

SAP Solution Brief

SAP Solutions for Information Management
SAP Information Steward
and SAP PowerDesigner

Objectives

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Quick Facts



**Improve Information
Governance Through Clarity
and Collaboration**



The Best-Run Businesses Run SAP™

Collaborative approach to 360-degree information governance

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Well-managed information helps companies pinpoint and act on new opportunities, while poor quality information holds you back. Good information governance can be a complex undertaking, but one thing is clear – it depends on a 360-degree visual framework [used collaboratively by management, IT organizations, and business users](#) for the entire data lifecycle.

Data is the lifeblood of any organization. Data drives decisions and governs interactions with customers and suppliers. It generates the metrics that are essential to good business practices.

Too often, the care of data is delegated to IT. In reality, good data is the responsibility of everyone in the organization. Managers define how data is used to drive the business. Architects design the master blueprint for how information flows through the company. Data stewards are responsible for metadata,

validation rules, and data profiling. Good information governance is like a beautiful building – architects, builders, and occupants all coming together in a common vision throughout the processes of design, construction, and upkeep.

SAP® Information Steward software and SAP PowerDesigner® software work together to create a collaborative framework for the entire information governance lifecycle. They enable a direct line of sight from the source of data to its impact on the business.



Fuel business innovation through information governance

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Create a common language for driving the business

Monitor information quality in a unified environment

Visualize all linkages and the impact of change

Improve information transparency to foster user trust

Information governance is about achieving company goals through accurate, trustworthy data. Business-driven policymaking and oversight of corporate data is fundamental to this process. Yet many executive teams must first struggle to translate the diverse perspectives and behaviors of stakeholders into one vision to guide action.

SAP PowerDesigner and SAP Information Steward bridge the gap between conceptual design and operational practice. A collaborative framework supports each of the different roles involved in the information governance

process – from requirements gathering and design to process implementation and data-quality control. Common access to metadata and business rules improves data accuracy and consistency. Visualization features let everyone see how information flows and affects the business, which makes it easier to adapt as requirements change. Powerful drill-down functions let users know exactly where data comes from, building confidence.

This unified approach supports different needs and perspectives throughout the information lifecycle.



A collaborative tooling and metadata framework helps executive teams turn business vision into effective and agile company-wide information practices.



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Line-of-business functions such as sales, manufacturing, or finance produce and use the information that drives the business. They should therefore own the process of creating the terms and language that are to consistently guide the company's information policies and practices. The challenge lies in getting everyone in the organization to understand and adopt the definitions created.

Both SAP Information Steward and SAP PowerDesigner enable managers to define and agree on a single taxonomy of business

terms and then put it into practice across the entire organization. Within an information governance framework, metadata from many sources can be consolidated in one centrally accessible "metapedia" that links business terms with their associated data elements. This gives architects and modelers a better understanding of how to support business requirements and lets business users quickly reference standardized uses of terms, such as "profit" or "margin," when building or interpreting reports.

When line-of-business managers establish a common understanding of data usage in the context of everyday work, data quality increases dramatically.



Monitor information quality in a unified environment

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Many organizations now rely on data stewards to manage and oversee corporate data-quality initiatives. The data steward's role is often associated with measuring and assessing quality metrics to better determine the impact of data quality on business performance. In many ways, data stewards are the bridge between business users and IT.

SAP Information Steward and SAP PowerDesigner equip data stewards with a single environment to discover, assess, define, monitor, and improve the quality

of enterprise data assets. The software combines data profiling, metadata management, and data-quality monitoring functionalities in a role-specific framework. This makes it easier for data stewards to collaborate with both architects and business users in support of information governance initiatives. SAP Information Steward provides drill-down functions that help identify and expose the causes of poor data quality. It provides the insight needed to quickly remediate the source of the problem – whether it's a badly designed business process or inadvertent "user error."



Shared, collaborative metadata with impact and lineage techniques helps data stewards identify and correct the root causes of data-quality problems.



Visualize all linkages and the impact of change

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Modelers and architects are tasked with visualizing and implementing the infrastructure needed to support business goals, even as they evolve. They leverage the company's standardized business terms, metadata, business rules, and data requirements to document the current environment. This helps everyone see the linkages between systems, processes, people, and data – and how to best address new requirements.

SAP PowerDesigner helps modelers and architects capture all business requirements, communicate graphically to business users,

and design for the future. Powerful "link and sync" features work with metadata to create connections between requirements, business language, and models. All dependencies are tracked automatically, so when a change is required anywhere in the information model, it's easy to measure the impact of that change and communicate it clearly.

As architecture evolves in response to business change, SAP PowerDesigner integrates with SAP Information Steward to effect changes at the operational level.

Visualization of linkages and interdependencies across the entire information landscape helps all stakeholders adapt as the business evolves.



Improve information transparency to foster user trust

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Trust is essential for good information governance. When business users don't trust the data, they may resort to their own devices for reports. While this may seem expedient in the short term, over time it can result in duplication of effort, increased risk of human error, and unforeseen costs.

SAP Information Steward and SAP PowerDesigner improve transparency at all levels of information management throughout the software landscape. Users can trace data lineage all the way from a report back to its source of origin, or they can conduct an

analysis to better understand the impact of changing any report or table. When users know where a number came from, or how it is linked to other reports, confidence in the data increases – and with it the likelihood that users will engage in information governance initiatives.

With deep visibility into data usage at all levels of the organization, it becomes simpler for users to see how their information stacks up against information governance rules and standards. They can readily identify and correct the causes of bad data.

Information transparency boosts confidence in data and reduces impulses to rely on guesswork that can lead to duplication of effort and extra costs.



Unify planning and process within a single framework

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Good information governance is a shared responsibility. SAP PowerDesigner and SAP Information Steward work together to create a 360-degree view of information assets – from the design of an information architecture to day-to-day practices supporting good data behavior. This single, unified framework supports the collaboration required across the entire information governance lifecycle:

- **Executive teams** – A shared metadata framework helps company leaders translate business vision into effective and agile company-wide information practices.
- **Line-of-business managers** – A common, easily accessible taxonomy of business terms guides the company's information policies and practices in a consistent way and establishes meaningful metrics for data quality.
- **Data stewards** – Shared, collaborative metadata with lineage and impact analysis techniques enables assessment of root causes of data issues and helps facilitate the alignment of data with changing data policies during times of transition.
- **Modelers and architects** – Visualization of interdependencies across the entire information landscape helps stakeholders assess the impact of change and respond quickly to new requirements.
- **Business users** – Drill-down functions improve information transparency so users are more likely to engage in data-quality and information governance initiatives.





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Summary

SAP® Information Steward software and SAP PowerDesigner® software work together to create a collaborative framework across the information governance lifecycle. They enable a direct line of sight from the source of data to its impact on the business.

Objectives

- Enhance business agility with a 360-degree view of key information assets
- Improve information governance with a collaborative cross-company approach
- Foster trust in data through visibility into origins and linkages
- Develop consistent information policies and practices with meaningful metrics
- Assess and remediate the root causes of poor data quality

Solution

- Unified framework to translate business vision into agile best practices
- Single taxonomy to implement consistent information policies and practices
- Metadata management for shared use by design and operations teams
- Visualization of linkages and interdependencies across the enterprise
- Data lineage and impact analysis to achieve clarity

Benefits

- Improve performance with better information governance
- Increase agility through visualization and impact analysis
- Lower costs with one collaborative framework
- Increase accountability for all stakeholders

Learn more

To find out more, call your SAP representative today or visit us online at www.sap.com/eim.



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