

The background of the slide is a photograph of a bright blue sky filled with large, fluffy white cumulus clouds. A solid orange horizontal line runs across the top of the slide, just below the header text.

University Competence Center: Leading a Co-Innovation Project on SAP® Cloud Appliance Library

Organization

University Competence Center,
an initiative of SAP SE

Headquarters

Walldorf, Germany

Industry, products, and services

Higher education and research –
deliver software landscapes to
universities through the cloud
for student training with the
SAP HANA® platform

SAP® solutions and services

SAP® University Alliances
program, SAP Cloud Appliance
Library



Get classroom training when you're ready – sponsored by SAP

The lecturer arrives 20 minutes early. She sits down at her computer, logs on to the university's cloud portal, and opens the list of training sets available to her. She selects the subject that is the focus of today's class: **the SAP HANA® platform**. By the time the last student hurtles in, the online session is accessible by everyone. "Good morning," she says, "today we're discussing the performance of in-memory computing."

SAP delivers preconfigured curriculums for the SAP HANA platform directly to member university cloud accounts for classroom training through a completely automated process. SAP® Cloud Appliance Library was used to deliver the infrastructure required for the introductory curriculum for SAP HANA, a project in which more than 60 universities

participated globally. Using this approach, a system that used to take weeks to implement can often be implemented in under an hour. It all adds up to an environment that enables a university's business and technical graduates to graduate the academic halls and enter today's highly competitive job market with a flying start.

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Teach integrated business software to university students

Increasingly, universities are finding it important to give their students hands-on experience with integrated business solutions. Providing standard real-world software with typical business data to allow students to make realistic transactions is the most useful exercise. However, setting up such a software environment customarily takes four to six weeks.

Deploying and implementing software and importing the realistic data necessary to simulate functioning business software systems is a huge manual task. Provisioning usually requires enormous server installations with massive amounts of memory. To get the whole software environment up and running means installing upgrade packages and support packages as well as ancillary software. This requires the services of skilled technical people applying considerable manual effort, which in turn incurs substantial expense on the part of the system provider.

University Competence Center (UCC) locations, working together with the SAP University Alliances program, determined that a far faster and more flexible approach was possible. A curriculum for SAP HANA was prepared on virtual machines that were then deployed to the cloud through Amazon Web Services. "We allowed member universities to use these systems to hold their classes," says Dr. Sonja Hecht, co-executive director of the competence center at TU München. "And to do this, we used SAP Cloud Appliance Library."

SAP Cloud Appliance Library is an on-demand product for delivering software content directly to a user's cloud account. It uses software appliances as templates and allows users to access complete business packages cost-effectively from a repository of standard, preconfigured solutions.



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Support universities globally with course development

In the early 1990s, SAP created a support facility where professors could work with SAP staff to learn how SAP created real-time integrated business information software systems. The professors then conveyed an understanding of the technical architecture of these systems to their students.

By the early 2000s, universities were reaching out to companies throughout the business community to create research projects and courses focused on business processes. Usually, whatever the topic, any given company was using SAP software in some way to accomplish its goals. So a professor who wanted to do research on a particular business topic – customer relationship management or portal development, to name two examples – would approach SAP for the software and a proposal for a joint project.

For its part, SAP realized that it made sense to provide universities access to its software. However, the effort required in getting an application or suite of applications up and running and transferring the required skills and knowledge to a professor or instructor was substantial. As a result, SAP came up with the concept of a competence center staffed with knowledgeable SAP specialists who could perform the knowledge transfer to the instructors. “There is a multiplier effect,” says Dr. Hecht. “There are now six competence centers globally, each with five to 10 people who coordinate with some 8,000 lecturers around the world.”



8,000

Lecturers



6

University Competence Center locations worldwide

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Offer a made-to-order cloud

Working within the SAP University Alliances program, the Munich-based competence center defined basic configurations for SAP solutions, which are deployed as a bundle to the 207 universities it serves.

For example, a curriculum was developed using SAP HANA in combination with SAP BusinessObjects™ business intelligence solutions. Data sets with test data for case studies were defined and developed. The competence center recognized the need for Windows terminal servers providing preconfigured user interfaces in order to enable students to access the software environments. Then, working with the team for SAP Cloud Appliance Library, people work-

ing at the competence center were able to bring the entire software system into operation expeditiously. “SAP staff had the expertise to do this generically, and they did it for us to our specifications directly,” says Dr. Hecht. “We would have a cloud offering that fits our needs, and it could be adjusted and updated every time we updated our curriculum.”

Working with the team for SAP Cloud Appliance Library, the Munich-based competence center has been able to provide classes within one to four hours of a request. “For example, 20 software systems were deployed by SAP within one day,” says Dr. Hecht.

“SAP Cloud Appliance Library enables our customers to use the SAP HANA platform on a daily basis. This possibility provides them great flexibility in integrating SAP HANA into their teaching.”

Ann Rosenberg, Vice President, SAP University Alliances Program, Solution and Knowledge Packaging, SAP SE



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Take advantage of preconfigured solutions from SAP

“We have an SAP solution that’s preconfigured by SAP,” says Dr. Hecht, “so the university doesn’t have to install the system, import data, or even configure a user.” Everything is prepared in advance: the environment is established, the client and database installed, and the training data uploaded in the cloud.

Content was developed by several competence centers in close cooperation with SAP University Alliances, which is responsible for working with universities on topics that focus on SAP software. Through this cloud approach, a university course can be scaled to reach as many as 80 universities with little effort on the part of SAP University Alliances.

As a global program with more than 1,600 member institutions in over 80 countries, SAP University Alliances aims to shape the future of higher education. It promotes practical, future-oriented education by providing access to the latest SAP technologies and supports universities and vocational schools in actively integrating SAP software into their course curriculums.

Scalability is supported by SAP Cloud Appliance Library, which enables SAP to prepare a solution template – for the SAP ERP application, for example – and set it up very quickly. SAP Cloud Appliance Library is an example of an “SAP runs SAP software” project. “It wasn’t that we had to use it. It was the best choice,” says Ann Rosenberg, vice president of the SAP University Alliances program.

“During this co-innovation project, the cloud services provided by SAP Cloud Appliance Library enabled us to deploy software systems for classroom lectures within hours.”

Dr. Sonja Hecht, Co-Executive Director, University Competence Center Location, TU München



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Base training on business software of the highest relevance

University Competence Center locations provide hundreds of universities with standard SAP software solutions and real-world business data at low cost. This allows them to offer their students real-world experience in today's complex business processes while training them with the software out in the world today that supports those business processes. This means universities can offer their students absolutely up-to-date, real-world, relevant knowledge and working experience before they set a foot in the business world.

Competence centers enable universities to set up the standard SAP software required for real-world student training at a huge savings, with installation and implementation effort vastly reduced. Because all this is enabled in the cloud, universities can access the latest technologies within just hours of presenting it to students, ensuring that the curriculum is of the highest relevance. Universities can always be sure of basing the training they offer on the latest software that supports the uses and reflects the exigencies of today's complex business world.



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Train 1 million students

As the number of solutions in SAP Cloud Appliance Library expands, the competence centers are considering the use of convenient templates to access new course packages in the cloud. This would allow universities to offer their students up-to-the-minute courses for the subjects in the highest demand as well as to introduce new courses. "Using cloud services provided by SAP Cloud Appliance Library enables customers to get access to complex SAP software landscapes on a pay-per-use basis," remarks Dr. Hecht. "This concept could be very interesting to a university that doesn't need the system 24x7."



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