
SAP BI Roadmap and Convergence

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

February 2018



The purpose of this document is to provide SAP employees with the answers to frequently asked questions about the SAP BI Roadmap and Convergence plans to be announced in January 2018.

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Top questions

1. What has SAP announced with this release of the BI roadmap?

SAP is announcing a forward-thinking strategy designed to deliver a simplified portfolio, rapid delivery of innovation, and a focus on use cases based on the evolving needs of both today's market and our customers. We know that most customers will have data and BI content both on premise and in the cloud. Our updated roadmap combines **SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise into a single hybrid solution** that leverages the strengths of both platforms to enable rapid innovation.

To simplify and accelerate the delivery of innovations, **we are focusing on SAP Analytics Cloud as the primary solution for data discovery**. This means that, moving forward, new data discovery functionality will be delivered on SAP Analytics Cloud.

SAP will continue to deliver incremental quality, performance, and functional innovations to customer's existing on premise investments in SAP Lumira, discovery edition. As a result, new data discovery investments will be heavily focused on SAP Analytics Cloud, which gives our customers the ability to discover, analyze, plan, predict, and collaborate in one integrated experience with a solution that integrates with both on premise and cloud-based data sources.

As customers transition to the cloud, we know that most customers will have data and BI content both on premise and in the cloud. Our updated roadmap combines **SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise into a single hybrid solution** that leverages the strengths of both platforms to enable rapid innovation.

2. Why did SAP decide to do this?

Digital transformation is driving businesses towards the cloud. "In 2018, at least half of IT spend will be cloud based, reaching 60-70% of all software, services and technology spend by 2020", according to an IDC Futurescape, Worldwide Cloud Predictions report.

SAP BI customers have long asked if SAP will have one BI solution. We've been driving a BI product convergence strategy over the past several years to focus on the BI use cases organizations need to address and reduce the complexity of multiple BI solutions. But the opportunity is much larger than to just simplify the BI portfolio and deliver a single BI solution in the cloud: we are delivering an entire analytics platform in the cloud. Our goal is to make it easier for our customers to use our products and to deliver our innovations quickly with minimal friction.



SAP Analytics Cloud has matured rapidly over the past 12 months and can now integrate with both on premise and cloud based data sources. It now has the ability to access on premise data in SAP HANA, SAP BW, and SAP BusinessObjects Universes live and without replication to the cloud. SAP is the only provider in the market who can do this, [learn more about how it works](#).

3. [What about my reporting and dashboarding functionality we use today?](#)

As customers transition to the cloud, we know that most customers will have data and BI content both on premise and in the cloud. Our updated roadmap combines **SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise into a single hybrid solution** that leverages the strengths of both platforms to enables rapid innovation.

Our hybrid capabilities provide the best of both – Innovation in the Cloud and On-Premise enhancements. Using the new SAP Analytics Hub, you can combine your on premise BI content with SAP Analytics Cloud stories into a single virtual analytics landscape to make it easy for end users to find the analytics they need.

4. [What does this mean in terms of SAP's Business Intelligence Strategy?](#)

There are three main components to SAP's BI strategy:

SAP Analytics Cloud is a holistic analytics solution that meets the data discovery, data exploration and planning use case, while including functionality based on our predictive engine. It can leverage on premise data using live access to SAP HANA, SAP BW, and SAP BusinessObjects Universes. Planned enhancements will allow SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence documents to be used as a data source for SAP Analytics Cloud stories.

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise will continue to focus on addressing the Analytic Application use case with SAP Lumira designer edition, the Reporting use case with SAP Crystal Reports and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, and Office Integration with Analysis Office and Live Office. SAP Lumira, discovery edition continues to play an important role in allowing business users to rapidly create prototypes of analytic applications. Planned enhancements will allow Lumira discovery datasets to be published to SAP Analytics Cloud, and for SAP Analytics Hub tiles to be created from SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise content.

SAP Analytics Hub pulls all analytics content together into a single searchable portal. It integrates with analytics content from SAP Analytics Cloud, SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise, and even third party tools so it becomes the 'one place to go' for all your business users. Planned enhancements will allow for federated search of assets in both SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise.



5. [What does this mean for SAP Lumira, discovery edition?](#)

Customers of SAP Lumira, discovery edition that are live or planning to go live can continue to do so knowing that SAP is committed to their success.

We are updating the 2018 roadmap so that the next SAP Lumira releases 2.2 and 2.3 focus on quality, performance, and some key customer driven functional improvements compared to SAP Lumira 1.31.

For 2019 and beyond, we will continue to support and maintain SAP Lumira, discovery edition 2.x for the duration of the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.2 platform supported lifetime. Mainstream support now ends December 31, 2022, and Priority 1 support now ends December 31, 2024.

6. [What does this mean for SAP Lumira, designer edition?](#)

SAP Lumira, designer edition remains our primary solution for application design with continued innovation and investment. In parallel, we are adding the application design use case to the SAP Analytics Cloud roadmap in H1 2018.

Customers of SAP Lumira, designer edition that are live or planning to go live can continue to do so knowing that SAP is committed to their success. Incremental *quality, performance, and functional* innovations will be delivered on SAP Lumira, designer edition throughout 2018 and 2019 to ensure customer success.

SAP will continue to support and maintain SAP Lumira, designer edition for the duration of the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.2 platform supported lifetime. Mainstream support now ends December 31, 2022, and Priority 1 support now ends December 31, 2024.

7. [The Platform Availability Matrix \(PAM\) says Lumira is supported only until August 2019. Why the discrepancy?](#)

Each point release has its own end of mainstream maintenance date. As we release future point releases – like 2.2 and 2.3 – we will gradually push out the mainstream maintenance date.

Our intention is that the last point release of Lumira will have the same end of mainstream maintenance and end of Priority 1 maintenance date as the SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform 4.2 – December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2024.

8. [What can we expect for SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence?](#)

SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence remains a strategic element of SAP Business Intelligence strategy.

Key product directions include:



Interoperability between SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence and SAP Analytics Cloud: expose SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence data to SAP Analytics Cloud, so that you can build SAP Analytics Cloud stories based on live data providers from SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence documents.

Allow SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence to connect to SAP Analytics Cloud to benefit from the cloud data sources and SAP Analytics Cloud data modeling capabilities.

Continue to enhance the interactive viewing experience in the new WebI HTML viewer, as well as the designer functionality.

9. [How should I plan to use SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise as I look to the future?](#)

SAP Analytics Cloud for Data discovery, data exploration and planning.

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise for Analytic applications (SAP Lumira, designer edition), Reporting with Web Intelligence and Crystal Reports, and Office integration with Live Office and Analysis Office.

10. [What about the data exploration use case?](#)

SAP Analytics Cloud replaces BusinessObjects Explorer for data exploration. Natural language search is planned for the SAP Analytics Cloud roadmap.

11. [What are the license impacts of this?](#)

SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Analytics Hub are cloud subscription sold separately from existing on premise licenses.

Customers can use a program called the '[Cloud Extension Policy](#)' to do a partial termination of an on premise maintenance contract, and replace that with a cloud contract.

We currently have a 'hybrid license' program underway which will combine SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise into a single subscription license. This is planned for general customer availability in the 2nd half of 2018.

12. [Does this updated strategy impact support for SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise?](#)

It does – and in a very positive manner. We have recently extended support for BI Platform 4.2 by two (2) years. Mainstream support now ends December 31, 2022, and Priority 1 support now ends December 31, 2024. New feature investments will include our focus on our hybrid strategy that combines SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise together with SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP Analytics Hub.



13. Will there be a SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3?

Consistent with our theme of rapid innovation, we plan to release two (2) support packages in 2018 on the SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.2 platform.

At the end of the year we will decide on whether to continue to innovate using support packages on the 4.2 platform (which supports more rapid innovation and many customers find to be easier for update and budget purposes) or create a larger 4.3 project.

14. Will I be forced to migrate to another SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise product or SAP Analytics Cloud solution that offers the same capabilities?

In general, we make every effort to avoid forced migrations. Exceptions include longstanding migration roadmaps like Desktop Intelligence to Web Intelligence, and the announced end-of-life of third party components like Adobe Flash.

Due to Adobe's end of support for Adobe Flash, SAP will be ending support of SAP BusinessObjects Explorer and SAP BusinessObjects Dashboards on Dec 31, 2020.

We recommend customers of SAP BusinessObjects Dashboards migrate to either SAP Lumira designer edition now, or SAP Analytics Cloud when the new application design functionality is ready later in 2018 or 2019.

We recommend customers of SAP BusinessObjects Explorer migrate to SAP Analytics Cloud.

15. Can I use files that I have created in SAP Lumira with SAP Analytics Cloud today?

At the present time, you cannot use any files that you have created directly with SAP Analytics Cloud. However, we plan to deliver functionality to Extend Lumira Discovery datasets to SAP Analytics Cloud. In addition to this customer can use SAP Analytics Hub to catalog all analytics content, including Lumira content, or even third party analytics content; into a single access point for end users.

16. What are some of the key data sources that SAP Analytics Cloud connects with today?

SAP Analytics Cloud can access data from SAP applications, databases, and non-SAP applications. It supports SAP applications like SuccessFactors, Concur, Fieldglass, ByDesign and Hybris. Analytic data sources like SAP BusinessObjects Universes, BW queries, HANA views and traditional SQL sources like Oracle and SQL Server. It also connects to 3rd party cloud sources like Salesforce.com, Google BigQuery and Google Drive.



17. Do I have to load my data to the cloud to use SAP Analytics Cloud?

SAP Analytics Cloud brings data discovery directly to your trusted data sources on premise and cloud such as BW/4HANA, BusinessObjects Universes, S/4HANA and S/4HANA Cloud, and the SAP Cloud Platform itself; without moving, caching or persisting any part or portion of the data into the cloud. SAP is the only provider in the market who can do this, [learn more about how it works](#).

Depending on the data source that you select, you have options.

SAP Analytics Cloud supports both **Live** and **Acquired** data access

Live – With Live connections, data remains on premise and does not replicate in the cloud. Data is “live”, meaning that when a user opens a story in SAP Analytics Cloud, changes made to the data in the source system are reflected immediately. You can create models from data sources in on premise or cloud systems, build stories based on those models, and perform online analysis without data replication. This feature allows SAP Analytics Cloud to be used in scenarios where data cannot be moved into the cloud for security or privacy reasons, or your data already exists on a different cloud system. Live connections are supported with SAP BusinessObjects Universes, SAP BW, and SAP HANA.

Acquired – With Acquired connections, data from existing sources is imported (copied) to SAP Analytics Cloud, and changes made to the data in the source system don't affect the imported data.

18. Do I have an option to run SAP Lumira and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise in the cloud?

Yes. SAP provides you with two key options for loading SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise in the cloud and access and use your on premise data.

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise in a Managed Cloud as a service (MCAas) offering on the private SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud.

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise in an Infrastructure as a service (IaaS) offering on public cloud with Google Cloud Platform, Amazon Web Services, and Azure.

19. What does this mean for SAP mobile analytics?

Advancements in the SAP Analytics Cloud mobile strategy allow customers to take advantage of a common UX across their device landscape with responsive UI. The use case for mobile analytics with SAP Roambi has a direct path to SAP Analytics Cloud for mobile first interactive data experiences. The many and frequent updates to SAP Analytics Cloud includes updates to



the [mobile app, but we're not stopping there](#). We plan to add mobile first and offline capabilities in multiple phases starting in 2H 2018 to SAP Analytics Cloud as well. More details on the overall product direction for mobile analytics will be provided in H1 of 2018.

SAP BusinessObjects Mobile remains the solution for SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise content and will follow the same ongoing support schedule as SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise to ensure the continued success of customer deployments. SAP Analytics Cloud Mobile is the solution for SAP Analytics Cloud content with ongoing support for innovations on the SAP Analytics Cloud Platform.

