

Research Services

2026 AGENDA

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customer engagement



Differentiate yourself by establishing your credibility and align your brand to some of the most exceptional thought leadership and fact-based research in the SAP ecosystem today.

We cover the most important ideas and latest trends from across the ecosystem for end-users at every step of their SAP journey. Select a topic from our research agenda that aligns with your go-to-market priorities and partner with SAPinsider to bring actionable insights to SAP end-users. Then leverage the findings to drive market awareness, fill your pipeline, and engage with your customers.



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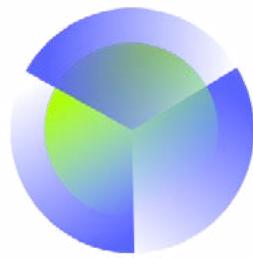


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Intelligence Benchmark SERIES

Benchmarking
the Capabilities that
Define SAP Leaders



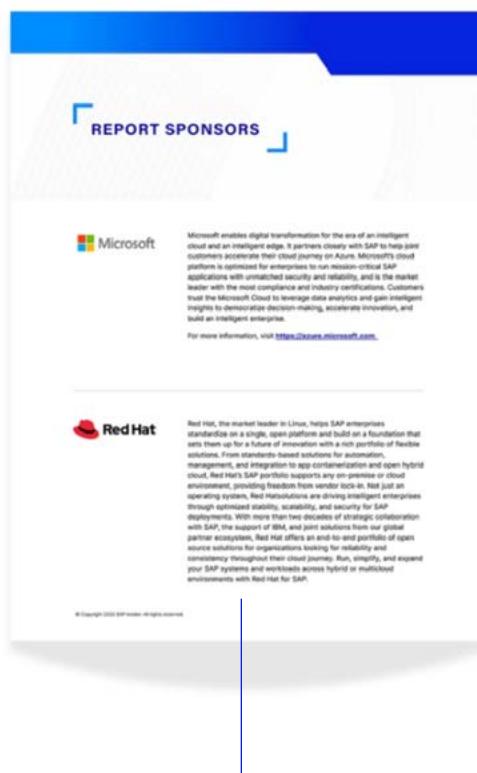
Benchmarking the Capabilities that Define SAP Leaders

The Intelligence Benchmark Series delivers trusted, data-driven insight into the real-world challenges shaping today's SAP leaders. Built from community survey responses, using DART analysis and authored by senior analysts, this series aligns your brand with independent research and puts you directly in front of SAP decision-makers who use these benchmarks to guide transformation and prioritize investments.

ELEVATE YOUR BRAND



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Company Overview on the Inside
Back Cover of the Report

- ERP / PLATFORM / CYBERSECURITY / CIO
- FINANCE / GRC / PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
- DATA AND DATA MANAGEMENT
AI AND INTELLIGENT PROCESS AUTOMATION



2026 AGENDA

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Tax Excellence & Compliance in Global SAP Enterprises

Automating SAP Processes in the Era of AI

OCTOBER

Enterprise Integration for SAP 2026

NOVEMBER

SAP Cloud ERP

Technology Leader's Transformation Scorecard

The Modern Office of the SAP CFP: The Age of Autonomous Operations

The State of AI in the SAP Ecosystem

MARCH**SAP ERP Migration and Transformation**

With 2027 less than two years away, organizations are either moving to SAP S/4HANA or are unlikely to complete a transition. These mindsets are reflected in deployment options and decisions that will move to SAP S/4HANA as quickly as possible while aligning with an eventual move to SAP Cloud ERP. This year's report will explore SAP S/4HANA adoption trends, the impact of SAP Cloud ERP, challenges and roadblocks, and the proportion likely to move to extended maintenance.

SAP ERP Deployment

Organizations are accelerating plans for SAP S/4HANA. This is reflected in an increasing number planning system conversions, and a focus on moving to SAP S/4HANA quickly rather than as part of broader transformation. More are also planning for SAP S/4HANA Cloud. This year's report will track the deployment and infrastructure plans for those moving to SAP S/4HANA, the impact of SAP Cloud ERP, and the factors impacting the timelines for deployments.

Technology Leader's Strategic Agenda

Technology leaders in the SAP customer ecosystem are facing an increasing set of priorities to manage, SAP technology leaders are facing an increasing set of complex priorities including providing the foundation to drive business outcomes such as greater efficiency, new product development, and higher profits. Top projects include SAP S/4HANA transition, AI adoption, data cleansing, and process automation. SAPinsider will examine business priorities, technology investments, and skillsets targeted by leaders in 2026, and the business outcomes resulting from these strategies.

JUNE**Cybersecurity Threats to SAP Systems**

While cyber-attacks targeting SAP customers continue to rise, challenges faced securing those systems have remained consistent. This includes patches and updates where understanding and remediating vulnerabilities is crucial in a layered cybersecurity strategy. This year's research will explore how cybersecurity maturity impacts strategies for protecting their SAP systems, where they are seeing the biggest impacts, and the challenge that they face in meeting these threats.

Cloud-Native and Multi-Cloud Cloud Architecture

Adoption of cloud-based solutions and infrastructure continues to accelerate for SAP and non-SAP workloads. This must be done while enhancing security and compliance, expanding cloud-native

footprints, and reducing technical debt. Companies are also deploying multi-cloud operating models for SAP and related services. This report explores the changing priorities for SAP workloads, what is planned for 2026, and the impact AI has on the adoption of cloud environments.

NOVEMBER

SAP Cloud ERP

SAP Cloud ERP, formerly RISE with SAP or GROW with SAP, is the central focus of SAP's plans for the eventual move to SAP Business Suite. While the name change may be confusing, what is included in the bundles has not altered significantly. This research explores how organizations look at SAP Cloud ERP, whether they plan to use private or public cloud, likely hosting partners, and challenges experiencing with the eventual move to a flavor of SAP Cloud ERP.

Technology Leader's Transformation Scorecard

Ongoing transformation is the most important strategic priority for technology leaders. Organizations must support these transformation projects, delivering sustainable and scalable change through automation, standardization, and overhauling essential workflows while providing a platform for innovation. This report reflects on 2026, how leaders are undertaking digital transformation initiatives, delving into challenges, goals, and what was successful during the year.

FINANCE / GRC / PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

MARCH

Finance Excellence in the Age of AI

Comprehensive, survey-based benchmark of finance transformation across the record to report, plan to analyze, and procure to pay lifecycle for SAP based organizations. Explores how leading finance teams deploy AI, automation, and SAP plus partner solutions to modernize closing, FP&A, treasury, AP/AR, reporting, data platforms, and shared services. Establishes KPI benchmarks and identifies architectures, operating models, and talent strategies that turn finance into a strategic business partner.

JUNE

GRC & Risk Intelligence for S/4HANA Enterprises

State of the practice benchmark for governance, risk, controls, and compliance in S/4HANA and BTP environments. Covers access governance and SoD, continuous control monitoring, process intelligence, ERP testing and change assurance, and automation governance. Benchmarks GRC maturity, tool adoption, and control effectiveness, and shows how leading organizations embed GRC into cloud ERP and AI programs while balancing risk, agility, and audit expectations.

Tax Excellence & Compliance in Global SAP Enterprises

End to end benchmark of tax transformation and compliance for global SAP enterprises. Examines indirect and corporate tax engines, global e invoicing and CTC, trade and customs, tax data governance, and analytics. Benchmarks accuracy, e invoicing success, penalty avoidance, and cost per transaction, and documents architectures that combine S/4HANA with certified tax, e invoicing, and trade solutions to manage regulatory complexity and support strategic decision making.

NOVEMBER

The Modern Office of the SAP CFO: Finance Excellence in the Age of Autonomous Operations

Focuses on how SAP-centric finance organizations design the Office of the CFO, use SAP S/4HANA Finance, SAP Analytics Cloud, and related ISV solutions to deliver real-time insight, control, and strategic value. Benchmarks how SAP finance leaders structure the Office of the CFO and orchestrate SAP S/4HANA Finance, SAP Analytics Cloud, and ecosystem ISVs and third-party software solutions to modernize planning, close, working capital, and GRC while supporting data-driven decision making across the business.

DATA AND DATA MANAGEMENT

MARCH

SAP Business Data Cloud Use Cases and Adoption

SAP announced SAP Business Data Cloud (BDC) in early 2025, a SaaS-based offerings that aims to unify and govern SAP data and connect to non-SAP data. In this research report, SAPinsider will examine the level of BDC Cloud adoption in the SAP customer ecosystem, as well as the top use cases being targeted for BDC, the data and analytics maturity of the organizations using or not using BDC, and the top drivers and business outcomes fueling BDC projects.

OCTOBER

Enterprise Integration for SAP 2026

Cloud technology and AI have contributed more SAP customers connecting their systems with non-SAP systems, leading to an integration landscape where contextual data, real-time connectivity and security have all become critically important. This report will examine the integration challenges that organizations face today, the types of integration they are adopting, the requirements for success, and which tools are in use to meet their integration needs.

AI AND INTELLIGENT PROCESS AUTOMATION

JUNE

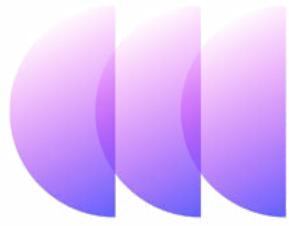
Automating SAP Processes in the Era of AI

In the era of AI, companies are looking for process automation to go even further by assisting with more complicated tasks and even augmenting and expediting decision-making. In this research report, SAPinsider will examine what's driving companies to automate their SAP processes, how the level and maturity of automation at organizations impacts KPIs and business outcomes, and the technologies and actions companies are deploying to achieve their automation goals.

NOVEMBER

The State of AI in the SAP Ecosystem

AI transformation has become synonymous with digital transformation. It brings the promise of efficiency and process improvement that tech leaders seek. AI is a constantly evolving sector, with Agentic AI bringing the opportunity for more complex process automations. This research looks at how organizations are approaching AI and spans maturity, technologies, use cases, governance, and the business impact that AI is having.



Spotlight SERIES

Shining a Light
on Insights
that Matter



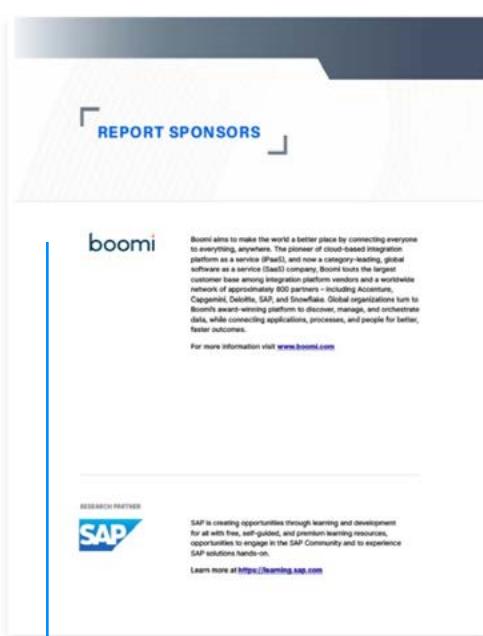
Shining a Light on Insights that Matter

The Spotlight Series shines a light on targeted, high-impact insights that matter most to SAP leaders navigating specific challenges and opportunities. Built on the same rigorous research methodology as the Intelligence Benchmark Series, each focused report delivers deep, actionable intelligence on critical topics—positioning you as a trusted advisor who understands the nuanced priorities of the SAP community.

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1. SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY

1.1. Securing SAP Cloud ERP

This report examines securing SAP Cloud ERP, focusing on shared-responsibility gaps, native vs. partner controls, and structuring an integrated framework. It analyzes identity, data protection, threat detection, and configuration hardening for tenants and connected SAP BTP/on-prem systems, mapping security patterns to reduced breach risk, audit-readiness, and resilience.

1.2. Redefining Identity and Access with Zero Trust for SAP

This report explores applying zero trust to SAP S/4HANA, SAP BTP, and hybrid landscapes, covering identity federation, SSO/MFA, authorization, and privileged access. It examines role design, admin access, step-up auth for sensitive transactions, and integration with enterprise IAM/PAM. It delivers practical patterns and a maturity model for SAP-centric zero trust programs.

1.3. Threat Detection and Response for SAP

This report analyzes evolving from basic logging to integrated, real-time threat detection and response across SAP systems. It examines native logs, SAP ETD, third-party sensors, SIEM/SOAR integrations, and managed detection services. Focused on reducing MTTD/MTTR, containing fraud/data theft, and improving risk reporting, it evaluates use of SAP-specific MDR offerings.

1.4. Using DevSecOps to Secure SAP Data and Customizations

This report examines integrating DevSecOps into SAP development to secure code and transports. It covers SAST/DAST, pipeline integration, change control, and policy-as-code, addressing risks from rapid innovation and citizen development. It explores how DevSecOps impacts incidents, rework, and stronger compliance, with focus on reference pipelines, roles, and governance.

1.5. Data Protection and Privacy for SAP

This report studies end-to-end protection of sensitive SAP data across ERP, analytics, archives, and integrations. It covers encryption, key management, masking/tokenization, data minimization, and residency controls, tying them to GDPR and privacy compliance, reduced breach impact, and secure analytics/AI. It examines the most critical needs for protecting data in SAP systems.

1.6. Navigating SAP Security in Cloud, Hybrid, and Multi Cloud Landscapes

This report analyzes securing SAP across on-premise, cloud, and multiple providers. It covers identity federation, segmentation, posture management, configuration baselines, and unified policy enforcement in hybrid and multi-cloud SAP landscapes. Focused on avoiding drift, reducing overhead, and ensuring consistent compliance, it looks at frameworks used by respondents.

1.7. AI and Automation in SAP Security Operations

This report explores using AI, ML, and automation to improve SAP security operations, including anomaly detection, automated access reviews, and incident response. It examines anomaly scoring, intelligent alert triage, automated SoD checks, and AI-assisted remediation. Focused on response times and false positives, it also covers governance and risk for AI in SAP security.

1.8. Operational Resilience and Cyber Recovery for SAP

This report examines designing SAP landscapes for cyber resilience, covering backup/recovery, immutable storage, air-gapping, DR for S/4HANA/RISE, and recovery testing. It addresses rising attacks on SAP, board demands for resilience, and regulatory expectations. Outcomes include reduced downtime, better insurability, and compliance with resilience requirements.

1.9. Securing SAP BTP and Extensibility

This report examines security risks and controls for SAP BTP and extensibility around cloud ERP. With SAP BTP the default extension platform, mixing SAP-managed services, partner apps, and custom code, often falls outside traditional oversight. Identity for BTP apps, secure connectivity to core systems, tenant isolation, API security, and governance for low-code/no-code builders.

1.10. Monitoring, Threat Detection, and SOC in SAP Landscapes

This report examines moving SAP monitoring from periodic checks to continuous, SOC-integrated threat detection across ERP, SAP BTP, and legacy systems. It addresses the gap where SAP remains a blind spot despite being mission-critical, exploring how organizations combine SAP-native telemetry with third-party sensors, SIEM/SOAR, and managed detection.

1.11. Evolving SAP Security Operating Models

This report examines how SAP security operating models, skills, and governance must evolve with S/4HANA, RISE, and cloud-native extensions. It explores target operating models, RACI structures, roles (SAP security engineers, cloud security architects, DevSecOps), and governance forums that align IT, security, and business owners in hybrid, multi-cloud environments.

1.12. Security, Compliance, and Governance for SAP in the Cloud

This report focuses on hardening SAP cloud landscapes against cyber threats while meeting regulatory compliance. It covers IAM, data protection, logging, and auditability across SAP BTP, ERP, and integrated SaaS, including hyperscaler-native controls. This includes aligning SecOps and GRC to ensure consistent policies, monitoring, and response across multi-cloud environments.

2. ERP

2.1. Decision Frameworks for SAP Cloud ERP Private and Public

This report benchmarks hosting choices for ERP and surrounding platforms. It explores balancing control, compliance, and performance against agility, innovation, and cost, examining factors like provider maturity, cloud ERP, regional regulations, and existing data center investments. The research highlights how these choices impact landscape strategy, resilience, and TCO.

2.2. Clean Core in Practice: Are SAP Customers Really Keeping Clean?

Examines the implementation of “clean core,” its impact, and governance of modifications. It explores reconciling business needs with simpler upgrades, continuous innovation, and lower technical debt, looking at SAP BTP, extensions, and low-code platforms. The research covers when respondents extend vs. adopt standard processes, and the impact of evolving clean core guidance.

2.3. Evaluating SAP S/4HANA Implementation Approaches

Surveys SAP customers on their S/4HANA implementation approach and rationale. It examines the trade-offs between disruption, cost, and business continuity when transitioning. Analyzes outcomes like timeline, risk, data quality, process standardization, and user acceptance, plus how data migration, process discovery, and testing tools shape strategy

2.4. The Role of SAP BTP in ERP Transformation

Examines the role of SAP BTP for integration, extensions, data, automation, and ERP transformation. Explores whether SAP BTP is becoming the strategic platform for ERP-centric innovation versus alternative platforms, and how it accelerates ERP transformation. Analyzes business benefits like faster innovation, simplified landscapes, and lower integration risk.

2.5. Designing Cloud ERP Landscapes: Single Instance, Multi-Instance, or 2 Tier Strategies

Explores how SAPinsiders structure cloud ERP landscapes: single global instance, multiple regional instances, or 2-tier models. Examines balancing global standardization with local autonomy, resilience, and regulatory needs, and how industry, size, and legacy complexity influence choices. Looks at impacts on integration, governance, innovation, and placement of edge solutions.

2.6. Data Migration and Quality in SAP S/4HANA and Cloud Transitions

Explores how organizations plan and execute data migration and quality improvement in ERP transformation. Focuses on moving and rationalizing decades of master, transactional, and historical data while minimizing risk and cost. Examines archiving, cleansing, and ongoing governance, plus the impact of tooling and partner approaches on timelines and business confidence.

2.7. Managing Cost and TCO in Cloud ERP

Explores how organizations understand TCO in ERP transformation. Focuses on budgeting, optimizing, and governing ERP costs across licenses, infrastructure, implementation, and operations. Examines where customers see savings or cost increases, how automation, right-sizing, and commercial optimization help, and how partners and tools improve cost transparency.

2.8. Multi Tier Architecture Strategies in ERP Transformation

Examines how organizations design multi-tier ERP landscapes combining industry solutions, best-of-breed SaaS, edge apps, and legacy systems. Explores what belongs in the core versus at the edge, and management of integration and governance. Looks at SAP industry cloud and partner add-ons, and how choices affect agility, vendor lock-in, and data consistency.

2.9. Transformation Management and Continuous Innovation for SAP ERP

Explores how organizations structure transformation governance, operating models, and skills for cloud ERP, and how SAP's continuous toolchain for innovation fits into those models. Addresses sustaining change after go-live, operational best practices, transformation and operations management, and quantifies how downtime, manual work, and automation impact transformation goals.

2.10. How SAP Customers Use Process Mining and Observability to Steer ERP Transformation

Studies adoption of process mining, task mining, and observability to steer ERP programs and ongoing optimization. Explores use of data-driven insights versus traditional workshops and blueprinting, and integration of these tools into design, testing, and continuous improvement. Analyzes benefits such as better scoping, faster value realization, and improved compliance.

2.11. Testing and Automation Strategies Across the SAP ERP Lifecycle

Explores automation of functional, regression, performance, and integration testing across ERP and cloud landscapes. Focuses on maintaining quality and speed as release frequency rises and integrations grow. Examines test automation ownership, test data management, and integration with DevOps pipelines, and how strategies differ for multi-cloud environments.

2.12. Continuous Improvement After Go-Live: How SAP Customers Sustain ERP Value

Explores management of continuous improvement, including backlog management, enhancement prioritization, and benefit tracking. Addresses how ERP keeps delivering innovation, not just stability. Examines product management, demand intake, KPIs, and tooling for portfolio and value management, and how often customers reconfigure processes, adopt new features, and retire customizations.

2.13. Partner Ecosystems for SAP ERP: How Customers Choose and Govern ISVs and Integrators

Surveys how SAPinsiders select, onboard, and manage ISVs and SIs in their ERP ecosystems. Explores balancing a best-of-breed partner mix against the complexity and risk of multi-vendor delivery. Examines criteria for evaluating partners (industry expertise, IP, automation, global reach, commercial models) and how customers structure governance and accountability.

3. CLOUD

3.1. Measuring Cloud Deployment Outcomes in SAP Landscapes

Explores the results of SAP cloud transformation projects, comparing cloud models across performance, resilience, agility, and cost outcomes. Analyzes how deployment patterns impact time-to-value, business continuity, and organizational operating models, highlighting leading practices. Focus will be a data-backed view of what “good” looks like in SAP cloud operations in 2026.

3.2. Modernizing SAP Cloud Provider Selection

Examines how SAPinsiders design and run selection processes, including criteria such as SAP certifications, resilience, data residency, security, and TCO. Explores single versus multi-provider strategies, the role of reference architectures, and how to weigh platform innovation versus lock-in risk. Learn how to structure RFPs, shortlist providers, and build decision frameworks.

3.3. Day 2 Operations for SAP in the Cloud

Focuses on the operational reality after go-live, covering runbooks, SRE-inspired practices, and how SAP operations teams are adapting to cloud infrastructure. Analyzes incident management, availability engineering, and performance tuning for SAP S/4HANA, SAP BTP, and satellite applications. Also covers how to sustain reliable, secure, and cost-conscious SAP operations.

3.4. Observability and Monitoring with SAP Cloud ALM and Hyperscaler Tools

Investigates implementation of E2E observability for SAP using SAP Cloud ALM alongside provider-native monitoring, logging, and tracing capabilities. Highlights patterns for integrating SAP Cloud ALM with third party tools including central health dashboards, integration monitoring, and root-cause analysis workflows. Explores unified monitoring strategies for SAP BTP and core ERP.

3.5. Evolving SAP Cloud Support and Shared Responsibility Models

Analyzes how support models are changing as SAP workloads move to cloud environments. Explores shared responsibility between SAP, cloud providers, partners, and internal teams across infrastructure, basis operations, application support, and observability. Explores how organizations negotiate SLAs, structure support models, and use SAP Cloud ALM to reduce mean time to resolution.

3.6. Managing Cloud Upgrade Cadence for SAP Landscapes

Explores how organizations are adapting to faster upgrade cadences for SAP S/4HANA Cloud, SAP BTP, and SaaS applications compared to traditional release cycles. Covers change management, regression testing, and automation strategies to keep pace with continuous delivery while minimizing disruption. Studies tooling that supports predictable, low-risk SAP cloud change at scale.

3.7. SAP BTP Adoption and Enterprise Use Cases

Examines how customers are adopting SAP BTP as the strategic platform for integration, data, AI, and application development. Highlights use cases such as event-driven extensions, analytics, AI co-innovation with cloud providers, and marketplace-driven solution sourcing. Covers how SAP BTP is reshaping platform strategies, including skills, governance, and funding models.

3.8. Extending SAP with BTP Services and ISV Solutions

Explores how enterprises use SAP BTP services and ISVs to build extensions, composable applications, and integration scenarios without destabilizing the digital core. Analyzes reference architectures that combine SAP BTP runtimes, integration, observability, and ISV offerings, including patterns for security, lifecycle management, and cost control.

3.9. Cloud Economics and Future SAP Cloud Strategies

Analyzes how SAPinsiders are optimizing cloud spend and shaping future strategies across multi-cloud scenarios. Examines FinOps practices specific to SAP workloads, including sizing, reserved instances, licensing considerations, and SAP BTP consumption optimization. Will study how SAPinsiders are balancing portfolios between core ERP, SAP BTP, and edge innovations.

1. FINANCE / GRC / PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

1.1. AI First Finance – Autonomous Close & Real Time Reporting on S/4HANA + SAP BTP

Deep dive into how SAP centric finance teams operationalize AI to accelerate the close, automate reconciliations and journals, and deliver real time analysis. Benchmarks maturity across S/4HANA, Advanced Financial Closing, Group Reporting, SAP Analytics Cloud, and BTP based extensions, with a focus on data readiness, model governance, and measurable improvements in cycle time, accuracy, and productivity.

1.2. Gold Standard Close – End to End Record to Report with SAP + Close Orchestration Platforms

Examines how organizations build a “gold standard” close by combining S/4HANA, Advanced Financial Closing, Group Reporting, and close orchestration platforms like BlackLine and Trintech. Benchmarks close process design, reconciliation coverage, intercompany governance, and audit outcomes, and explores deployment patterns relative to S/4HANA migrations and clean core strategies.

1.3. FP&A Next – Integrated Planning & Performance on SAP + Partner CPM

Focuses on modern FP&A and continuous planning using SAP Analytics Cloud, S/4HANA, Datasphere/Data Cloud, and CPM tools such as CCH® Tagetik and Anaplan. Benchmarks planning cycle times, scenario depth, integration with actuals and operational data, and adoption of AI enabled forecasting, highlighting architectures and operating models that support agile, driver based planning.

1.4. Treasury Cloud & Enterprise Liquidity on SAP

Analyzes treasury's move to cloud, multi bank connectivity, and advanced risk management using SAP Treasury and platforms like Kyriba. Benchmarks cash visibility, cash forecast accuracy, FX/IR risk

management, bank connectivity, and fraud controls, and compares SAP native and side by side operating models in RISE/GROW environments.

1.5. Global E Invoicing & Continuous Transaction Controls (CTC) in SAP Landscapes

Explores how finance and tax teams meet real time e invoicing and CTC mandates using SAP DRC and partner platforms without disrupting O2C and P2P. Benchmarks country coverage, latency, error rates, and audit posture, and evaluates patterns such as SAP native versus embedded suites for sustainable global compliance and clean core alignment.

1.6. Tax Modernization – Indirect & Corporate Tax for Intelligent Enterprises

Covers modernization of indirect and corporate tax using S/4HANA and certified engines from Vertex, Sovos, Avalara, and Thomson Reuters. Benchmarks integration across S/4HANA, Ariba, Commerce Cloud, and non SAP systems; tax data governance models; and ROI from penalty avoidance, audit readiness, and staff redeployment. Highlights how tax becomes an integrated part of intelligent enterprise architecture.

1.7. Global Trade & Supply Chain Compliance on SAP

Looks at how organizations strengthen trade, customs, and supply chain compliance using SAP GTS/ International Trade, tax engines, and content platforms like OpenText. Benchmarks tariff and FTA optimization, sanctions/export control enforcement, supplier documentation, and customs reporting, and shows how trade data supports tax, ESG, and supply chain resilience objectives.

1.8. Controls & Assurance – SoD, Access Governance & Continuous Control Monitoring for SAP

Assesses the current state of SAP GRC and access governance, including SAP Access Control and Process Control plus partner tools for CCM, SoD enforcement, and audit automation. Benchmarks control coverage, SoD violation trends, remediation SLAs, and automated testing, and examines how organizations embed GRC into RISE/GROW, cloud releases, and automation programs.

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1.9. Process Intelligence for Clean Core – SAP Signavio, Celonis & Automation

Explores use of process and task mining (SAP Signavio, Celonis, and others) to de risk S/4HANA migration, enforce fit to standard, and drive continuous improvement. Benchmarks benefits in customization reduction, throughput, and process conformance, and shows how insights feed into automation platforms and test strategies for sustained clean core governance.

1.10. Modern AP & Intelligent Spend – AP/AR Automation & P2P on SAP

Examines evolution of AP, AR, and spend management using xSuite, Basware, Esker, Coupa, and SAP Ariba integrated with S/4HANA. Benchmarks touchless invoice rates, PO match rates, duplicate avoidance, discount capture, and fraud prevention, and highlights integration approaches and operating models that align AP, procurement, and treasury on working capital and supplier experience goals.

1.11. Board Ready Reporting & Integrated Disclosure

Shows how finance teams connect SAP data to disclosure and narrative platforms such as Workiva and insightsoftware to streamline financial, ESG, and board reporting. Benchmarks reporting cycle times, error rates, and stakeholder satisfaction, and evaluates data strategies and governance models that support integrated, audit ready financial and statements, reporting, and assurance.

1.12. Data to Decision – Finance & Tax Data Products on SAP Datasphere / Data Cloud

Focuses on how CFOs and tax leaders use SAP Datasphere/Data Cloud and partner analytics to create governed data products for finance and tax. Benchmarks data product patterns, data ownership, quality, and access, and measures impact on decision cycle times, forecast accuracy, and auditability, highlighting architectures that support AI and advanced analytics.

1.13. Change Intelligence – ERP Testing & Risk Mitigation for S/4HANA

Investigates how organizations de risk S/4HANA change—upgrades, quarterly releases, and process changes—through AI enabled test automation, impact analysis, and change risk scoring. Benchmarks defect escape rates, test cycle compression, and business disruption avoided, and links change intelligence to clean core governance and automation programs.

1.14. Automation at Scale – Agentic Automation Across SAP & Non SAP

Analyzes enterprise wide automation programs spanning SAP Build Process Automation and partner platforms like UiPath and Automation Anywhere. Benchmarks business value across finance, HR, supply chain, and shared services, and explores operating models, security, and governance approaches that scale bots and agents while maintaining control and alignment with AI assistants and copilots.

1.15. Shared Service Centers 2.0 – AI Powered Finance Operations for Global Scale

Explores the evolution of finance SSCs into AI enabled service platforms covering invoice processing, cash application, disputes, tax checks, and analytics. Benchmarks SSC operating models, technology stacks, and KPIs such as cost per transaction, cycle time reduction, error rates, and staff redeployment, and illustrates how SAP centric organizations move SSCs up the value curve.

1.16. Supply Chain Orchestration – AI Driven Resilience and Multi Tier Visibility

Examines adoption of SAP Supply Chain Orchestration (launching H1 2026) and related tools to achieve AI driven disruption detection, impact analysis, and orchestrated actions across planning, logistics, procurement, and manufacturing. Benchmarks control tower effectiveness, multi tier supplier risk, and inventory optimization, and shows how organizations connect IBP, Logistics Management, Business Network, and S/4HANA for resilient, multi tier visibility.

1.17. Data Driven Enterprise – SAP Datasphere and Business Data Cloud Strategy

Covers how organizations implement SAP Business Data Cloud and Datasphere as an ecosystem hub for harmonizing SAP and non SAP data to power AI and analytics. Explores knowledge graph insights, vector search, data products, governance and sovereignty, and zero copy data exchange with hyperscaler platforms, along with ROI in decision velocity and analytics adoption.

1.18. Next Generation Procurement – SAP Ariba's AI Native Transformation

Explores SAP's rebuild of Ariba on BTP into an AI native source to pay platform. Covers central intake, AI driven sourcing and bid analysis, supplier 360 degree profiles, contract intelligence, and reimagined buying experiences. Benchmarks procurement efficiency, risk reduction, and value creation, and details migration paths from classic Ariba and integration with S/4HANA and Business Data Cloud.

1.19. Sustainability and ESG Integration – From Compliance to Competitive Advantage

Focuses on embedding sustainability and ESG into SAP landscapes using SAP Green Ledger, Sustainability Control Tower, EHS, and partner solutions. Examines carbon accounting, lifecycle assessment, circular economy processes, and scope 1–3 tracking. Benchmarks how organizations integrate ESG with finance and operations, meet disclosure requirements, and convert sustainability into brand, investor, and competitive value.

1.20. Composable ERP & Best of Breed Integration – Beyond Monolithic Systems

Analyzes composable ERP strategies where S/4HANA serves as core while HR, CRM, procurement, and specialized capabilities run on best of breed systems. Examines integration and data governance frameworks, low code/no code layers, vendor and roadmap management, and maturity models that enable flexibility and innovation without fragmenting processes or data.

1. DATA AND DATA MANAGEMENT

1.1. ENTERPRISE DATA STRATEGY AND ARCHITECTURE

1.1.1. Modern Data Architectures in SAP Landscapes (Datasphere, BTP, And Beyond)

Enterprises are moving away from monolithic warehouses toward distributed data architectures that integrate SAP and non-SAP sources. This topic explores how organizations design data fabrics and lakehouse-style architectures around SAP, how they balance centralization versus federation, and what patterns are actually working in production for performance, governance, and cost.

1.1.2. Unifying SAP and Non-SAP Data for Analytics

Many organizations struggle to combine ERP, CRM, supply chain, HR, and external data into a consistent analytical foundation, limiting the impact of analytics initiatives. Research here examines integration strategies, common reference architectures, and tool choices that enable a holistic view of customers, products, and operations.

1.1.3. Data Management in the Era Of AI-Driven SAP Landscapes

As AI becomes embedded in SAP applications and analytics, data management practices become critical risk and value levers. This topic investigates how technology leaders govern training and inference data, manage master and reference data, and modernize ETL/ELT pipelines to support AI, while aligning with SAP's evolving data platform strategy.

1.1.4. Cloud Data Warehousing and Hybrid Analytics for SAP Customers

SAP customers increasingly combine cloud-native warehouses and data lakes with SAP BW/4HANA, SAP Datasphere, and SAP Analytics Cloud to balance legacy investments and innovation. This research focuses on migration patterns from SAP BW, hybrid reporting models, performance/cost trade-offs, and how organizations decide what stays in core SAP versus external analytic platforms.

1.2. ANALYTICS, AI, AND INTELLIGENT APPLICATIONS

1.2.1. Enterprise Data and Analytics in the Era Of AI

AI is impacting data and analytics strategies both in terms of data management and data analysis. This topic examines how SAP customers align data platforms, analytics tools, and AI capabilities to drive intelligent processes, including the balance between central data science teams and embedded analytics in functions like finance, supply chain, and HR..

1.2.2. SAP Analytics Cloud as a Unified Planning and Analytics Hub

SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC) is evolving into a central hub for planning, forecasting, and augmented analytics across SAP and non-SAP data. This topic explores how customers use SAC for planning, operational analytics, and scenario modeling, including adoption of AI-driven features (smart insights, automated explanations) and integration with SAP Datasphere and SAP S/4HANA.

1.2.3. Real-Time Analytics and Big Data with SAP and External Platforms

The convergence of SAP transactional data with streaming and data platforms enables real-time decision-making, but raises questions about architecture, latency, and governance. This topic investigates how organizations architect real-time analytics, integrate SAP with data technologies, and choose between pushing analytics into SAP platforms versus external engines.

1.3. GOVERNANCE, CULTURE, AND OPERATING MODEL

1.3.1. Data Governance and Compliance For SAP-Centric Enterprises

Regulatory pressure, AI risk, and cross-border data flows are increasing the importance of robust data governance for SAP and non-SAP data alike. Research here analyzes operating models, stewardship practices, metadata and catalog strategies, and the tools used to ensure quality, lineage, and compliance while supporting innovations.

1.3.2. Data Culture, Literacy, and Self-Service Analytics

Self-service analytics and data democratization are strategic goals, yet many SAP customers struggle with adoption, consistency, and trust in data. This topic explores how organizations foster data literacy, design guardrails for SAP Analytics Cloud and other tools, and create communities of practice that balance governed models with flexible, user-driven exploration.

1.3.3. Operating Models for Data and Analytics in SAP Ecosystems

As data becomes a strategic asset, organizations must decide how to structure analytics functions across data teams, IT, and business units. Research focuses on successful operating models for SAP-centric enterprises, including data product teams, federated centers of excellence, and the evolving role of the CIO, CDO, and business leadership in governing and funding analytics.

1.3.4. People Intelligence and Workforce Analytics on SAP Platforms

Workforce data is increasingly integrated with business data to create “people intelligence” that drives better decisions about talent, productivity, and organizational design. This topic examines how SAP customers use HR and operational data together, the analytics and AI use cases enabled by SAP platforms, and workforce analytics governance and ethics considerations.

1.3.5. Change Management for Analytics and AI Programs

Even the best data platforms and AI models fail without effective change management, communication, and user-centric design. Research here looks at how organizations prepare users for new analytics capabilities, manage shifts from legacy reporting to modern architectures, and build feedback loops to continuously improve adoption and business impact.

2. AI AND INTELLIGENT PROCESS AUTOMATION

2. 1. AI PLATFORMS, ARCHITECTURE, AND DATA FOUNDATIONS

2.1.1. Enterprise AI Architecture for SAP-Centric Landscapes

This topic explores how SAP customers design AI reference architectures that span SAP BTP, SAP S/4HANA, and external AI platforms, including where models run and how they integrate with core processes. It investigates patterns for orchestrating data, models, and services across cloud providers while maintaining performance, reliability, and cost control.

2.1.2. Operationalizing AI with SAP AI Core and External Platforms

Organizations need robust MLOps to move from pilots to production AI in SAP environments. This topic covers deployment patterns using SAP AI Core and external platforms, CI/CD for models, monitoring of drift and performance, and how AI services are exposed to SAP applications and workflows.

2.1.3. Data Readiness for AI and Intelligent Automation in SAP

AI and automation programs depend on high-quality, well-governed data from SAP and non-SAP systems. This topic focuses on data preparation, feature stores, master data strategies, and integration pipelines that specifically support AI and automation initiatives.

2.1.4. Real-Time and Event-Driven AI on SAP Data

Many high-value AI and automation scenarios require real-time responses to SAP events. Research here examines event-driven architectures, streaming integrations, and low-latency pipelines that connect SAP transactional data to models and decision services

2.1.5. AI-Optimized Integration Patterns Between SAP and Non-SAP Systems

Enterprises frequently deploy AI solutions outside of SAP while still relying on SAP as the system of record. This topic analyzes integration patterns that allow AI services to enrich, validate, or automate and augment SAP processes without compromising data integrity or performance.

2.2. INTELLIGENT PROCESS AUTOMATION AND USE CASES

2.2.1. End-To-End Intelligent Automation for SAP Processes

This topic examines how organizations combine RPA, workflow, and AI to automate end-to-end processes such as order-to-cash and procure-to-pay on SAP. It looks at design patterns, orchestration approaches, and how teams prioritize use cases for maximum value.

2.2.2. Task Automation and RPA For SAP User Interactions

User-facing automation remains a major opportunity where full process redesign is not feasible. Research here focuses on desktop and UI-based automation for SAP transactions, the role of bots in reducing manual effort, and how organizations manage bot lifecycle and reliability.

2.2.3. Process Mining and Task Mining to Discover Automation Opportunities

Process mining and task mining tools provide insight into where automation can deliver the best impact. This topic explores how customers use process intelligence on SAP data to identify bottlenecks, quantify value, and feed automation backlogs..

2.2.4. AI-Driven Decision Automation in SAP Workflows

AI models increasingly drive decisions such as credit limits, approvals, or prioritization within SAP processes. Research examines how decision services are embedded in workflows, how rules and models interact, and how organizations manage exceptions and human-in-the-loop oversight.

2.2.5. Industry-Specific AI and Automation Scenarios on SAP

Verticalized automation scenarios can accelerate adoption and value. This topic looks at packaged AI and automation use cases in industries like manufacturing, life sciences, CPG, utilities, and retail, and how SAP-centric organizations adapt them to their environments.

2.3. GOVERNANCE, RISK, AND RESPONSIBLE AI

2.3.1. AI Governance and Policy Frameworks for SAP Customers

As AI becomes embedded in SAP processes, organizations must establish clear governance and policy frameworks. This topic covers roles, decision rights, approval processes, and documentation standards for AI models affecting critical business processes.

2.3.2. Risk, Compliance, and Controls for AI and Automation In SAP

Automation and AI can introduce operational, regulatory, and ethical risks if not properly controlled. Research here explores how organizations design controls, audit trails, and monitoring for automated decisions and AI-assisted processes within SAP landscapes.

2.3.3. Data Privacy, Security, and Ethics for AI Use Cases

AI initiatives often intersect with sensitive personal or financial data held in SAP systems. This topic examines privacy-preserving techniques, access controls, anonymization strategies, and ethical guidelines for responsible AI deployment.

2.3.4. Change Management, Workforce Impact, and Skills for AI and Automation

AI and automation affect roles, skills, and culture across the enterprise. This topic looks at how organizations manage workforce impact, reskilling, communication, and stakeholder engagement to ensure adoption and reduce resistance.

2.3.5. Transparency, Explainability, and Trust In AI-Augmented SAP Processes

Trust in AI is essential for adoption in high-stakes SAP processes such as finance, supply chain, and HR. Research examines explainability requirements, how explanations are presented within SAP UIs, and how organizations handle challenges when AI recommendations conflict with expert judgment.

3. SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

3.1. SUPPLY CHAIN DATA, PLATFORMS, AND ARCHITECTURE

3.1.1. Unified Supply Chain Data Platforms for SAP Landscapes

This report explores how organizations build unified data platforms that integrate S/4HANA, SAP IBP, SAP Business Network, and non-SAP sources such as logistics providers and market data. It looks at reference architectures, data models, and integration patterns that enable consistent, end-to-end visibility across planning, procurement, manufacturing, and logistics.

3.1.2. Real-Time Supply Chain Visibility and Control Towers

Many companies aim to create “control towers” that provide real-time visibility across inventory, orders, production, and transportation. This report examines how SAP-centric enterprises design these solutions, how they leverage streaming or event-driven data, and how they present actionable insights to planners and operations teams.

3.1.3. Integrating SAP Supply Chain with External Data Lakes and Warehouses

Enterprises often combine SAP supply chain data with external warehouses and lakes for advanced analytics and AI. Research here focuses on how organizations partition workloads between SAP platforms and external environments, and how they maintain data quality, governance, and performance as volumes grow.

3.1.4. Master Data and Product Data Management for Global Supply Chains

High-quality material, supplier, and location data is essential for reliable planning and execution. This topic looks at master data strategies, organizational ownership models, and tools used to manage product and partner data across complex SAP supply chain landscapes.

3.1.5. Architecture Patterns for Integrating SAP with Logistics and Manufacturing Systems

Supply chain operations depend on tight integration between SAP and shop-floor, warehouse, and transport systems. This research examines typical integration patterns, interface technologies, and best practices for maintaining resilience when connecting SAP with WMS, MES, TMS, and carrier platforms.

3.2 PLANNING, FULFILLMENT, AND INVENTORY OPTIMIZATION

3.2.1. Integrated Business Planning with SAP IBP and SAP S/4HANA

This topic explores how organizations implement and mature integrated business planning that connects demand, supply, inventory, and financial plans. It looks at process design, data flows between SAP IBP and SAP S/4HANA, and how companies structure teams and governance for effective planning cycles.

3.2.2. Demand Forecasting and Demand Sensing on SAP Data

Accurate demand forecasts underpin service levels and working capital performance. Research here investigates how companies leverage SAP data, external signals, and advanced forecasting techniques (including AI) to improve forecast accuracy and responsiveness in volatile markets.

3.2.3. Inventory Optimization and Multi-Echelon Strategies

Inventory decisions span multiple nodes in complex supply networks. This topic examines how SAP-centric enterprises approach inventory segmentation, safety stock optimization, and multi-echelon planning, including how optimization tools integrate with SAP IBP and SAP S/4HANA.

3.2.4. Order Fulfillment Excellence with SAP S/4HANA and Advanced ATP

Meeting customer commitments while managing constraints is a core supply chain challenge. This topic focuses on how organizations use advanced ATP and related SAP S/4HANA capabilities to promise and fulfill orders, how they handle allocation and prioritization, and what KPIs they track.

3.2.5. Warehouse, Transportation, and Network Optimization

Efficient warehouses and transport networks are crucial for cost and service performance. This research examines how SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM) and Transportation Management are deployed, how they integrate with optimization tools and carrier networks, and how organizations redesign processes to take advantage of advanced capabilities.

3.3 SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, RISK, AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.3.1. Supply Chain Risk Management and Multi-Sourcing Strategies

Disruptions from geopolitical events, supplier failures, and logistics bottlenecks continue to challenge global supply chains. This topic explores how organizations use SAP data and external risk indicators to identify vulnerabilities, design multi-sourcing strategies, and monitor risk exposure in near real time.

3.3.2. Supplier Collaboration and Performance Management on SAP Platforms

Strong supplier relationships and performance insights are key to resilience and cost management. Research looks at how SAP Business Network and related tools support onboarding, collaboration, and performance measurement, and how organizations embed supplier metrics in planning and sourcing decisions.

3.3.3. Sustainable Supply Chains and Scope 3 Emissions Management

Sustainability expectations are pushing companies to measure and reduce emissions across their supply chains. This topic examines how organizations collect and manage sustainability data in SAP, how they calculate and allocate emissions, and how they use insights to shape procurement, logistics, and product decisions.

3.3.4. Process Mining for Supply Chain Resilience and Compliance

Process mining sheds light on real-world supply chain flows, deviations, and compliance gaps. Research here analyzes how companies use process intelligence on SAP data to identify systemic issues, validate policy adherence, and prioritize improvements that boost resilience and reliability.

3.3.5. Scenario Planning and Stress Testing for Supply Chain Shocks

Scenario planning helps organizations prepare for sudden demand shifts, capacity constraints, and regulatory changes. This topic looks at how SAP-centric enterprises build and run supply chain scenarios, how they integrate financial and operational impacts, and how leadership uses these insights for strategic decisions.

3.4. EXECUTION, CUSTOMER SERVICE, AND CROSS-FUNCTIONAL OUTCOMES

3.4.1 End-To-End Order-To-Cash Performance On SAP

Order-to-cash connects sales, logistics, and finance into one value stream. This topic explores how organizations measure and improve end-to-end O2C performance using SAP data, how they tie process KPIs to customer experience, and where bottlenecks most often occur.

3.4.2. Customer Service Levels, Fill Rate, And On-Time-In-Full (OTIF) Analytics

Service levels are critical for retention and growth. Research here examines how SAP-centric enterprises track OTIF, fill rate, and related metrics, how they connect these indicators to planning and execution decisions, and what analytical practices drive sustained improvements.

3.4.3. Logistics Execution and Last-Mile Optimization

Logistics execution has a direct impact on customer satisfaction and cost. This topic investigates how companies manage outbound logistics and last-mile delivery with SAP and partner tools, how they integrate carriers and 3PLs, and how analytics inform routing and service choices.

3.4.4. Cross-Functional Supply Chain and Finance Alignment

Supply chain decisions must align with financial goals and constraints. This research focuses on how organizations connect supply chain metrics with P&L and balance sheet impacts, how they use integrated planning and analytics to support trade-off decisions, and how they structure cross-functional governance.

3.4.5. Customer-Centric Supply Chains and Differentiated Service Models

Different customer segments require tailored service models and supply chain responses. This topic examines how organizations use SAP data to segment customers, design differentiated service levels, and adjust planning and execution strategies to support profitable growth.



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Contact Sales

sales@sapinsider.org