

How to simplify SAP DevOps audits and compliance with Rev-Trac



Speedy delivery of SAP change and audit compliance don't have to be incompatible.
Streamline audit efforts and enforce SAP DevOps workflows to accelerate change delivery.





Introduction

In a constantly evolving world, organizations must develop and deploy changes to SAP systems at the speed of business.

SAP DevOps is touted as the cure-all. The fundamental object of SAP DevOps is to enable organizations to become agile by continuously developing, testing, and deploying SAP change. Adopting SAP DevOps allows you to deliver rapid change that has gone through a complete change lifecycle, reducing errors and issues that could disrupt business and cost millions of dollars.

An SAP DevOps approach involves integrating ABAP and non-ABAP technologies into an end-to-end toolchain to support the continuous delivery of SAP change. For example, an SAP DevOps workflow could include technologies such as Jira, ServiceNow, Tricentis Tosca and LiveCompare, and your SAP solutions.

SAP compliance and audit success

No one likes an audit. However, they are necessary to ensure compliance with overarching business processes.

Unfortunately, audits can be expensive to support, both in time and resources. It isn't uncommon for auditors to divert IT staff for an extended period to sift through emails, Excel spreadsheets, and even manual paperwork to prove that all changes followed internal processes and procedures before migrating to production.

The challenge for organizations adopting an SAP DevOps strategy is how to eliminate the tedious manual audit processes (yet, still guarantee compliance) while realizing the faster and more frequent delivery of SAP change that DevOps offers.

Automation is critical

In our experience, automating SAP change management is essential to achieve the twin objectives.

Automation eliminates risky manual tasks and can enforce internal change management processes, ensuring compliance and supporting audit efforts. At the same time, the capability to integrate with other technologies to create a unified SAP DevOps toolchain can help to accelerate the delivery of change.

Getting rid of time-consuming manual audit and compliance efforts in an SAP DevOps workflow provides numerous benefits including:

- *Accurate information* – eliminates double handling and errors in copying data to integrated ABAP and non-ABAP systems
- *Automated and enforced change processes*
- *Verifiable audit evidence and artifacts* – documented history of SAP changes

- *An efficient process to support audit and compliance requirements*
- *A central single source of truth for SAP change*

When selecting an automated change management solution, assess each tool's ability to provide governance, process control, and uniform discipline without losing the flexibility needed to keep pace with rapidly changing business and regulatory demands.

Why Rev-Trac Platinum?

Rev-Trac is the SAP DevOps Orchestration Platform that helps organizations achieve agile, unified SAP DevOps; and assists with compliance and audit reporting. The software automatically enforces the necessary SAP change policies and processes and makes reporting significantly faster with complete documentation of changes from development to production.

By eliminating procedural errors, Rev-Trac enhances control and traceability and increases visibility across your change processes. So, when it comes to compliance, this makes for very happy internal and external audit teams.

Rev-Trac helps support automated SAP compliance and audit processes in DevOps environments in three crucial ways, among others:

1. Each transport is related to a Rev-Trac request
2. Enforcement & traceability
3. Change documentation & accountability



1. Each transport is related to a Rev-Trac request

You may have to manage dozens, hundreds, or perhaps thousands of monthly transports in an agile SAP DevOps environment where changes can be deployed weekly or even daily. In this scenario, guaranteeing compliance and effective auditing might seem unthinkable.

An essential function of Rev-Trac is to help manage the deployment of transportable changes to your SAP systems safely and effectively. With Rev-Trac driving SAP change, you can be confident that every change and the associated transports can be easily managed and accounted for.

Rev-Trac creates a link between a transport and a Rev-Trac request, allowing you to control how SAP change progresses through your landscape. There are no workarounds or rogue transports, as every transport is attached to a Rev-Trac request.

It doesn't matter where the need for a change originates; it could be a Jira user story or a ServiceNow incident, for example. As a developer creates a transport, Rev-Trac intercepts the change and requires it to be related to a Rev-Trac request. A Rev-Trac request is a collection of resources that addresses a business requirement.

These resources could include:

- Documentation such as specifications or SAP notes relating to the requirement
- One or more SAP transports carrying workbench objects or customising changes
- References to other resources, such as records created in other systems

The enduring link to the original need for change is extremely important from an audit perspective. In the real world, development rarely runs smoothly. It's more common for work to proceed in two steps forward, one-step backwards fashion, at least for a time.

So, a Rev-Trac request can have multiple transports; it could be two, or 10, or more. Yet, due to the fixed link between a transport and Rev-Trac request, auditors can easily find all the changes for a particular business requirement, no matter which SAP system/s they originated.

2. Enforcement & traceability

Rev-Trac's enforcement capabilities extend beyond requiring transports to be related to a Rev-Trac request.

When using Rev-Trac to manage change, enforcement drives the workflow. You can configure the software to force changes to follow internally documented change management processes. Meaning you control how changes move through a landscape with Rev-Trac controlling the processes from start to finish for both ABAP and non-ABAP solutions.

At audit time, traceability is critical for success. With Rev-Trac enforcement set, no untraceable change can slip into the system. There can be no undocumented workaround or on-the-fly minor adjustments that bring a system out of sync with what is documented.

Every change follows an approved pre-configured process based on status steps, approvals required, approvers, and more. Rev-Trac prevents SAP changes from progressing unless standards are met, and the necessary information is provided, ensuring users comply.

Integrated workflow and SAP DevOps orchestration

Rev-Trac's ability to enforce consistent, repeatable processes allows multiple, distributed teams to resolve and deploy a business requirement without disrupting daily operations. This idea of enforcement and multi-connected people and systems is the foundation for SAP DevOps success.

Integrating third-party tools into SAP change workflows is challenging without an orchestration engine to ensure the necessary steps happen when they should. Rev-Trac is that orchestration engine, automating and coordinating the tools, to create an auditable and compliant SAP DevOps workflow for application delivery and upkeep..

Rev-Trac bi-directionally integrates with ALM and DevOps tools like ServiceNow, Jira, Tricentis Tosca and LiveCompare, and Onapsis for SAP systems to build a unified toolchain. Rev-Trac acts as the orchestration engine, calling all tools at the appropriate time – none are bypassed. At the same time, SAP changes only progress when the desired outcomes are achieved and verified.



3. Change documentation & accountability

Audit and compliance are two words that can strike fear into every SAP IT team. Yet audits and compliance are necessary.

The purpose of an audit is to seek confirmation of work and data. To ensure compliance and make a clean audit, you must:

- Enforce consistent, repeatable processes that obey rules like segregation of duties
- Have evidence that the process was followed for every change
- Documentation to support various approvals along the way

Yet, repeatedly, resources are chewed up manually, checking that change processes were followed, and the appropriate approvals were received, for example.

With Rev-Trac orchestrating and automating your SAP DevOps workflow, you can generate a detailed, auditable change log to simplify audit and compliance processes.

Our software tracks and automatically documents every stage of every change. You can trace any change back to the initial requestor and stated business reasons. Who did what, when it happened, what were the outcomes and who approved it, etc. is available at the touch of a button.

Rev-Trac is the central point of control for your SAP DevOps workflow, creating a single version of truth for all SAP changes. The detailed history of any change is in one place, and the record is updated in all connected systems. You can have confidence that third-party tools are correctly utilized, and the results captured, providing a transparent trail for auditors.

The effort to audit SAP DevOps is suddenly considerably less time-consuming. SAP IT teams can focus on keeping data flowing rather than sifting through emails and spreadsheets to prove changes followed documented processes.



The Bottom line

SAP DevOps and satisfying audit and compliance requirements are not mutually exclusive when managing SAP change to keep up to speed with constantly changing business demands.

Sure, accelerating the delivery of SAP change to the business gets a lot of attention. Yet, audits and compliance can become bottlenecks if processes are not automated. Resources are drained hunting down vital information to tick off audit demands. So, your workflow must be automated and fully auditable when adopting an SAP DevOps approach.

Using Rev-Trac to automate and coordinate your workflow ensures that each step is executed and happened at the right time, guaranteeing compliance. Simultaneously every detail of every change is logged, making reporting more efficient, which is crucial come audit time.

Ultimately, your goal is to support SAP DevOps and audit requirements by controlling changes progressing to production and confirming that proper procedures were followed with a single end-to-end archive of SAP change activity. Rev-Trac Platinum, the SAP DevOps Orchestration Platform, makes this a simple matter.

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