Frequently Asked Questions

SAP Analytics BI Statement of Direction

What is new in this June 2021 version of the Statement of Direction?
More and more customers are upgrading to SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 and are asking us what is coming next. There has been a big push towards cloud in the past year as companies looked to cloud to ensure business continuity. This is why we invested to improve the SAP BusinessObjects BI, Private Cloud Edition, it is now cheaper and more flexible to allow our customers to shift more of their workloads to an SAP managed cloud. More details on the evolutions of the BI Suite are also detailed in this addendum to this Statement of Direction. We are also detailing 2021 product directions for SAP Analytics Cloud.

What was new in the January 2021 version of the Statement of Direction?
We extended the maintenance of SAP Lumira Designer and of the SAP Analysis for Office add on until 2027, to provide enough time for our customers to migrate their custom applications to SAP Analytics Cloud Analytics Designer.

What happens at the end of the BI 4.3 maintenance period?
For on premise software, the maintenance ends at the end of 2027, more precisely, regular maintenance (support packs) will be delivered before the end of 2025, with Priority One support (patches) provided until end of 2027.

For SAP BusinessObjects BI, Private Cloud Edition, maintenance and support are available beyond 2027, and allow our customers to continue running their workflows.

What is planned after BI 4.3?
New features, improvements and customer enhancement to the BI suite will be delivered as part of the mainstream maintenance process, through regular support packs or minor releases. Using the same themes as BI 4.3, the following features are considered:
- Ease of use and user productivity: continued focus on user experience, improved interactive analysis in SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence (WebI), report templates, and support for High DPI screens…
- Enterprise readiness: improved mobile support, scheduling improvements, simplified administration experience, reduced installation and TCO, improved auditing, updated platform support (SAP HANA Cloud, SAP Data Warehouse Cloud, Snowflake, …).
- Hybrid and interoperability: predefined views for WebI data model, improvements in Live Data Connect.

When is BI 4.3 SP2 Planned?
The SAP BusinessObjects Business Intelligence 4.3 Support Pack 1 was released in December 2020, and the SP2 is currently planned for the end of 2021.

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Where can I get more information on the roadmap?
There are several ways to get more details on the roadmap in the new [interactive roadmap explorer](#). You can also find webinars for the Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects product lines in the [SAP Roadmap section](#).

What is part of SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite?
The SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite is a software package containing server and client tools, most notably the BI platform services, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, SAP Crystal Reports, SAP Analysis for Office, SAP Analysis for OLAP, Live Office ([and Explorer and Dashboards](#) up to the 4.2.8 version, but not in 4.3). SAP Lumira is a separate download and addon, included in some licenses.

How can I try SAP Analytics Cloud?
There is a [90 Day trial](#) available, now including planning and better connectivity options.

When will SAP Analytics Cloud smart features support Live data access?
Live data access is a key ask from customers, and one of the product strengths for data exploration. Time series forecasting, Smart grouping and Search to Insights are now supported with a live connection to SAP HANA, SAP BW, SAP S/4 HANA and universes. Smart Insights will support live connections to SAP HANA in Q4 2020, and SAP BW/4 HANA, SAP S/4 HANA and BW 7.5 on HANA is currently planned in the second half of 2021.

Will there be functional parity between SAP Analytics Cloud and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence in the future?
No, the focus is on enabling common reporting use cases, not rebuilding every feature. SAP Analytics Cloud has focused until now on self-service data exploration and automated insights and will now add key reporting functionality from SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence and SAP Crystal Reports to cover more analytic scenarios. The ability to schedule documents was introduced in the 2020.Q2 release, with features like pagination, sections, and complex calculations planned over the 2021 quarterly releases. For complex reporting scenarios accessing multiple databases on premise, the recommendation is to continue to use SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence or SAP Crystal Reports.

How can I preserve my existing investments as I adopt SAP Analytics Cloud?
We are investigating the best options to leverage the existing investments in universes and reports as many customers transition some of their use cases to SAP Analytics Cloud. The first option is to use the SAP BusinessObjects BI Suite side by side with SAP Analytics Cloud, in a hybrid scenario. In BI 4.3, we are improving the interoperability by providing ways to synchronize users and to leverage live universes and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence data when building cloud stories. As we build out reporting features and platform features in SAP Analytics Cloud in the next quarters, we are investigating options to provide accelerators to allow reuse of data or conversion of existing WebI charts.

Will there be migration tools provided?
Migration and conversion possibilities are investigated for universes, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence and SAP Crystal Reports. One of the first steps will be to provide readiness assessment tools to evaluate which scenarios can be easily transitioned to SAP Analytics Cloud, and to add the most

important features to SAP Analytics Cloud. We will continue to update our plans in the next few quarters.

What happens from a licensing perspective?
Our objective is to allow customers to transition their users from on premises to the cloud at their pace. With the cloud extension policy, we allow customers to get conversion credit for unused maintenance, as they purchase a cloud subscription. We are in the process of defining additional licensing solutions to make the adoption of SAP Analytics cloud easier and more flexible.

When will SAP Lumira work with BI 4.3?
SAP Lumira customers will need to upgrade to SAP Lumira 2.4 released in August 2020, to be supported with BI 4.3.

What is the migration path from SAP Lumira, designer edition (formerly Design Studio) to SAP Analytics Cloud, analytics designer?
SAP Analytics Cloud, analytics designer, allows developers to build custom analytic applications that bring together BI, planning and predictive capabilities. The product will provide similar features as SAP Lumira Designer over the next few quarters. While no automatic migration or conversion features are planned at this point, customers who are leveraging the Generic Analysis from Lumira Designer will have similar capabilities in SAP Analytics Cloud out of the box. SAP benefits from a strong partner community around SAP Analytics Cloud, who can help customers with additional application extensions and custom developments.

How long will SAP Lumira be supported?
SAP Lumira 2.4 maintenance is now aligned with SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3, with a mainstream maintenance until end of 2025, and priority 1 support until 2027. This SAP Note provides additional details. We recommend to start new custom analytic applications and data discovery projects with SAP Analytics Cloud, which provide a much larger feature set.

Can I continue to use universes in SAP Analytics Cloud?
Yes, it is actually one of the many options available to access non-SAP data from SAP Analytics Cloud. While there is no need to buy SAP Data Warehouse Cloud to use universes in SAP Analytics Cloud, SAP Data Warehouse Cloud provides additional modeling capabilities and a semantic layer that complement SAP Analytics Cloud modeling.

How can I access more live data sources in SAP Analytics Cloud?
In addition to using a the universes to connect to external data sources, there are several options to access live data sources (other than the main SAP data sources): accessing the source through a live connection to SAP Data Warehouse Cloud, through HANA smart data access / smart data integration or through the APOS live data Gateway (available through the SAP App Center).

Is SAP Analytics Catalog going to replace SAP Analytics Hub?
SAP Analytics Catalog provides similar functionality to SAP Analytics Hub, directly integrated into SAP Analytics Cloud. We recommend to SAP Analytics Hub customers to consider moving to SAC Analytics Catalog, which is included in the BI or Planning subscription.

For which use cases should we use SAP BusinessObjects versus SAP Analytics Cloud?
SAP BusinessObjects BI is the right choice for those requiring an on premise solution. In addition, complex report distribution scenarios, involving scheduling and publishing many reports to large groups of users, is better addressed today with SAP BusinessObjects BI, running either on-premise or in the cloud using PCE. You can check some of the initial publication features of SAP Analytics Cloud in this blog.