SAP Financial Information Management

Connectivity, Mapping, and Loading for the Business User

Quick Facts

Summary

Most businesses rely on manual, error-prone processes to collect, map, and move data into performance management software. With the SAP® Financial Information Management application, you can take the risk, cost, and effort out of these activities. It integrates directly with data sources – both SAP and non-SAP – and validates that data loads correctly into and between SAP solutions for enterprise performance management (EPM).

Business Challenges

- No confidence in EPM analysis and reports
- Inflexible, inefficient planning and budgeting cycles
- Extended or slow closing cycle times
- Rising costs

Key Features

- **User controlled** – Give finance an easy, repeatable process
- **Comprehensive application support** – Integrate with SAP solutions for EPM
- **Simplified mappings** – Set up and maintain data mappings with a wizard-driven integration interface
- **Metadata browsing** – Browse metadata in the SAP ERP application or the SAP NetWeaver® Business Warehouse component when creating mapping tables
- **Automated audit trail** – Have a trail for every data move
- **Drill to origin and drill to source** – Drill back to view the data source
- **Validations** – Detect invalid mappings and missing dimensions
- **Extensive connectivity** – Connect to SAP and non-SAP software systems
- **Closed-loop EPM** – Integrate processes for closed-loop performance management

Business Benefits

- **Increased productivity** by replacing manual activities with efficient, repeatable processes
- **Higher confidence in financial data quality** by reducing risks
- **Lower costs** with standardized processes, automated audit trails, and drill-to-origin functionality
- **Streamlined performance management processes** with faster profitability reporting, more accurate planning, reduced closing cycles, and shorter audit times
- **Greater business value** through superior connectivity that supports closed-loop EPM

For More Information

Call your SAP representative, or visit www.sap.com/epm.

The Best-Run Businesses Run SAP™

As CFO roles become more strategic, there's a growing need for reliable, transparent, and repeatable quality management for enterprise data. But managing financial information is challenging for many organizations. Traditionally, data needed by enterprise performance management (EPM) applications has resided in multiple heterogeneous source systems and general ledgers throughout an enterprise. Where organizations have implemented integrated performance management or closed-loop EPM solutions, source data often resides in other applications. Regardless of the source, accessing, mapping, verifying, and loading financial information can be a serious logistical challenge, resulting in manual data reentry or the use of intermediate text files, both of which can be labor intensive and lead to poor data quality and inaccurate results.

You need a reliable, transparent, and repeatable financial information management process to maximize productivity, achieve transparency, minimize cost of compliance, and increase confidence in profitability analysis, business plans, and financial results. That's why SAP offers the SAP® Financial Information Management application, which provides powerful data connectivity, mapping, and loading functionality designed for the business user. Finance professionals can access and load information from source systems or related SAP solutions for EPM. Now everyone works with trusted data – and with functionality that lets you improve EPM business processes and facilitate corporate compliance.

ACHIEVING FINANCIAL DATA QUALITY – FROM SOURCE TO REPORT

SAP Financial Information Management combines ease of use with functionality that builds trust by helping to ensure data reliability – from source to report. It provides extensive connectivity to SAP and non-SAP data sources and between

SAP solutions for EPM. You gain robust data collection functionality combined with strong finance controls, data validation, and comprehensive auditability, all of which help ensure quality financial data for your EPM models and reports.

Easy, Repeatable Approach with a User-Oriented Solution

SAP Financial Information Management provides a simple, repeatable, and low-cost approach to information management. It is integrated with and launches directly from SAP solutions for EPM, including the SAP Strategy Management, SAP Business Planning and Consolidation, SAP Profitability and Cost Management, SAP Financial Consolidation, and SAP Intercompany applications. Access is easy, with credentials verified via single sign-on. Because the application runs in a Web browser, it is fast to deploy and easy to maintain over the Web at minimal cost. The user interface has been designed to deliver an exceptional experience, delivering user-friendly navigation and stimulating user adoption and productivity.

The application acts as a staging room for all financial data across the enterprise. Finance users access an intuitive wizard-driven integration interface to maintain sophisticated data mappings for SAP and non-SAP applications, launch loading tasks at will, and monitor task execution in real time. Users see the loading tasks and target dimensions for which they have authorization, making it easy to map your data, accounts, and dimensions directly to the target EPM solution. It is also possible to browse metadata, to view a list of dimensions with codes and descriptions displayed when creating mapping tables. Web-based dialogs help ensure that mappings are valid, without the need for costly manual coding. And because you no longer need to use intermediate flat files or manually rekey data to move data, you save time, improve accuracy, and reduce integration costs.

Quality, Confidence, and Compliance

Process transparency helps bring clarity and confidence to integrated data, improving accuracy and speeding audit time frames while lowering compliance costs. As data is mapped, the software creates an automated and easily accessible audit trail for every data move. You can capture full mapping details, including "from" and "to" values with time stamps for all affected dimensions.

Once data from your source systems is fed into the target EPM solution, you can drill back instantly to source data in SAP Financial Information Management by selecting any consolidated number in your report or model. This lets you view the breakdown of data at a more detailed level. You can trace an aggregate amount across all contributing loading tasks and see before and after values for all dimension mappings. You can also drill through to the source line of data that has been integrated from the SAP ERP application.

Trustworthy and compliant data is provided by comprehensive validations in the application, which reduce data integrity risk and help ensure that error-prone data is loaded correctly the first time. The software detects invalid mappings and missing dimensions and performs custom validations. SAP solutions for EPM also perform data validation activities, which vary by solution and may include intelligent checks, filters, attributes, and automated rules.

The application maintains a secure environment for data mapping and movement. It is driven by profiles that provide users with specific role-based authorizations for data they can access, map, and move. Users can view their audit trails, complete with mapping and load histories, while audit users can see the audit history of all users. However, IT users, such as administrators, may not be able to view audit trails owing to the sensitive nature of the information.

Superior Connectivity Drives Increased Business Value

SAP Financial Information Management supports the connectivity needs of large multinational enterprises where data is stored in dozens of different systems. It comes with – and is fully integrated with – SAP Data Integrator software, a robust data integration tool. You can integrate directly with application and database sources and map data from them directly to the data model in your EPM solution.

When integrating data from SAP ERP and the SAP NetWeaver® Business Warehouse component, the user is presented with advanced configuration options through the job creation wizard and built-in functionality, which helps speed the process of job creation and makes it easier for users to access and map data from these sources. In addition, SAP Financial Information Management supports SAP Rapid Marts™ packages, which provide powerful and flexible data integration content to speed implementation, lower costs, and facilitate compliance.

EPM-to-EPM Integration for Closed-Loop Performance Management

With SAP Financial Information Management, you have an information management solution that offers powerful EPM-to-EPM integration, including the ability to implement common closed-loop performance management scenarios:
- Exchange of actual and plan data between SAP Financial Consolidation and SAP Business Planning and Consolidation for more accurate business planning and financial close processes
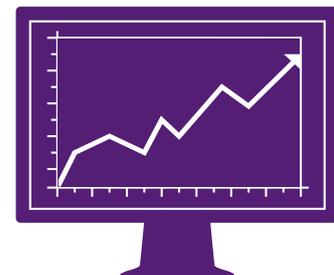
EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION CONNECTIVITY

- SAP® Business Suite software
- SAP NetWeaver® Business Warehouse component
- J.D. Edwards software
- Oracle applications
- PeopleSoft software
- Siebel software

EXAMPLES OF DATABASE CONNECTIVITY

- Oracle
- DB2
- Sybase
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Informix
- Teradata
- Netezza

- Ability to seed business plans in SAP Business Planning and Consolidation with cost and capacity drivers from SAP Profitability and Cost Management for more accurate and flexible budgeting and planning
- Loading of target and actual data from SAP Business Planning and Consolidation to SAP Strategy Management, to feed updated key performance indicators and scorecards

Maximize productivity, achieve transparency, minimize the cost of compliance, and increase overall confidence in your profitability analysis, business plans, and financial results.

This integration can lead to improvements in individual EPM processes, such as quick and accurate profitability analysis, efficient planning, reduced audit time frames, and easier compliance.

Added-value benefits can accrue from more efficient, linked business processes that let you shorten closing cycles and drive more accurate and flexible business plans and budgets.

KEY BENEFITS

SAP Financial Information Management frees you and your team from the worries associated with data management – so you can focus on more strategic EPM activities. You benefit from:

• **Increased productivity in the finance department** by replacing error-prone and time-consuming manual activities with efficient repeatable information management

• **Higher confidence in financial data quality** by reducing data integrity risks as you collect, map, and move data
• **Lower compliance costs** with standardized transparent processes, automated audit trails, and drill-to-origin functionality
• **Streamlined performance management processes,** with faster profitability reporting, more accurate and flexible planning, reduced closing cycles, and shorter audit time frames, by leveraging automation for access to accurate, trusted information for EPM software without sacrificing data quality
• **Greater business value** through superior connectivity that lets you integrate almost any data source to support consistent information for closed-loop processes and performance management reporting

FIND OUT MORE

For more information, contact SAP or visit www.sap.com/epm.

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