

SAP Solution Brief
SAP NetWeaver



EASY, SECURE INFORMATION ACCESS – WITH SAP NetWeaver® ENTERPRISE SEARCH

With data volumes rising fast, pinpointing critical information can pose major challenges – particularly if the details you need reside in business applications. Enter the SAP NetWeaver® Enterprise Search application. This user-friendly software gives information workers a secure single point of access to facts and figures – no matter where they're stored. And that means increased productivity, better decision making, plus a greater return on your company's investment in business software.

Whether you're serving customers or mapping out strategies for success – rapid access to up-to-date information is essential. But pinpointing and leveraging the details you need is no cakewalk. For one thing, vast volumes of business-critical data reside in enterprise applications – such as enterprise resource planning (ERP), customer relationship management (CRM), and business intelligence software. And these systems are often not designed for occasional users. So even if you succeed in locating the facts and figures you're after, you may discover you lack the necessary skills to call them up swiftly.

Then there's the challenge of tracking down unstructured information such as text documents and presentations: no easy task, given that such information is generally stored in a wide variety of formats and scattered across various systems. In an ideal world, your enterprise search solution would allow you to run one query across multiple sources – ranging from enterprise applications and reports to the company intranet and public Web sites to document repositories. But the reality is usually very different. And more often than not, you have to use a different tool to sift through each system, before consolidating the results manually.

Small wonder, then, that a recent McKinsey & Company survey found that information workers spend around 40% of their day looking for data.¹ The result: user frustration, lower productivity, and sluggish decision making. The SAP NetWeaver® Enterprise Search application puts an end to all that, enabling you to find exactly what you are looking for – quickly, securely, and no matter where data resides.

1. The McKinsey Global Survey of Business Executives, July 2005.

Your Gateway to the Enterprise

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search is your single point of access to facts, figures, and transactions throughout your organization. From the reception desk to the boardroom, this state-of-the-art software opens up new ways for people to interact with business content and applications. With SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search, you can seamlessly access SAP and non-SAP information and processes within your familiar work environment. The application takes into account your role and authorizations, enabling you to zoom in on the data you need for the task at hand. And the latest SAP® in-memory search technology helps you find what you are looking for fast.

Federated Results via a Single Tool

Say goodbye to time-consuming multiple searches via disparate tools. SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search allows you to query all relevant sources rapidly (including structured information in your back-end SAP software) and view federated results in one convenient hit list.

Support for Multiple Devices

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search lets you run queries using a standard Web browser. In addition, the application is designed to support a wide range of commonly used devices and channels, from office PCs to handhelds, and from online portals to desktop widgets – for secure, quick, and easy access to all the information you need, at the office, at home, or on the move.

Translating Search Results into Action

When information workers perform searches, they want more than isolated facts and figures – they want a reliable basis for action or for further investigation. SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search helps you act on your results by means of the following:

- **Related actions** – Alongside your hit list, the application displays links to relevant activities – giving you access not only to information but also to a wide range of transactions. For instance, if you query a customer name, SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search lets you jump to the back-end system and complete associated tasks such as creating, changing, or deleting sales orders.

- **Related information** – The software enables you to access additional facts and figures and perform further searches. So if you're viewing a specific customer's details, SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search can give you links automatically to related invoices, locally stored presentations and quotes, or even to relevant business information on the Web.

What's more, you can execute basic back-end transactions directly from the user interface of SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search. For example, the application can be easily configured to enable managers to look for, view, and approve employee leave requests. And that means more users can reap the benefits of your business software investments without the additional cost of specialist training.

Focus on Role-Specific Information

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search leverages our deep understanding of user roles and business contexts, enabling personalized searches based on your specific role, preferences, and authorizations. So if you're a marketing professional, your queries in the SAP back-end system can be configured to return only marketing-relevant results. And if you're an IT manager, running the same search will generate a very different hit list – in line with your very different business needs.

Refining and Restricting Queries

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search lets you use keywords to restrict your query – for faster, higher-quality results. For instance, entering “invoice” with a company name lets you view all invoices for an account – rather than all documents containing the name. And if a search turns up an unmanageably long hit list, the application gives you straightforward assistance to narrow down your query.

Easy Integration of Information Sources

The application delivers out-of-the-box integration with SAP business software, including the SAP ERP application and the SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence and SAP NetWeaver Master Data Management components. SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search is designed to dovetail with other sources of information such as user desktops and third-party applications. And SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search provides open extension interfaces, allowing administrators to integrate new sources with ease.

Cast-Iron Security – Easier Compliance

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search helps you locate information required by auditors and external authorities quickly – providing valuable assistance when it comes to complying with statutory regulations. Moreover, the application can help you communicate your organization’s policies to the workforce – for example, by displaying relevant rules prominently alongside hit lists. And because SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search takes the user’s authorizations into account automatically, you can rest assured that sensitive data is safe from prying eyes.

Rapid Access to Business Intelligence

Seamless integration with the SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence component enables you to locate precisely the reports and analytics you need rapidly – and access them with point-and-click simplicity from your hit list. You can search for reports generated by other software – such as ERP and CRM applications. And that makes for better, timelier decisions, while eliminating unnecessary creation of new reports.

Scalable, Plug-and-Play Concept

Delivered as a convenient appliance, SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search comes preinstalled on dedicated hardware from Hewlett-Packard or IBM – with advanced chip technology from Intel Corporation. The plug-and-play design of SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search not only makes for rapid initial deployment; it enables the appliance to be scaled in line with changing business needs. Want more processing power? Simply add more blade servers. And the software is optimized for the infrastructure – ensuring you gain the full benefits of that additional CPU power.

Intel collaborated with SAP on the development of the SAP NetWeaver® Enterprise Search appliance. It leverages advanced Intel software and hardware technology optimizations to maximize performance and scalability. Intel offers a broad range of open and flexible platforms with leading performance, security, manageability, and reliability features. It also hosts the industry’s largest ecosystem of platform providers. Currently, more than 74% of new SAP installations are deployed on Intel platforms.

The SAP NetWeaver® Enterprise Search application runs on the IBM BladeCenter, IBM TotalStorage, HP BladeSystem, and HP StorageWorks hardware platforms. These Linux-based systems employ high-performance, 64-bit Intel processors and modular blade technology. Self-configuration and self-management functionality make for easier updates. And the linear scalability of SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search means you can expand in economical increments as your processing needs increase.

Benefits All Around

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search provides a single point of access to information and processes – within and beyond your organization’s boundaries. The application delivers a wide range of benefits for people throughout your company.

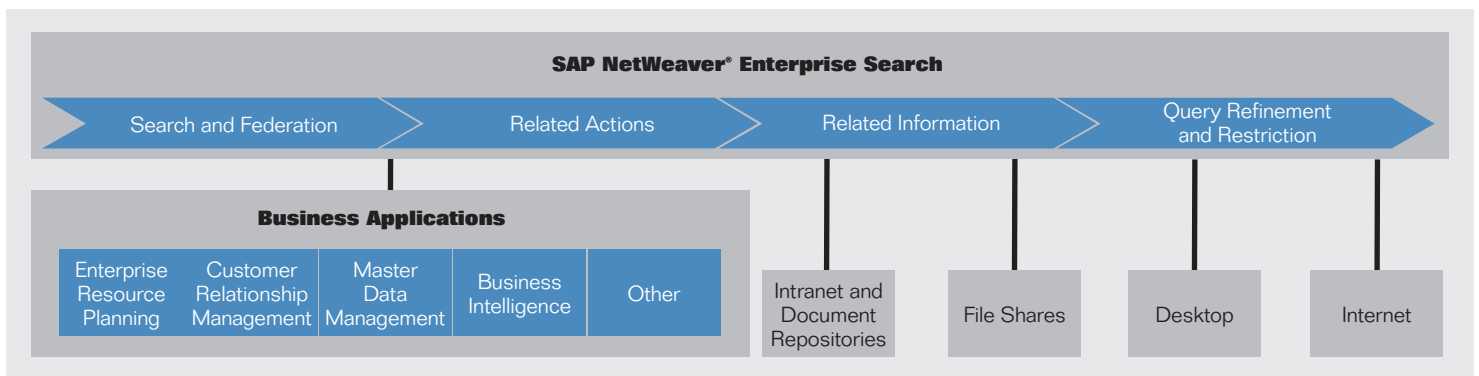


Figure 1: Easy, One-Stop Access to Information and Processes

Information workers – If you use SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search in your day-to-day tasks, you can look forward to the following:

- Better decision making
- Greater productivity
- An easy-to-use, single point of access to information
- Fast, role- and context-based search results – plus related actions and information
- Intuitive access to SAP applications for nonspecialists

C-level executives – By introducing SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search, you can give users easy, secure access to back-end systems. And that translates into the following:

- More widespread use of information stored in enterprise applications
- Increased return on software investments
- Easier enforcement of corporate policies
- Highly effective protection of sensitive data against unauthorized access

IT managers – SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search delivers tangible benefits for your IT department, including the following:

- Affordable implementation through plug-and-play architecture

- Low total cost of ownership and straightforward administration thanks to scalable blade concept
- Reduced risk – the appliance has been tested in real-world environments and optimized accordingly

Find Out More

If you would like to find out more about SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search – and discover how this application can help your business – visit our Web site at www.sap.com/enterprisesearch.

Powered by SAP NetWeaver

SAP NetWeaver Enterprise Search is powered by the SAP NetWeaver platform. SAP NetWeaver unifies technology components into a single platform, allowing organizations to reduce IT complexity and obtain more business value from their IT investments. It provides the best way to integrate all systems running SAP or non-SAP software.

SAP NetWeaver also helps organizations align IT with their business. With SAP NetWeaver, organizations can compose and enhance business applications rapidly using enterprise services. As the foundation for enterprise service-oriented architecture (enterprise SOA), SAP NetWeaver allows organizations to evolve their current IT landscapes into a strategic environment that drives business change.