BUSINESS PROCESS MANAGEMENT
WITH SAP NetWeaver™
PROCESS AUTOMATION, OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE, AND INNOVATION
Business process management (BPM) allows companies to continuously adapt their business scenarios and processes to new business strategies and meet the demands of today’s business environment. With BPM capability, you have a holistic view from modeling to monitoring, helping you close the gap between business and IT. SAP AG and IDS Scheer AG have jointly leveraged their technological strengths and knowledge to develop a comprehensive solution for BPM.

In today’s rapidly changing competitive business environment, organizations need solutions that enable business managers and employees to effectively control the processes they are involved in throughout the entire life cycle including design, modeling, configuration, execution, monitoring, and analysis.

Affecting so many areas of activity, business processes often present numerous challenges: business owners and IT organizations do not speak the same language, share the same concepts of business processes, or use the same tools to describe them. Apart from the mere visualization of process models, you need a clearly defined methodology and tools to close the gap between business and IT and between business logic and technical implementation. Process configuration needs to be transparent and documented so that process knowledge can be reused. Integrating processes across a whole landscape of applications needs to go beyond pure enterprise application integration (EAI). An adaptive enterprise needs to be free from hard-coded point-to-point integration of technical interfaces and patchworks of different solutions used to cover application-to-application (A2A) and business-to-business (B2B) integration, as well as industry-specific processes: an adaptive enterprise needs to gain full process control across applications and enterprise boundaries.

Figure 1: BPM Solution 2004
Business process management (BPM) enables flexible, model-driven process design, implementation, execution, and support within and across business applications. BPM allows companies to model processes with different users performing different roles and tasks, optimizing communication between process owners and IT experts.

SAP and IDS Scheer will leverage the strengths of their technology solutions to cover the entire business-process life cycle in a closed loop—from design and configuration, to implementation and execution, to the evaluation of overall processes. This closed loop is a prerequisite to enabling continuous improvements in companies’ business processes. SAP and IDS Scheer have already taken the first step toward the envisioned solution, offering the SAP NetWeaver® platform from SAP together with the newly released ARIS for SAP NetWeaver from IDS Scheer. This joint solution provides essential elements of a closed-loop BPM solution, including the procedural model, methodology, technology, and process content to enable adaptive business.

**A COMPREHENSIVE BPM SOLUTION**

Together, SAP and IDS Scheer are providing a comprehensive BPM solution today. SAP NetWeaver and ARIS for SAP NetWeaver support all the various modeling abstraction types including process-architecture and configuration models as well as a process execution model that includes cross-component capabilities and workflow.

**PROCESS ARCHITECTURE AND CONFIGURATION MODEL**

ARIS for SAP NetWeaver provides centralized administration of process information in a multilingual system tool. You can use this knowledge for project documentation, global system implementations, end-user training, and optimization projects. The software provides modeling functionality that addresses the process architecture models of companies’ business scenarios, business processes, and process steps. A value-chain diagram describes the end-to-end process map of a company. In a business-scoping phase, you continuously improve the business blueprint by selecting all relevant business scenarios and application components involved.

SAP® Solution Manager, the life-cycle management tool within SAP NetWeaver, provides SAP reference models for business scenarios that can be imported into ARIS for SAP NetWeaver. Business scenario models are further completed in ARIS for SAP NetWeaver and synchronized with SAP Solution Manager so that the final business blueprint is incorporated in a project.

SAP Solution Manager also completes configuration tasks related to the component-configuration model in an implementation view. In addition, SAP Solution Manager provides different operational services such as solution monitoring and support of business scenarios.

**PROCESS EXECUTION MODEL**

SAP NetWeaver provides the modeling environment that allows users to model integration processes for execution within and beyond enterprise boundaries. SAP NetWeaver supports a wide variety of business scenarios and processes, ranging from industry-specific business scenarios (for example, from RosettaNet), to unstructured and flexible collaborative workflows, to highly structured long-running transactions owned by different business partners across multiple systems.
The business process engine embedded in the SAP XI integration server controls complex and collaborative business processes and provides the necessary state management of messages exchanged between any involved components. Process logic is implemented in the central process integration layer, rather than in a decoupled business process management system.

Cross-component BPM features in SAP XI include:
* A graphical process editor supporting executable processes
* Flexible state-of-the-art modeling to design process orchestration in accordance with Business Process Execution Language (BPEL)
* Process patterns and business scenario templates within the integration builder
* Wizard-based configuration of processes in the SAP XI integration builder
* Stable and secure process execution by the business process engine embedded in the SAP XI integration server
* Integration and interoperability with human-based workflows, either structured (business workflow) or unstructured (ad hoc workflow)
* Deadline and exception handling
* Process monitoring and alerting to expedite process optimization

SAP Business Workflow, powered by SAP Web AS, is concerned with structured processes within an application. A business workflow delivers the tools and functionality to define pockets of flexibility within an application’s process flow. You can make use of business workflows to interrupt a continuous process and transfer the responsibility for further execution to resources outside the application whenever necessary.
Navigation from high-level business blueprints to executable processes using the same unified modeling user interface will enable the alignment of business process owners with IT experts throughout the whole process life cycle. The unified modeling environment will be based on a common user interface (UI) framework and one process repository, both tightly embedded in SAP NetWeaver. As a part of SAP NetWeaver, the process repository supports versioning, change management, and common software logistics features.

One unified architecture for workflows and automated process execution will streamline the model-driven implementation and configuration of processes within and across SAP applications and composites. Application processes will be based on reusable business objects and services.

A central monitoring dashboard for technical process monitoring will provide central access to technical process performance, process simulation, component and message monitoring, and process logs with drill-down features to single process instances. Tight integration with the operational infrastructure of SAP NetWeaver, including SAP Solution Manager, SAP XI runtime workbench, computer center management system (CCMS), and an alerting framework, will be enhanced to provide a unified service infrastructure.

Business activity monitoring will provide event resolution and process efficiency monitoring in a dashboard. With business activity monitoring, business users will be enabled to act on business events and activities, leveraging rule-based significance determination capabilities, and dashboard monitoring of process efficiency, metrics, and reporting on key performance indicators.

MODELING TO MONITORING: ROAD MAP FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF BPM

With SAP NetWeaver, SAP will continue to offer the evolution of the next generation of BPM, covering the entire life cycle of business processes: modeling, design, configuration, execution, process monitoring, and business activity monitoring.

In a strategic codevelopment of SAP and IDS Scheer, a unified modeling environment, based on ARIS modeling methodology, with different role-based modeling views, will enable users to work on process models covering all requirements from an early project stage to implementation by a consultant or IT expert.
For more information about SAP NetWeaver and its business process management capability, see www.sap.com

POWERED BY SAP NetWeaver

Business Process Management is powered by the SAP NetWeaver platform, the open integration and application platform that enables change. SAP NetWeaver helps companies align IT with their business. It allows companies to obtain more business value from existing IT investments and to deploy a services-oriented architecture. SAP NetWeaver reduces total cost of ownership (TCO) and complexity across the entire IT landscape.

SAP NetWeaver powers mySAP™ Business Suite, SAP xApps™ packaged composite applications, and partner solutions. It provides the best way to integrate all systems running SAP or non-SAP software. SAP NetWeaver unifies integration technologies into a single platform and is preintegrated with business applications, reducing the need for custom integration.

SUMMARY

SAP AG and IDS Scheer AG are leveraging the strength of their technologies together to cover the whole business process life cycle. Today, SAP NetWeaver includes a comprehensive BPM solution that will be enhanced in future releases to provide a unified modeling environment and a powerful combination of BPM and business activity monitoring.

Business Benefits

Reducing costs, achieving faster return on investment by running solutions that adapt to changes, and turning process innovation into profits are major agenda points on a company’s wish list today. In an ever-changing business environment, companies are looking for continuous improvement and operational excellence in process optimization. This includes improving the operational efficiency of end-to-end processes through better practices that can be easily described in a model, implemented, operated, and analyzed thereafter.

SAP NetWeaver enables change and powers business process innovation. Process management is a key factor in controlling end-to-end processes across systems and organizations. SAP NetWeaver with BPM has the enabling technology, methodology, and process innovation capability to add flexibility to business strategies.