

SAP BW/4HANA FAQ

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OVERVIEW OF SAP BW/4HANA

1. What is SAP BW/4HANA?

SAP BW/4HANA is SAP's next generation data warehouse solution. **It is a new product (not a legal successor of any existing SAP Business Warehouse solution)**, built entirely on one of the most advanced in-memory platforms today – SAP HANA. It provides a simple set of objects that is well suited for modelling an agile and flexible layered architecture of a modern data warehouse. SAP BW/4HANA manages all sorts of data, whether from SAP applications or other systems, structured or unstructured, and allows accessing of all models through an open SQL interface. SAP BW/4HANA comes with state of the art user interfaces for administrators, developers, and end users as well as completely SAP HANA-optimized processes that let you leverage huge amounts of data in real time for competitive advantage.

The core functionality of SAP BW is preserved and the transition to SAP BW/4HANA can be compared with the transition of SAP Business Suite to SAP S/4HANA. As part of this transition, SAP BW/4HANA will drastically reduce the number of data objects to be stored and maintained. All future innovations will take place in SAP BW/4HANA. Prior releases of SAP BW powered by SAP HANA will move into maintenance, receiving little development or new functionality moving forward.

2. Why is the Maintenance Schedule for SAP BW/4HANA different from the NetWeaver Platform?

SAP BW/4 HANA follows existing SAP maintenance rules. Innovations are provided via releases and feature packages.

As SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 is the initial release and release 2.0 with a great deal of new functionality and a simple and easy upgrade path is planned for 2018, we have set a short maintenance period for SAP BW/4HANA 1.0 expecting that most/all early adopter customers will also plan for an early upgrade.

SAP BW/4HANA 2.0 mainstream maintenance is planned for 5 years currently until 2023. SAP generally plans that follow-on releases to SAP BW/4HANA 2.0 will have about five (5) years of mainstream maintenance dependent on the market environment (adjustments possible, min. 2y). After the end of mainstream maintenance, the release enters customer-specific maintenance.

3. What are the key value propositions for SAP BW/4HANA?

SAP BW/4HANA delivers value to organizations in three key areas:

Business Agility: *With a dramatically simplified warehouse customers no longer just collect data, but connect to it.*

SAP BW/4HANA users will have the advantage of enhanced modeling coupled with a dramatically simplified set of data warehouse objects and simplified governance. Users can automatically generate HANA views out of SAP BW/4HANA modeling objects which can be consumed by any SQL tool and visualized using SAP BusinessObjects Cloud or Lumira. This will enable agile data warehouse development, delivering better real-time business insights faster, at a lower cost than before.

Cloud Ready: *New ideas can be prototyped and put into operation in days, not months, with minimal upfront investment.*

Out-of-the-box deployment to HANA Enterprise Cloud and Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Microsoft Azure (with other cloud deployment options to follow) will add elasticity and more price/performance options, giving SAP BW/4HANA customers the most flexible landscape management solution in the marketplace.

Foundation for the next generation warehouse: *End users can serve themselves effectively and easily discover data resources.*

SAP BW/4HANA advances SAP's vision of the Modern Data Warehouse to address new types and locations of data whether the data is from SAP applications or any other source. SAP BW/4HANA also supports the trend of analyzing data in its original location to minimize movement and duplication of data, including data lakes and even data in motion. It delivers the real time flexibility and overcomes the challenge of data silos. The addition of sophisticated data temperature management and compression ensures that data is tuned for both results and cost.

4. When is SAP BW/4HANA generally available?

General availability since September 7, 2016.

5. What is the roadmap for SAP BW/4HANA?

Beginning with the launch in September 2016, customers can expect innovations delivered in the form of simplicity (fewer objects and layers, multi-temperature data management), new choices to manage costs (cloud or hybrid deployment options), a more modern user interface (data flow modeling) and performance (unified data load management).

In Q4 2016, SAP plans to deliver additional innovations that address simplicity (new HANA optimized business content) and openness (big data/data lake and interoperability with SAP's SQL based native data warehousing offering)

In 2017, SAP will deliver more innovation in the categories of simplicity, openness, modern user interface and performance.

For more details regarding the SAP BW/4HANA roadmap, see the following link:

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/740d6709-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

SAP BW/4 HANA - Technical Overview: <http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/62147c09-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

6. What is the sizing process for SAP BW/4HANA?

The resource requirements for a SAP BW/4HANA system are very close to the ones of an equivalent SAP BW system running on SAP HANA. In order to get an estimate for your SAP BW/4HANA system, please proceed as follows:

SAP BW/4HANA systems build from scratch are sized using SAP QuickSizer (<http://service.sap.com/quicksizer>, SAP HANA version, select "SAP BW Powered by SAP HANA").

If you intend to convert an existing SAP BW system (on any database platform) or SAP BW powered by SAP HANA to SAP BW/4HANA, please run the sizing program /SDF/HANA_BW_SIZING in your SAP BW system (see SAP Note 2296290).

For more details, please see SAP Note 2363248.

Both approaches result in a recommendation on the memory and disk resources required for the given system. Please contact the hardware or cloud vendors, for help with getting these requirements mapped to physical hardware or cloud infrastructure.

7. Will SAP BW 7.5 powered by SAP HANA and edition for SAP HANA continue to be supported?

Yes, SAP BW 7.5 powered by and edition for SAP HANA will still be supported release options, however, SAP BW/4HANA will receive the majority of the new innovation being developed moving forward.

For customers running SAP BW 7.3 or 7.4 powered by SAP HANA today, who choose to move to SAP BW/4HANA, we recommend upgrading to SAP BW 7.5 and applying the SAP BW/4HANA Starter add-on

as an intermediate step. From the starter add-on, tools are provided to transfer from classic BW objects to BW HANA-optimized objects and data flows. The level of customization done in the customer's system, will determine the amount of automation achieved by the tools provided. Upon transferring all objects and data flows, as well as successful system preparation checks, the system can be converted to SAP BW/4HANA. Please use the link below for more details regarding the roadmap and planned transition support.

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/5ccf0908-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

8. How long will SAP BW 7.x powered by SAP HANA be supported?

As for the SAP BW 7.x maintenance strategy, it follows the overall SAP NetWeaver 7.x strategy. See the Product Availability Matrix link for further details.

https://apps.support.sap.com/sap/support/pam?hash=s%3Dsap%2520netweaver%2520%26o%3Dmost_viewed%257Cdesc%26st%3Dl%26rpp%3D20%26page%3D1%26filter%3Dis_addon%257CF

9. What does SAP BW/4HANA mean for SAP's overall data warehousing strategy?

SAP BW/4HANA is a complementary offering to SAP's SQL-based offering that exists today. The BW approach to Data Warehousing remains the same in that SAP BW/4HANA is a model or application driven approach providing a full suite of EDW integrated services such as modeling, scheduling and monitoring, security authorization, lifecycle management and ETL capabilities inherent within the tool. SAP BW/4HANA will provide new enhanced interoperability with the SQL-based HANA solution. SAP's SQL-based, HANA offering provides the flexibility to select and integrate separate, best of breed tools and technologies. See the link to the roadmap below

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/740d6709-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

10. Will the SQL-based HANA data warehousing option continue to exist for SAP customers?

Yes. The SQL-driven approach with loosely coupled tools and platform services will continue to be developed and provide customers with another choice in addition to SAP BW/4HANA while still providing a great deal of flexibility and agility. The customer's choice of which solution to use for their data warehousing needs will be determined by the combination of their preferences, skill set and modeling approaches (degree of freedom). Many customers are already using a combination of both solutions, creating mixed scenarios and will continue to do so moving forward. There is no right or wrong answer for which tool a customer should use, for many, using both solutions in a hybrid approach best suits their needs.

11. Will SAP BW/4HANA include all of the functionality available in both of the SAP BW 7.5 on SAP HANA releases?

SAP BW/4HANA will support similar functionality in scope as SAP BW powered by SAP HANA. However, it focuses only on HANA-optimized objects for processing, which significantly reduces the modeling effort and overall complexity of SAP BW/4HANA. SAP BW/4HANA is not valid for any other database platform.
See question below regarding add-on restrictions.

For additional features of SAP BW/4HANA see the roadmap link below.

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/740d6709-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

12. If a customer has recently upgraded to SAP BW 7.5 powered by SAP HANA, what are the reasons to move to SAP BW/4HANA?

Customers running SAP BW on SAP HANA have already benefited from performance improvements, reduced data layers and simplifications based on the consolidation of modeling objects. Most likely they are already in the process of converting old objects to the new modeling objects e.g. the advanced DataStore Object and the new CompositeProvider.

For those customers, we will enhance our transition offering (from SAP BW to SAP BW/4HANA) from a tool perspective, as well as from a service point of view, to enable their move to the innovation solution which is SAP BW/4HANA.

As stated in the roadmap question above, beginning in Q3 2016 new functionality will be delivered. Additional major innovations like the integration with the Big Data / Data Lake scenarios plan to be delivered in mid 2017. At the same time, a fully automated data lifecycle management and web-enabled administration and monitoring user interface is planned.

13. Will SAP BW/4HANA support add-ons (SAP BPC, SAP SEM, etc.)?

For more details regarding the availability of add-ons relevant to SAP BW/4HANA, please see SAP Note [2189708](#)

14. What does SAP BW/4HANA mean in relation to SAP S/4HANA?

SAP BW/4HANA is completely independent of and not a prerequisite for SAP S/4HANA and vice versa. S/4HANA provides operational reporting for current data from a single SAP application. SAP BW/4HANA delivers a modern data warehouse environment which allows organizations to report on current, historical and external data sources from many SAP and non-SAP sources.

SAP S/4HANA Analytics is positioned in the same manner with SAP BW/4HANA as it is with SAP BW powered by SAP HANA. See the link below which provides further details.

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/04aa9909-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

15. Is SAP BW/4HANA only for customers already using SAP applications?

No, SAP BW/4HANA is available for use by anyone with data warehousing needs which can include data from SAP and non-SAP data sources.

16. Will BW Workspaces be still supported?

Yes.

17. When will NLS will HDFS or Sybase IQ be available? Can both be used at the same time in one SAP BW/4HANA system? Will a license for Sybase IQ be included? Will Vora be supported as part of the NLS solution?

Yes. Both of the SAP provided NLS solutions (IQ and Hadoop) are currently available. It is possible to use both simultaneously on one instance of SAP BW/4HANA, but only one can be used on any given Object, the cold storage for one object cannot be split between the two. Partner NLS solutions are not supported due to changes in the NLS interface. We are planning to deliver a conversion tool for 3rd party NLS solutions. See the roadmap for future plans

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/740d6709-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

18. Tell me what the differences are between your modern SAP BW/4HANA and a traditional data warehouse provided by your competitors?

Traditional data warehouses rely on a extract-transform-load model to centralize data before analysis. This results in expensive data movement and duplication, and introduces latency that means real-time analytics are impossible. SAP BW/4HANA enables a more flexible, real-time approach. As SAP HANA has proven, in-memory performance means that operational analytics can move back into the application, S/4HANA is built around this, thus workload is moving from traditional data warehouses to S/4HANA already. In addition, the vast amounts of data in data lakes and the Internet of Things will overwhelm a “centralize and duplicate” approach, so SAP BW/4HANA is designed to leverage smart data streaming (IoT), and smart data integration (to deliver a logical data warehouse approach). Also, no competitors have a prepackaged model driven EDW Application, so it is comparing apples to oranges. BW includes all the tools and technologies required to design, build, and run an EDW, competitors depend on the best of breed approach where customers supply their own tools for EDW services like modeling, scheduling and monitoring, and data integration, and accordingly cannot be directly compared to SAP BW/4HANA which includes all the required EDW services and tools.

19. Why do you need a BW if you have HANA? Is the BW obsolete?

No competitors have a prepackaged model driven EDW Application, so it is comparing apples to oranges. BW includes all the tools and technologies required to design, build, and run an EDW, competitors depend on the best of breed approach where customers supply their own tools for EDW services like modeling, scheduling and monitoring, and data integration, and accordingly cannot be directly compared to SAP BW/4HANA which includes all the required EDW services and tools. HANA is a technology platform that is a key and integral part of the EDW solution with SAP BW/4HANA, and can be used with the best of breed (sometimes referred to as the SQL based) approach.

20. **Will OpenHub still be supported?**

Yes.

21. **What is the difference between SAP NetWeaver Application Server ABAP (SAP_ABA 750) and the so called "Lean ABAP Application Server" (SAP_ABA 75A)?**

The primary difference is that SAP_ABA 75A includes support for long material numbers (CHAR 40, see SAP Note 2267140). Also about 15% of the development object have been removed since these components were obsolete (like old interfaces, BSP applications, and the migration workbench). Side note: SAP_ABA 75A is also the foundation for SAP S/4HANA.

CONVERSION

1. What does the conversion process look like to move to SAP BW/4HANA? Is there a best practice guide to follow?

Although, SAP BW/4HANA is not a legal successor of SAP BW (based on SAP NetWeaver), a conversion path will be provided.

The following list shows the “Road to SAP BW/4HANA”, based on the following starting points:

1. New customers will directly start with SAP BW/4HANA instead of classic SAP BW. For customers who want a fresh start, we are planning to offer an option to transport certain objects from their existing SAP BW system to a newly installed SAP BW/4HANA system (for a tool to check your transports, see SAP Note 2361350).

2. Existing BW-on-HANA customers (SAP BW, powered by SAP HANA) will first apply the SAP BW/4HANA Starter add-on. As a preparatory step, scenarios need to be transferred to the fully HANA-optimized object types using a “Transfer Tool” (for details see <link to other FAQ>). Afterwards, a system conversion is performed to change the system to SAP BW/4HANA.

The Road to SAP BW/4HANA – Part 1 & 2

<https://blogs.saphana.com/2016/09/07/the-road-to-sap-bw4hana-part-1/>

<https://blogs.saphana.com/2016/09/18/the-road-to-sap-bw4hana-part-2/>

2. Can customers upgrade from an older release of SAP BW with a database other than SAP HANA directly to SAP BW/4HANA?

No. Currently, upgrade and migration to SAP BW on SAP HANA can be combined (Database Migration Option of Software Update Manager). Classic objects can be semi-automatically migrated into SAP BW/4HANA compliant objects. The subsequent system conversion to SAP BW/4HANA will then be executed using the SAP Software Update Manager. For more details, see the answer to a similar question under the General section of this document.

3. Will the upgrade process transform my old objects (InfoCubes, classic DataStore Objects, etc) to new objects? If not, does SAP provide a set of tools to assist with this and will it include the movement of the data to the new objects?

Classic objects in BW-on-HANA can be semi-automatically migrated into SAP BW/4HANA compliant objects.

See SAP Note [2238220](#) – BW on HANA: Transfer Enhancements.

4. What tools will be available to aid customers in their transition to HANA optimization?

Beginning with the delivery of SAP BW/4HANA in September 2016, tools to copy data flows, generate HANA-optimized objects and convert source systems will be available. In Q4 2016, additional tools to move data will also be available. For further details, see the SAP BW/4HANA roadmap link provided below.

<http://go.sap.com/documents/2016/08/740d6709-877c-0010-82c7-eda71af511fa.html>

OPERATIONS

1. Is SAP BW/4HANA still delivered with the NetWeaver stack?

No, SAP BW/4HANA is a separate product which is not part of and does not depend on a NetWeaver delivery. The underlying platform consists of the ABAP application server and SAP HANA.

2. Are there any multi-tenancy implications with SAP BW/4HANA?

From a multi-tenancy perspective, there is no difference between SAP BW powered by SAP HANA and SAP BW/4HANA. Either solution can be installed in regular SAP HANA database or in a SAP HANA multi-tenant database container. For additional details, see SAP Note [2121768](#).

3. What is the minimum HANA version required to run SAP BW/4HANA?

SAP HANA 1.0 SPS 12. See SAP Note [2347382](#) for more details.

MODELING

1. Is the LSA++ framework still relevant with SAP BW/4HANA?

Yes, the internal architecture considerations do not change with SAP BW/4HANA. The layered scalable architecture for SAP BW powered by SAP HANA (LSA++) is still the recommended reference model and depending on the customer's data model, LSA++ in conjunction with SAP BW/4HANA will provide the ability to further reduce objects and layers, leading to additional simplicity.

2. Is the process of converting the objects automated? If not, does SAP offer services to accommodate the process?

Please see the answer to this question in the Upgrade/Migration/Conversion section above.

3. Does the approach to building analytics on SAP BW/4HANA change in comparison to SAP BW powered by HANA releases?

No. Analytics are now created on top of HANA-optimized objects, like the advanced DataStore Objects and CompositeProviders and not InfoCubes and Classic DataStore Objects.

4. What are the supported front-ends for SAP BW/4HANA?

Offerings from SAP include the portfolio of SAP BusinessObjects Analytics solutions: SAP Digital Boardroom and SAP BusinessObjects Cloud - which run on SAP HANA Cloud Platform in the public cloud - and SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise* - which run on-premise or in a private cloud - can all connect to SAP BW/4HANA both in the cloud (SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud Services/AWS) and on-premise. SAP Business Explorer (BEx) is no longer supported. In addition, SAP BW/4HANA provides open interfaces for 3rd party BI tools based on SQL, MDX and oData.

*: SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise includes SAP BusinessObjects Lumira, SAP BusinessObjects Design Studio, SAP BusinessObjects Analysis for Microsoft Office, SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence, and SAP Crystal Reports.

5. What happens to our existing queries, workbooks, bookmarks and web templates?

SAP Business Explorer (BEx) is no longer supported. This means you can no longer use BEx Query Designer, BEx Analyzer (Workbooks), or BEx Web Application Designer (Web Templates/Bookmarks) with SAP BW/4HANA. Existing BW queries continue to work in SAP

BW/4HANA but have to be maintained going forward with the SAP BW/4HANA Modeling Tools. For more details please look at support policy <https://blogs.sap.com/2016/10/13/sap-business-explorer-maintenance-support-policy/>

6. Will there be new HANA-optimized content for SAP BW/4HANA?

Traditional BI Content will not be supported (software components BI_CONT and BI_CONT_XT). All Business Content DataSources (extractors) that are released for Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) will be supported (the ODP Source System is replacing the SAP Source System in SAP BW/4HANA). For more information, see SAP Note [2232584](#) - 'Release SAP Extractors for Operational Data Provisioning. A majority of Business Content DataSources, including the most relevant and strategic DataSources, can be released by applying that SAP note in the source system.

New SAP BW/4HANA business content on top of the Business Content DataSources will be delivered in Q4 2016.

7. In what way will PowerDesigner integration work? Design/document the four SAP BW/4HANA object types in PowerDesigner? Push to SAP BW/4HANA models from PowerDesigner into SAP BW/4HANA?

As part of SAP BW/4HANA roadmap there are future enhancements for integration with PowerDesigner more details are not yet available.

DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS

1. Will there be a Rapid Deployment Solution offered for on premise SAP BW/4HANA implementations?

An RDS offering is currently under discussion.

2. Does SAP Cloud Appliance Library (CAL) have a SAP BW/4HANA offering?

Yes, SAP CAL has a SAP BW/4HANA offering for both trial and subscription usage. See the following link for more details.

<https://cal.sap.com>

3. What deployment options are available for SAP BW/4HANA in the cloud?

Currently, SAP BW/4HANA is available in SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud (HEC) and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

4. What deployment options are available for SAP BW/4HANA in a private managed cloud?

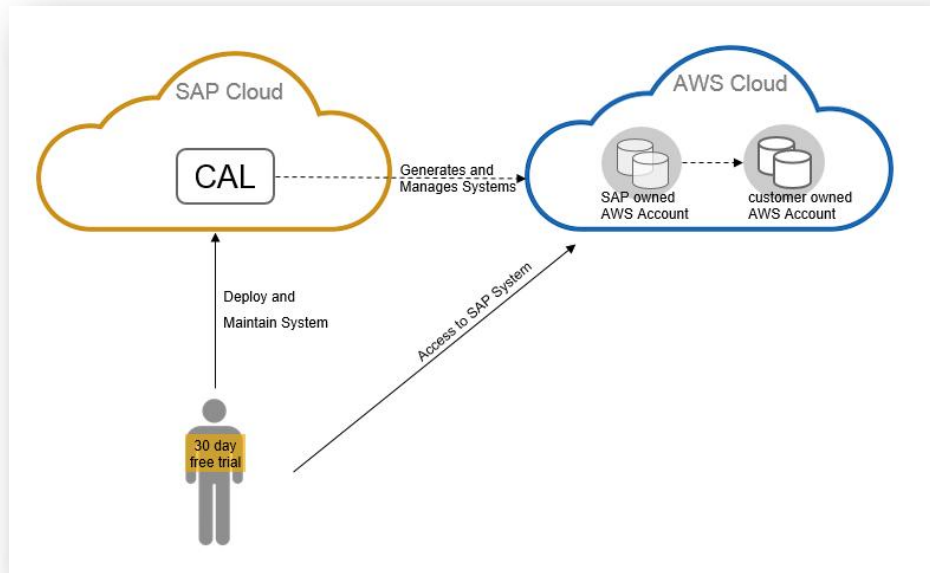
Currently, SAP BW/4HANA is available in the SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud (HEC). HEC is SAP's premier private managed cloud. It provides a holistic offering to customers which includes expertise of the SAP HANA database, reference architecture optimized for SAP HANA, managed services, and a platform designed for future SAP application innovation.

5. What deployment options are available for SAP BW/4HANA on AWS?

You can try SAP BW/4HANA using the SAP CAL 30 day trial. No SAP licenses are required for this offering, however as the underlying infrastructure uses AWS, you will need an AWS account and the relevant infrastructure subscriptions.

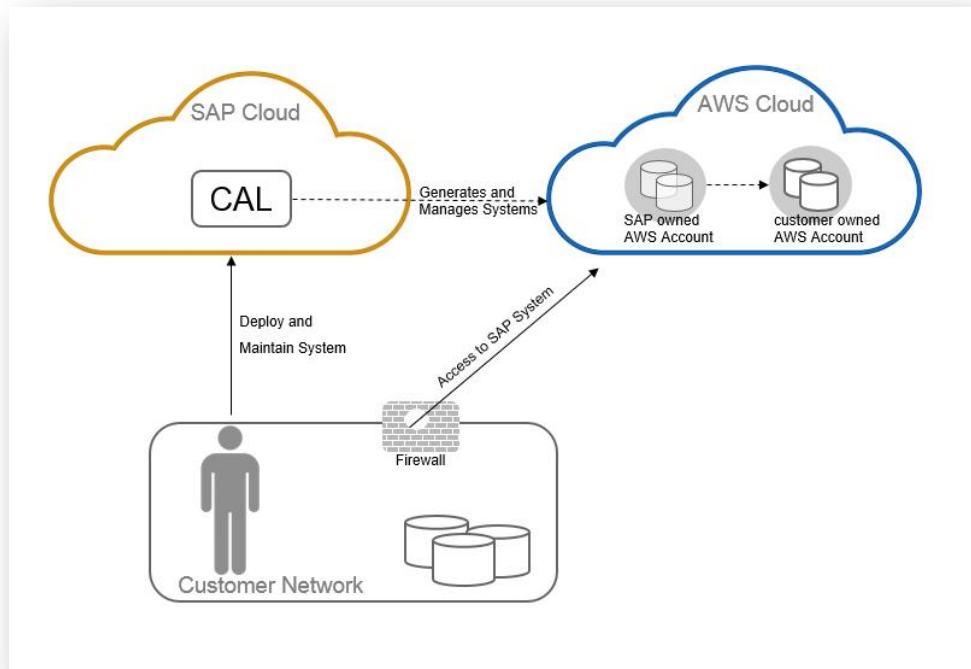
<https://cal.sap.com>

More information about the SAP CAL trial solutions can be found here <http://scn.sap.com/docs/DOC-58120>

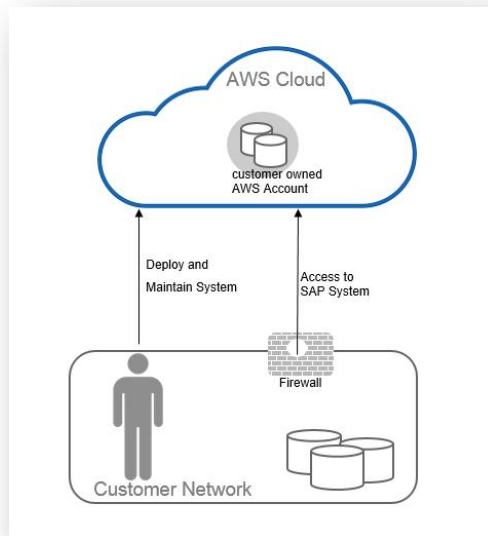


1. SAP BW/4HANA Subscription (CAL managed deployment)

A new instance of SAP BW/4HANA can be created using the SAP CAL library. In this offering SAP CAL creates a new SAP BW/4HANA instance based on a pre-configured image. It takes less than one hour to setup a new system (provided you have an AWS account). For this option, you will need to subscribe to the SAP CAL service and Bring Your Own License (BYOL). In addition to this, you will need an AWS account and the relevant infrastructure subscriptions.



2. SAP BW/4HANA Subscription (Customer managed deployment)
3. You can create a new or restore an existing SAP BW/4HANA instance using AWS infrastructure. In this case, you would manage all aspects of the installation and configuration of the system. You would also need a BYOL and pay for the cost of the infrastructure.



Both On Premise and Cloud deployment options are available, and for the cloud options the matrix below might help you to decide which option is best for you.

Usage Matrix

	1. SAP BW/4HANA [Developer Edition]	2. SAP BW/4HANA Trial (CAL Library)	3. SAP BW/4HANA Subscription (CAL managed deployment)	4. SAP BW/4HANA Subscription (Customer managed deployment)
Time to Implement	1 hour	1 hour	1 hour	Weeks
License / Subscription	Cloud providers supported by SAP CAL Developer license from www.sap.com/minisap Limited to 64GB RAM (SAP HANA) Out of the box accessibility with included Remote Desktop	Cloud providers supported by SAP CAL XL Version on AWS Limited to 30 days	SAP CAL subscription SAP BYOL License Cloud providers supported by SAP CAL XL Version available on AWS	SAP BYOL License Up to 2 TB RAM on AWS
Usage:	Develop your own SAP BW/4HANA extension	Learn to understand SAP BW/4HANA Features	Leverage full capabilities of SAP BW/4HANA	Leverage full capabilities of SAP BW/4HANA
Try it out	~ ~ ~	~ ~ ~	~	~
For Training	For own use	N/A	~ ~ ~	~
POC	Only for own development	N/A	~ ~ ~	~ ~
Production System	No	N/A	~ ~	~ ~ ~
Support	Community Support	Community Support	Full Support	Full Support

- ~ - Can be used but may not be the best option
- ~ ~ - Good usage
- ~ ~ ~ - Ideal usage

6. Can I connect my on premise source system to my SAP CAL instance of SAP BW4HANA?

For a SAP CAL Developer Edition, please refer to the terms and conditions of the developer's license.

For a SAP CAL trial solution, please refer to the terms and conditions of usage.

For a SAP CAL subscription or AWS only solution, you can connect your on premise source systems as long as there is a VPN connection available to your corporate network. Please see SAP on AWS whitepapers for specific configuration guidelines.



7. Is there a cost associated with the SAP CAL image of SAP BW/4HANA?

The SAP BW/4HANA Developer Edition can be used permanently for development. The SAP CAL trial version is free for the first 30 days. You do however need to pay for the usage of the infrastructure.

For the SAP CAL subscription service there is an associated fee. You will also need an SAP BYOL license and to pay for the infrastructure usage (AWS). See here for licensing details.

8. What are the specifics such as licensing, deployment services, pricing model etc. of the Cloud options?

- Developer License: www.sap.com/minisap
- SAP HEC - BYOL
- AWS – BYOL

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