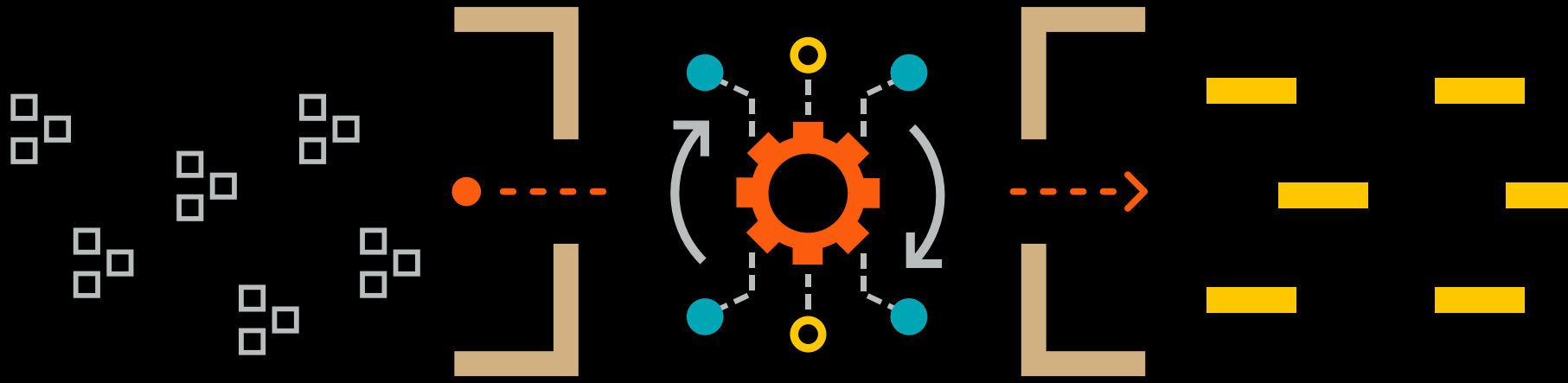
CAMUNDA

Don’t Just Run SAP - Run Better.



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Contents

Introduction	3
The Reality of SAP Complexity	4
Why You Need Process Orchestration: To Finally Get it Right–Now, and for the Future.	5
How Camunda Helps CIOs Solve Core SAP Challenges	6
Real Outcomes: Faster Migrations, Lower Costs, Happier Teams	9
Achieving True Business-IT Alignment	9
Navigating Digital Transformation—On Your Terms	10
Conclusion	11

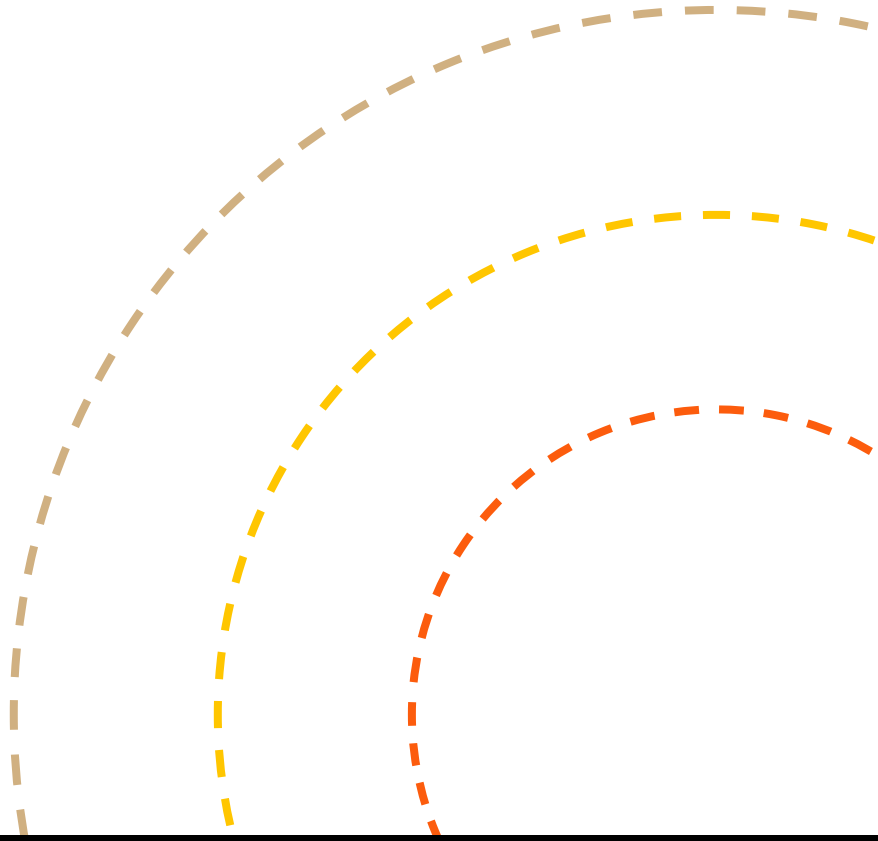
Introduction

If you are a CIO or IT executive relying on SAP to run critical operations, you're navigating one of the toughest balancing acts in enterprise IT. On the one hand, you need stability — no one wants to risk the backbone of their finance, supply chain, or customer data. On the other hand, the business expects faster delivery, better customer experiences, and integration with the latest technologies. Add looming deadlines like the SAP ECC end-of-life in 2027, and you've got a perfect storm of complexity and urgency.

What if there was a way to take control of this complexity and turn it into a competitive advantage? That's what process orchestration promises: a practical, strategic approach to bridging the gap between legacy customization and modern agility. By orchestrating SAP-driven workflows end-to-end, you free your teams from firefighting mode and shift focus toward continuous improvement, innovation, and measurable business outcomes.

Camunda's process orchestration platform is built for this reality. It is not just another tool; it is the foundation upon which you can reshape how your organization designs, executes, and evolves business processes. With Camunda, you can surface and formalize your workflows in a visual way using BPMN, creating a shared language between IT and business teams. This not only provides clarity and alignment but also makes processes easier to adapt and improve as business needs evolve. You can embrace iterative S/4HANA migration, integrate cutting-edge technologies at your own pace, and align IT capabilities with what the business actually needs — without losing the stability that has kept your operations running smoothly for years.

In short, process orchestration provides you with full visibility across your IT landscape with deep insights into your processes end-to-end. And that helps you optimize what you have, modernize where it makes sense, and transform your SAP landscape into a composable, open architecture ready for strategic growth rather than an anchor holding you back.



The Reality of SAP Complexity

Let’s call it like it is: your SAP environment is not just complex — it’s layered with decades of customization, proprietary ABAP code, and scattered automation efforts that never quite aligned. You’ve got silos that don’t talk to each other, maintenance overhead that sucks up IT budgets, and an architecture that often feels too rigid – while also too fragile – for today’s pace of change.

For a CIO, complexity translates into direct problems:

- Budgets are consumed by maintenance, leaving too little for innovation.
- Processes that are difficult to modify when market conditions shift or when the business tries something new.
- Highly skilled IT talent tied up in routine support, not strategic projects.
- Integration hurdles that slow down efforts to adopt AI, IoT, or other next-gen technologies.

In other words, complexity is more than a tech headache — it’s a strategic roadblock. If you are spending all your time and resources keeping the lights on, you have nothing left for the exciting stuff: innovative product launches, AI-powered data-driven decision-making, or customer journeys that anticipate needs and delight users.

Complexity is more than a tech headache — it’s a strategic roadblock.

Why You Need Process Orchestration: To Finally Get it Right–Now, and for the Future.

Process orchestration flips this scenario. Instead of adding more band-aids, it provides a way to unify workflows across SAP and non-SAP systems, integrate emerging technologies smoothly, and manage changes without re-architecting the entire ship.

Consider what this means from your perspective as a CIO:

- **Accelerated Time to Value:** Visual process modeling with BPMN fosters collaboration among business and IT stakeholders. This alignment ensures processes meet business needs from the outset, enabling your organization to adapt quickly to changes and achieve tangible results faster.
- **Agility Without Sacrificing Stability:** You keep core systems stable while making incremental improvements.
- **Controlled Migration:** When moving to S/4HANA or updating your ecosystem, you can do it step-by-step, reducing risk.
- **Faster Iteration:** When business needs change, you can adjust workflows in weeks or even days, not months.
- **Less Technical Debt:** By externalizing workflows and using standards like BPMN and DMN, you prevent each new customization from piling up on your tech debt mountain.

Essentially, process orchestration is like adding a flexible layer of intelligence on top of your SAP environment. It’s not about ripping and replacing; it’s about connecting and optimizing.

How Camunda Helps CIOs Solve Core SAP Challenges

Camunda's Process Orchestration platform is purpose-built to address the specific challenges CIOs face in SAP environments. By leveraging SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP) and following SAP's Clean Core approach, Camunda provides the tools to streamline operations, modernize processes, and drive innovation — all while maintaining the stability critical for mission-critical systems.

Seamless Integration with SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP)

Disconnected workflows and integration challenges often prevent organizations from fully leveraging their SAP systems alongside non-SAP platforms. Camunda eliminates these barriers by using SAP BTP as a centralized hub for connecting and orchestrating workflows.

Direct connectors: Leveraging OData and RFC components ensures efficient and secure data exchange across SAP and external systems. Selected BTP services are available in the process model.

Unified workflows: Processes flow seamlessly between SAP and non-SAP environments, eliminating silos and reducing manual effort. Human tasks are orchestrated with Fiori.

Centralized visibility: Teams can monitor and optimize workflows in real time, improving agility and efficiency.

Outcome: Camunda leverages the familiar SAP BTP and Fiori user experience, making it easy for business process owners to make changes without IT dependency. This frees IT teams to focus on strategic initiatives, accelerating time-to-value and enabling operational agility.

For a deeper dive into Camunda's SAP integration capabilities, visit our SAP Integration Blog.

Iterative S/4HANA Migrations with Reduced Risk

Transitioning to S/4HANA is a complex, high-stakes endeavor for many CIOs. Camunda supports phased migrations by externalizing workflows from SAP's core, allowing gradual transitions without disrupting business continuity.

Operate in parallel: Camunda enables organizations to run workflows across both ECC and S/4HANA systems during the migration period.

Phased testing and go-live: Workflows can be migrated, tested, and refined iteratively, minimizing downtime and reducing risk.

Adherence to SAP Clean Core principles: Externalizing workflows eliminates ABAP dependency, creating a more agile SAP landscape.

Outcome: Lower-risk migrations completed on time and with less disruption to critical business operations.

Standardized Processes with BPMN and DMN

Legacy customizations often leave SAP landscapes riddled with technical debt. Camunda transforms this complexity by enabling organizations to standardize processes by standardizing on BPMN and DMN, creating a foundation for flexibility and collaboration.

Create a future-ready, modular IT environment: Standardizing processes with BPMN drives consistency in process execution and data flow across processes and systems, creating a unified, scalable, and adaptable foundation for the future.

Collaborative design: A shared visual model bridges the gap between IT and business by providing a common language, fostering collaboration and alignment.

Simplified updates: Changes to workflows can be made quickly without requiring development resources.

Outcome: Standardized processes reduce technical debt while fostering agility and adaptability. Organizations gain the flexibility to respond to changing business needs and a future-proof foundation ready to integrate with emerging technologies.

Operationalizing AI with Process Orchestration

AI's benefits are often unrealized because implementations remain siloed, replicating the fragmented approaches seen in task-level automation. Camunda ensures AI is seamlessly integrated into end-to-end processes, avoiding these pitfalls and enabling true enterprise-wide scalability.

Integrated intelligence: AI is embedded into orchestrated workflows, ensuring data-driven decisions and automation are applied holistically, driving consistent and scalable outcomes.

Dynamic scalability: Camunda's architecture scales dynamically to handle increasing workloads and evolving business needs, ensuring AI-powered workflows remain responsive and reliable.

Edge ERP capabilities: Build composable solutions at the edge of ECC or S/4HANA, enabling seamless integration of emerging technologies while maintaining system flexibility.

Outcome: Organizations can unlock the full potential of AI by integrating it into standardized, scalable processes, fostering innovation and agility without creating new silos or inefficiencies.

Empowering Business Users While Maintaining IT Governance

Modern enterprises demand faster responses to changing market conditions. Camunda empowers business users to implement changes autonomously, freeing IT to focus on strategic initiatives:

Business-friendly tools: BPMN and DMN allow non-technical users to design and update workflows visually.

IT oversight: Governance tools ensure workflows remain secure and compliant with organizational standards. Camunda's SAP integration modules are prepared to run in your BTP landscape, adhering to the standard application life cycles.

Outcome: Faster time-to-value for business-led initiatives supported by IT's governance and expertise.

For a deeper understanding of how Camunda integrates with SAP and empowers business stakeholders to adapt rapidly to change, check out this video from our recent CamundaCon event in NYC.

Real Outcomes: Faster Migrations, Lower Costs, Happier Teams

This is not just theory. Camunda customers see tangible results:

- **Deploy Faster:** Accelerate development for new SAP extensions by >50% and deploy in days instead of months.
- **Lower Operating Costs:** Centralizing workflows and reducing manual fixes cut operational expenses.
- **Improved Customer Experience:** More efficient back-office operations translate into timely deliveries, accurate billing, and better overall service.

Take manufacturing: orchestrated processes align supply chains, production schedules, and quality checks, reducing downtime and cutting costs. **Telcos** streamline billing, service provisioning, and maintenance in one unified flow, raising customer satisfaction and retention. **Healthcare** organizations ensure patient records, compliance checks, and claims processing run like clockwork, ultimately improving patient care. **Retailers** integrate inventory, fulfillment, and returns seamlessly, creating consistent and positive customer experiences — both online and in-store.

Achieving True Business-IT Alignment

A CIO's goal is to run IT like a strategic partner, not a cost center. Process orchestration helps realize this vision. Using BPMN and DMN, your business and IT teams share a common language. When both sides understand the "why" and "how" of each workflow, changes become smarter, faster, and more aligned with the company's larger goals.

This is not about handing the keys entirely over to the business — it's about freeing IT from minor tweaks and firefights so your experts can focus on strategic, high-value initiatives. Everyone wins: IT gets to innovate, business gets what it needs, and the whole organization moves forward cohesively.

Navigating Digital Transformation—On Your Terms

As ECC's sunset approaches, many organizations feel pressured to move to S/4HANA. But not everyone is making the leap. Recent research by Foundry indicates that 59% of SAP customers are considering not migrating and instead opting to build composable ERP solutions at the edge of SAP ECC. This trend underscores a significant shift towards more flexible and modular approaches to ERP, allowing organizations to maintain agility and scalability without committing to a full migration.

In addition, Gartner reports that as of Q2 2024, 63% of ECC customers had not yet licensed S/4HANA, reflecting the complexity and hesitation surrounding full-scale migration. Gartner emphasizes that while organizations do not need to migrate now, they must still develop a clear plan—whether they choose to migrate, modernize, or remain on ECC—to avoid increased costs, disruptions, and missed opportunities for innovation.

The good news: Camunda supports whatever path you choose.

- **If You Are Migrating to S/4HANA:**
  You can do it gradually. Execute standardized processes on Camunda, integrate with ECC and S/4HANA, and shift workloads step-by-step. Lower risk, lower testing overhead, and fewer sleepless nights.

- **If You Are Staying Put for Now:**
  Maybe full migration is not in the cards yet. That's okay. You can build composable, best-of-breed solutions around ECC, orchestrating them with Camunda so you still get agility and scalability. When you are ready to move – to wherever that may be – you won't be boxed in.

Either way, you are not forced into a one-size-fits-all solution. You maintain control over the pace and scope of your transformation.

Conclusion

For years, SAP's IT complexity felt like a necessary evil — the cost of doing enterprise-scale business. Today, that's no longer the case. Camunda's process orchestration platform turns complexity into a strategic advantage.

You gain the freedom to modernize on your schedule. You reduce the burden of technical debt. You empower the business to adapt quickly. And you position IT as a catalyst for innovation rather than a bottleneck.

In a market that rewards agility, intelligence, and seamless operations, process orchestration is the backbone that lets you evolve SAP beyond its legacy constraints. With Camunda, you can confidently embrace the future — whatever form it takes.

Ready to See How Camunda Can Transform Your SAP Systems?

Explore how process orchestration can simplify complexity, enhance agility, and future-proof your SAP IT.

Request a Demo Today

About Camunda

Camunda enables organizations to orchestrate and automate processes across people, systems, and devices to continuously overcome complexity, increase efficiency, and fully operationalize AI. Built for business and IT, Camunda's leading orchestration and automation platform executes any process at the required speed and scale to remain competitive without compromising security, governance, or innovation.

Over 700 companies across all industries, including Atlassian, ING, and Vodafone, trust Camunda with the design, orchestration, automation, and improvement of their business-critical processes to accelerate digital transformation.

To learn more, visit camunda.com.