planning and forecasting solution as well as its financial consolidation and close solution. These solutions are part of a unified platform that also offers several other solutions pertinent to finance and accounting and is integrated with SAP S/4HANA, ECC, BW, and SAP Analytics Cloud. The SAP Analytics Cloud integration provides visualisations with drill-through to get instant insights to make fast business decisions.

CCH Tagetik evolves your budgeting and planning by connecting your plans, processes and data all in one. Its built-in financial and planning intelligence provides the flexibility to adapt quickly for the future.

- **SAP HANA-ready:** CCH Tagetik is the *only* solution already optimised, tested and certified by SAP to be 'powered by SAP HANA.'
- **Direct integration into SAP S/4HANA and other HANA solutions.**
- **Flexibility with built-in planning intelligence (maintained by finance):** Built-in functionality such as driver-based planning, cash flow rules, process-driven workflow, allocation engine, rolling forecasts and more, supports the entire planning cycle from modeling and planning to reporting and analysis. Purpose-built to be finance-owned without coding or having to rely on IT, finance can quickly respond to organisational changes.
- **Single point of truth:** The financial close and consolidation solution allows you to automate the entire consolidation process, with complete trial balance imports, intercompany reconciliations, journals and reporting in a single platform.
- **Fast upgrades with a product roadmap:** CCH Tagetik's upgrades are seamless, non-disruptive and can be applied quickly, ensuring you can easily keep up to date with the latest functionality. CCH Tagetik's roadmap keeps you current with the most innovative technologies.
- **Streamline processes with centralised workflow:** Gain confidence through a collaborative process-driven workflow, detailed audit trail to enable full traceability, and intuitive dashboards to connect all your processes in a single solution, ensuring consistency.

CCH Tagetik evolves your budgeting and planning by connecting your plans, processes and data all in one.



- **Real-time solution:** Adapt quickly and easily to changing business conditions. With all your plans, forecasts and reports based on a single set of data, updated in real time, you can see the impact on key numbers and plans as they change. The SAP HANA data platform with in-memory technology provides key insights faster to drive your business. Run on-the-fly calculations and smart what-if analyses to verify real-time the business impact of your simulations.
- **Comprehensive reporting with seamless Microsoft Office integration:** Through CCH Tagetik's dynamic approach to reporting, consolidated data automatically populates pre-built reports, ad hoc analysis, and interactive dashboards. Seamless integration with Microsoft Office enables users to easily create narrative reports, board and budget books in PowerPoint or Word.
- **Fast decisions with SAP Analytics Cloud integration:** SAP Analytics Cloud integration provides visualisations with drill-through to get instant insights to make fast business decisions. With a modern HTML interface, users can access and share real-time data anywhere, anytime.
- **Expand your insight:** Connect operational and financial data through a single solution, powered by the Analytic Information Hub, that manages big data models (on SAP HANA's in-memory platform) allowing the running of complex calculations to support simulations and frequent forecasting.
- **Solution accelerators to expedite migrations from SAP BPC.**

PROs	CONs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A single tool on a data-driven unified platform. → Complete end-to-end close process -- financial close and consolidation, financial reporting, disclosure management, compliance and regulatory. → Provides additional value with functionality for profitability analysis, account reconciliation, cash flow, and planning/analysis. → Fits into the SAP landscape, as it is SAP Certified to run on HANA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Some SAP-centric organisations might balk at using a third-party (non-SAP) tool in the environment.



Seamless integration with Microsoft Office enables users to easily create narrative reports, board and budget books in PowerPoint or Word.



PATH 2: Move to SAP Analytics Cloud for planning, forecasting and budgeting

SAP plans to deliver major new planning enhancements in SAP Analytics Cloud, and SAP BPC customers can leverage these via a “hybrid” integration. In addition, SAP BPC will receive incremental enhancements based on customer feedback, and be maintained to ensure compatibility with underlying technology components and legal compliance.

However, SAP’s overall objective is to move SAP BPC customers smoothly to SAP Analytics Cloud for their planning requirements. The move between planning systems may require a hybrid scenario initially, as customers work to adjust their planning processes.

Using SAP Analytics Cloud for planning, forecasting, and budgeting may make sense for some businesses. Some reasons to consider moving completely to SAP Analytics Cloud include:

- **Enhanced visualisation:** Gain superior visualisation capabilities using SAP Analytics Cloud.
- **Next-generation FP&A tools:** Take advantage of machine learning/artificial intelligence and predictive tools.
- **Integration with SAP S/4HANA:** Seamlessly integrate with SAP S/4HANA for reporting and planning.
- **Plan anywhere and everywhere:** Engage the web, mobile and SAP Digital Boardroom devices.
- **Strategic business insight:** Leverage technology to spend less time planning, with the right business drivers.
- **Respond to market changes:** Close the gap between insight and action.
- **Extended Planning and Analytics (xP&A):** Use SAP Analytics Cloud to link to plans across lines of business.
- **Pre-built content:** Get a head start with pre-built planning content for lines of business and industry.
- **Foundation for innovation:** Benefit from a seamless path to your planning and analysis transformation.

Use
SAP Analytics Cloud
to link to plans
across lines of
business.



PROs	CONs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Provides a chance to reinvent planning processes to fit into the cloud-based solution➔ Allows you to take the ‘xP&A’ approach (aka, hybrid) of using SAP Analytics Cloud for point solutions in order to get a feel for it.➔ Provides the added benefit of using a single tool for these processes <i>and</i> business intelligence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Not as robust as an enterprise-wide planning solution.➔ Some businesses may be cautious about going to full public cloud.

PATH 3: Move to SAP Group Reporting for consolidation

SAP Group Reporting streamlines financial consolidation and close processes by unifying operational and group reporting. Key benefits of this solution include:

- **Provides real-time data access:** Consolidates planned and actual data in real time, both before and after closing. Necessary adjustments can be made locally and results provided immediately.
- **Accelerates the financial close process:** Combines financial, managerial, and operational data into a single repository and accelerates performance with real-time processes and analytics.
- **Unifies consolidation and transactional activities:** Manages consolidation with a unified environment, reduces data movements, and eliminates time-consuming reconciliation processes and analysis of inconsistencies.

As previously mentioned, the SAP Group Reporting solution is still relatively immature and does not yet provide the same robust capabilities offered by SAP BPC. One way to address limited reporting capabilities would be to use the Workiva connected reporting and compliance platform, which provides the ability to optimise reporting efficiency, improve collaboration, and provide stronger controls around the reporting process. NTT DATA Business Solutions has a partnership with Workiva to integrate your SAP financial information into your financial close and regulatory reporting process in the Workiva platform.



SAP Group Reporting streamlines financial consolidation and close processes by unifying operational and group reporting.



PROs

- Consolidation is tightly integrated with the general ledger (GL), with limited ETL (extract, transform, load) required.
- No separate system/landscape, and in some cases no additional licensing.
- Can still support multiple ERPs.
- Can do stand-alone scenario in S/4HANA Cloud.

CONs

- Limited reporting capabilities (this could be addressed using the Workiva FP&A platform)
- Process automation is limited in the current release.
- Multi-ERP customers need SAP Group Reporting Data Collection (GRDC), which is a separate licensed application.

PATH 4:

Move to SAP BPC 11.1

Currently, SAP BPC continues to be a key part of SAP's analytics portfolio, specifically for those requiring an on-premises planning application. Reasons for requiring an on-premises application include:

- Regulatory requirements related to location of data storage
- Corporate policy or contractual agreements
- Ability to deliver deeply integrated planning capabilities as an integral component of an on-premises SAP data warehouse
- Requirements for customisation beyond the scope of a public cloud solution

However, as previously mentioned, SAP has announced it is ending support for its BPC 10.1 version for NetWeaver on 31/12/2027.. If you haven't already moved to SAP BPC 11.1

version for BW/4HANA, one key fact for current SAP BPC customers is that this is a separately licensed application from any past SAP BPC version. That means there is more administrative work to be done with a potential cost in order to make this move to version 11.1.

Another thing to note is that SAP has officially stated the BPC 11.1 version is only supported through 31/12/2024 – but there is a possibility that it may be supported through the end of 2027. The reason for this is because SAP BPC 11.1 is tied to BW/4HANA 2.0, and the maintenance window for that is through 31/12/2024. However, SAP's Product Availability Matrix currently shows the next release of SAP BW/4HANA 2021 planned for Q4 2021, and that will also bring SAP BPC 2021 for BW/4HANA. These new versions of BW/4HANA and SAP BPC are expected to be supported through 31/12/2027.

SAP BPC continues to be a key part of SAP's analytics portfolio, specifically for those requiring an on-premises planning application.



Some benefits of moving to the SAP BPC 11.1 version include:

- Reduced total cost of ownership through availability of more cloud deployment scenarios.
- Opens up the ability to create more complex planning scenarios with greater forecasting accuracy and granularity by connecting with data sources more seamlessly.
- Reduces time to execute consolidation and planning processes thanks to calculation performance improvements in HANA.
- Modernised reporting and data inputs as well as enhanced visualisations allow more personnel to interact with SAP BPC than in the past.
- Predictive capabilities can potentially increase forecast accuracy and simplification of process through integration with SAP Analytics Cloud.

PROs	CONs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ It is likely that this version will have mainstream maintenance dates extended.➔ It's the same great solution that your business users are accustomed to using.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ This could be viewed as just a licensing event.➔ Conversion/migration is for SAP BPC Microsoft customers that may need hosting of the SAP BW/4HANA system.➔ Large BW shops have been slow to make the change from NetWeaver BW to BW/4HANA, as there is a lot of work involved in the migration.

Reduced total cost of ownership through availability of more cloud deployment scenarios.



SUMMARY

The table below outlines our recommended approaches based on different customer scenarios. Note that this could differ for enterprises with multiple ERP systems and the complexity of planning capabilities currently deployed in SAP BPC, and is also dependent upon the customer's SAP S/4HANA roadmap in the case of Group Reporting.

KEY:

1 = recommended

2 = second option

3 = third option

Customer Scenario	SAC	Group Reporting	CCH Tagetik	Move to BPC 11.1
SAP BPC NetWeaver Planning Only	1	NA	2	3
SAP BPC NetWeaver Consolidation Only	NA	1	2	3
SAP BPC NetWeaver (Both)	2	2	1	3
SAP BPC Microsoft Planning Only	2	NA	1	3
SAP BPC Microsoft Consolidation Only	NA	2	1	3
SAP BPC Microsoft (Both)	Not recommended unless moving to S/4HANA		1	2

Whichever direction you choose, NTT DATA Business Solutions can help you ease your journey from existing on-premises deployments, extending or expanding your environment into a complementary cloud strategy with minimal disruption. If you would like to learn more about your options for moving from SAP BPC and how to get there, let us know. We would be happy to help.



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