SAP Solution Brief
SAP Analytics Cloud

Planning for Everyone

THE BEST RUN SAP

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Extend Planning and Analysis Across Your Business

Imagine an agile planning and analysis solution that links plans across departments and lets you discard your stand-alone spreadsheets and eliminate data silos. With the SAP® Analytics Cloud solution, you can **discover, analyze, plan, predict, and collaborate** anywhere, in one unified experience that simplifies and accelerates predictive planning and budgeting enterprise-wide.

To master real-time business, you must integrate processes across functions. SAP Analytics Cloud helps simplify planning and align everyone – in finance, HR, sales, marketing, IT, and supply chain operations, in the field or in the boardroom – toward common goals. Give everyone the right tools for planning and analysis, collaborative budgeting, long-range strategic planning, workforce and capital planning, predictive planning, and scenario modeling. Eliminate reliance on error-prone, stand-alone spreadsheets and separate, disconnected products for business intelligence, predictive analysis, and performance management. Empower users to join collaborative discussions on any data, at any time. Trust streamlined workflows to bring accurate planning results quickly to the point of action in any enterprise application. Embed augmented intelligence, predictive insights, and advanced visualizations directly into the context of your planning processes.

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Act in the Moment

SAP Analytics Cloud provides a single decision-making solution for real-time analysis and extended planning and analysis (xP&A) from the boardroom to the shop floor and across functions, including finance, HR, sales, marketing, IT, and supply chain operations. By eliminating the traditional barriers between finance, operations, and corporate strategy, xP&A lets you connect and synchronize plans enterprise-wide in real time.

Embedded collaboration and workflow capabilities let stakeholders hold instant-message discussions for contextual decision-making and adopt the resulting action items. With predictive analytics, planning, and business intelligence unified as well, you have a single cloud solution for collaborating to make confident decisions and improve results.

Your financial professionals can access planning and analysis functionality in one solution instead of in separate tools for planning and modeling or analysis and reporting. Through integration with SAP S/4HANA®, everyone gains one version of the truth and one rich financial management suite for planning, analysis, and execution – enabling your organization to increase agility and achieve better outcomes.

Users can plan and analyze directly in their familiar enterprise solution, visualizing performance metrics and adjusting drivers in real time to simulate the impact of various decisions. And they can model and simulate what-if scenarios as they work, in both private and public versions of their plans.

Act in the Moment

Collaborate Continuously

Predict Future Outcomes

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Collaborate Continuously

SAP Analytics Cloud supports both top-down and bottom-up planning and lets you plan at any level of detail. The underlying SAP HANA® database manages a single flow of data from multiple applications, so consistent, reliable information moves quickly to planners in all lines of business. In-context guidance helps them set up model scenarios and run what-if simulations to support long-range strategic planning and predictive planning. Results display on role-based dashboards in intuitive graphics that clarify concepts at a glance.

Built-in features for calendar workflow, scheduling, live discussions, and data-point commenting enable stakeholders to discuss plans in context, while you keep accountability transparent. Users can interact on-screen from anywhere – on the road or at home – to keep the conversation going. You can crowdsource plans and budgets to maintain engagement and accuracy across the enterprise. And because planners are working on a solution that performs both transactional and analytical processing in memory, they can act quickly and iterate often, without missing deadlines.

Act in the Moment

Collaborate Continuously

Predict Future Outcomes

Take advantage of a cloud-based, cross-functional planning solution that brings everyone together to **make confident decisions** more quickly and simply.

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Predict Future Outcomes

Harnessing historical information, machine learning, and business acumen, planners can perform predictive analysis and automate forecasts at any planning level using the "smart predict" feature of SAP Analytics Cloud. Machine learning–driven insights across dimensions remove the guesswork, while self-service allows everyone to access results based on built-in financial intelligence. Planners can now build trust in their predictions by relying on immediate data-driven visualizations and the prediction accuracy scores available in the application.

The "smart discovery" feature uses machine learning to pinpoint variances in data and drill down to their root causes. The "smart insights" feature helps identify the influencers of key performance indicators so planners can explore trade-offs immediately. Rich visualizations help make complex information comprehensible, accelerating processes and boosting decision-making efficiency across lines of business.

SAP Analytics Cloud also includes a feature called "search to insight," which lets planners extract actionable insights by querying data in everyday language. With this technique, getting answers to ad hoc planning questions is as easy as having a conversation with an expert colleague. You can discover the top drivers of performance without a lengthy search through collated reports, automatically predicting future values and making changes to improve outcomes.

Act in the Moment

Collaborate Continuously

Predict Future Outcomes

Predictive planning uses machine learning to **accelerate insight-driven decision-making**.

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Tally the Benefits

Stand-alone spreadsheets and traditional point-to-point planning solutions lack the simplicity, agility, and cross-functional alignment to keep up with the digital economy. And the heavy reliance on IT to manage and maintain many of these legacy tools can slow things down even more.

SAP Analytics Cloud addresses these challenges with planning capabilities accessible through a single cloud-based solution that embeds analysis and predictive analytics features.

Stakeholders in finance and across the business can use the same planning solution to perform their tasks, collaborate on mobile devices from anywhere, and align with colleagues across the enterprise toward common objectives. Relevant SAP and third-party data is right at their fingertips for intelligent decision-making in the moment.

When you align planning and forecasting across the business with SAP Analytics Cloud, everyone operates from one version of the truth and can work together toward the business outcomes you're trying to achieve. The intuitive user experience helps meet the needs of those in all lines of business, and the underlying in-memory computing platform can handle the volume of users and records of even the largest organizations. Rapid deployment in the software-as-a-service paradigm can quickly deliver value.

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Summary
The SAP® Analytics Cloud solution is a software-as-a-service offering that unifies analytics and planning across your enterprise. It consolidates data from your applications and presents powerful analytics for forecasting and what-if modeling in a role-based interface. Planners in all lines of business can harness deep insights, share analytical results, and resolve issues collaboratively from anywhere.

Objectives
- Unify business intelligence, predictive analytics, and planning in one solution
- Improve business decisions while simplifying planning and analysis
- Align stakeholders with each other and with corporate goals
- Discuss issues and track decision-making processes enterprise-wide

Solution
- One cloud-based solution to empower planners across functions
- Tools to draw intelligence from data and present it in any application
- Self-service what-if and predictive capabilities to increase planning accuracy
- Processes to boost collaboration and contextual decision-making

Benefits
- Advanced analytics and scenario modeling without IT intervention
- Shorter planning cycles and more productive stakeholders
- Greater enterprise-wide accountability with embedded collaboration tools and workflows
- Better business outcomes through agile decision-making

Learn more
For more details on the planning features in SAP Analytics Cloud, talk to your SAP representative, or sign up now for a free trial.

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