

SAP Solution Brief  
SAP Analytics

# Improve Performance with Planning and Analysis Solutions

THE BEST RUN



# Be a better business partner

As your organization strives to become an intelligent enterprise to win in the digital economy, you and the rest of the finance team are focusing more on providing value-added support to the business so you can outperform the competition. By enabling you to better plan, analyze, and report performance, solutions from SAP **help you better support the business** and improve results.

## Be a better business partner

Along with planning, reporting, compliance, and governance activities, finance managers must assume more strategic responsibilities such as partnering with the business to facilitate and improve decision-making for better results. Finance teams have often relied on time-consuming tasks such as aggregating spreadsheets and integrating disparate tools from multiple vendors. Lengthy planning, budgeting, and closing cycles, compounded with often-inaccurate data, sometimes resulted in restatements and delayed, uninformed, and questionable decisions. With increasing com-

petition and a laser focus on the customer as part of the new digital economy, the goal of successful organizations is instead to embrace a new way of managing these activities.

With SAP® solutions, you can meet obligations today while empowering “next practices” driven by the Intelligent Enterprise and supported by a modern finance function.



# Align plans, optimize profitability, and report performance

Ideally, the finance team is leading business model innovation as part of digital transformation initiatives within your organization. As a strategic partner to the business, you must provide live insights to support better data-driven decisions and seize new opportunities. At the same time, the team must centralize, simplify, and automate anything it can for maximum efficiency.

You can deploy solutions from SAP as point solutions to address specific needs, such as replacing stand-alone spreadsheets for budgeting and planning. The software can also serve as an integrated,

comprehensive solution for collaborative enterprise planning, profitability modeling and optimization, and performance reporting. Choose how you want to deploy – on premise or in the cloud – and improve operability and reduce cost of ownership with unique data integration with SAP S/4HANA®, SAP S/4HANA Cloud, the SAP Business Warehouse (SAP BW) application, the SAP BW/4HANA solution, the SAP HANA® business data platform, and other SAP Analytics solutions.

[Continued on the next page](#)

## Align plans, optimize profitability, and report performance

Collaboratively plan across the enterprise

Analyze for improved results

Report with accuracy and speed



Take advantage of planning and analysis solutions to transform financial planning and analysis teams into strategic business partners.



Planning and analysis solutions from SAP include:

- SAP Analytics Cloud solution – Discover, analyze, plan, predict, and collaborate in one simple cloud solution to turn instant insight into quick action.
- SAP Digital Boardroom – Whether you're in the boardroom, on the management team, or in operations, gain real-time insights into financial and operational metrics and take action in the moment. Bring meetings to life, collaborating directly on-screen or remotely, and report performance to share the story behind the numbers.

- SAP Business Planning and Consolidation application – Benefit from planning, budgeting, and forecasting functionality with management and legal consolidations to improve planning accuracy, quickly explore different scenarios, shorten budget-cycle time, close the books more quickly, and enable regulatory compliance.
- SAP Profitability and Performance Management application – Execute allocation and funds-transfer pricing and costing models, crunch huge data volumes easily and quickly, and perform as-needed profitability simulations and what-if analysis.

See the [figure](#) on the next page for an overview of the planning and analysis processes enabled by our solutions.

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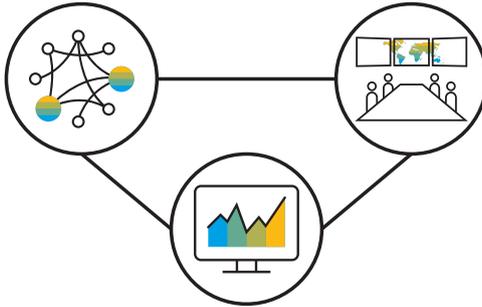
Report with accuracy and speed



Figure 1: Planning and Analysis Processes and Solutions

**Plan**

- SAP® Analytics Cloud
- SAP Business Planning and Consolidation



**Report**

- SAP Analytics Cloud
- SAP Digital Boardroom

**Analyze**

- SAP Analytics Cloud
- SAP Profitability and Performance Management

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# Collaboratively plan across the enterprise

Combining planning with data discovery, visualization, and predictive analysis capabilities, SAP Analytics Cloud is built on SAP Cloud Platform and delivered as software as a service. You can create and modify planning models on the fly and plan and simulate at any level of detail, with any number of users in real time – all without the need to install software. Embedded social collaboration lets you discuss plans in context. Native integration with SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (SAP BPC) allows you to align plans across finance and business units and enhance visualizations in hybrid scenarios for SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BPC.

SAP BPC lets you streamline bottom-up and top-down financial and operational planning processes using one on-premise application. Licensed separately, the application works as an integral part of SAP S/4HANA. It is available as a version for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform and as a version for SAP BW/4HANA, both powered by SAP HANA; and as a version for the Microsoft platform.

Familiar applications – such as Microsoft Excel and a modern Web client – serve as native interfaces to the software, minimize training, and foster adoption for improved budget-cycle times and better results. Business-process flows and real-time access to data enable you to complete planning and analysis processes.

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# Analyze for improved results

SAP Analytics Cloud brings analytics into your planning application rather than requiring you to use a separate tool. You can allocate costs to targets, create compelling data visualizations, run as-needed reports, collaborate within the context of your plans, and answer complex questions.

In addition, SAP Profitability and Performance Management helps you model and optimize profitability. Gain a deep understanding of the levers affecting organizational costs and profitability across current and future business dimensions – customers, products, and channels. This application, powered by SAP HANA, allows lightning-

fast analysis of huge data sets. It supports allocation methods for revenues, costs, capital, and reserves – including global recharges and expenses, top-down allocations and distributions, and activity-based costing.

Additionally, you can execute allocation and funds-transfer pricing and costing models and use a high-speed finance and risk calculation engine, as well as scenario management capabilities. Interface with SAP BPC to apply allocation rules to planning data.

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Gain powerful insights to sources of organizational profitability with SAP Profitability and Performance Management.



# Report with accuracy and speed

Create financial statements and management reports in SAP Analytics Cloud, including variance and trend analysis. Take advantage of preconfigured dashboards, KPIs, and report templates. Additionally, SAP Analytics Cloud integrates with SAP S/4HANA Cloud to access real-time data. (Integration with SAP S/4HANA is planned for the near future.) Use embedded intelligence to save time and make better data-driven decisions, supported by the following features:

- “Smart insights” provides in-line insights on contributor analysis for the selected KPI.
- “Smart discovery” uses augmented intelligence to uncover top influencers of performance in a dashboard format – no modeling required.
- “Search to insight” allows you to type questions in conversational language to get the answers you seek.

In addition, tell the story behind the numbers in “performance playbooks” with SAP Digital Boardroom. Gain live insight into financial and operational metrics across the business for a 360-degree view of what matters. Adjust drivers on-screen to simulate the impact of decisions so you can act with confidence. Collaborate on-screen or remotely and capture action items in context for greater accountability and better business outcomes. You can bring management meetings to life with SAP Digital Boardroom. It’s the end of “I’ll get back to you.”

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# Deliver a better top and bottom line

No matter what part of the business you're in, our planning and analysis solutions can help you deliver better results. Explore strategic alternatives, dynamically update plans to seize new opportunities, get live insight into what's happening for better decisions, and gain real-time insight into performance across the business for a complete view of what matters, in the moment.

And, with SAP S/4HANA, you can take advantage of unique integration that provides real-time planning capabilities without having to replicate your

data. Whether you are in the midst of digital transformation or simply modernizing your finance function, you can:

- Improve financial planning and analysis and escape spreadsheet proliferation
- Enhance profitability with fact-based decisions
- Tell the story behind the numbers
- Bring management meetings to life

**Deliver a better top and bottom line**



Meet your company's specific requirements with our comprehensive planning and analysis solution suite.



### Summary

Planning and analysis solutions from SAP help increase revenue and profitability by allowing you to better plan, analyze, and report results.

### Objectives

- Explore new business models and better ways to serve customers
- Become a more-intelligent enterprise to outperform the competition
- Align goals and plans for improved performance and better business outcomes
- Eliminate the time and errors associated with stand-alone spreadsheets and disconnected reporting tools
- Reduce costs and optimize profitability for improved margins
- Provide transparency and collaboration for greater engagement and accountability
- Empower finance teams to do more with less

### Solution

- One cloud solution for collaborative enterprise planning
- Integrated with SAP S/4HANA® and SAP S/4HANA Cloud for planning, analysis, and execution in one suite
- Unified planning and consolidation in one on-premise application
- Profitability modeling and optimization so you can see cost and profitability drivers
- Insightful, contextual, and comprehensive performance reporting

### Benefits

- Make better decisions and seize new revenue opportunities
- Increase organizational alignment and agility
- Grow the business and improve profitability
- Gain real-time insight into performance

### Learn more

To find out more, call your SAP representative today or visit us [online](#).



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59347enUS (18/09)

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