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# SAP<sup>®</sup> BW/4HANA and BW on HANA

- ▶ Migration, sizing, operation, data management with SAP BW/4HANA and SAP BW 7.5 on HANA
- ▶ New modeling options, mixed scenarios, LSA++, and differences compared to SAP BW 7.5
- ▶ The new central source systems SAP HANA and ODP
- ▶ The role of BW in operational SAP reporting

# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>1 Evolution and overview</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1 The evolution of SAP HANA	11
1.2 The evolution of BW	17
<b>2 Preparing for the conversion to SAP HANA</b>	<b>37</b>
2.1 Sizing	37
2.2 Migration options and the tools supported	44
2.3 Housekeeping	67
2.4 Operation in a data center	71
<b>3 New features in data acquisition</b>	<b>95</b>
3.1 Operational data provisioning	95
3.2 The SAP HANA source system	110
3.3 The big data source system	128
<b>4 Modern data management</b>	<b>131</b>
4.1 Data Lifecycle Management	131
4.2 SAP HANA Data Warehousing Foundation	147
<b>5 New modeling approaches</b>	<b>153</b>
5.1 Changes to existing BW objects	153
5.2 SAP BW modeling tools	184
5.3 New BW InfoProviders	191
5.4 SAP HANA modeling	216
5.5 Hybrid modeling	226
5.6 New content	238

<b>6</b>	<b>SAP BW reference architecture</b>	<b>243</b>
6.1	Classic layered scalable architecture	244
6.2	Layered scalable architecture on SAP HANA	248
6.3	Converting an LSA into LSA++	252
<b>7</b>	<b>The new role of SAP BW for operational reporting</b>	<b>265</b>
7.1	Operational reporting in SAP ERP	267
7.2	The interaction between SAP BW and operational reporting	270
<b>8</b>	<b>Summary and outlook</b>	<b>273</b>
8.1	How you benefit from BW on HANA	273
8.2	BW: Roadmap & strategy—a look into the future	282
	<b>Appendix</b>	<b>287</b>
	Useful BW transaction codes	287
	New BW Authorization Objects	288
	Deleted TLOGO objects in SAP BW/4HANA	288
	Training courses offered	290
	List of references	292
<b>A</b>	<b>The Authors</b>	<b>296</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Disclaimer</b>	<b>303</b>

## 2 Preparing for the conversion to SAP HANA

Before you make the decision to use SAP HANA as the database for your Business Warehouse—or at the latest when you actually make the decision—you should address topics such as the sizing, migration, housekeeping, and data center operation of SAP HANA as the database for your BW system.

Ideally, you will have discussed these topics before making the decision for SAP HANA. The *sizing*, for example, is a decisive factor not only for the size and number of servers required—depending on the licensing model, the size of the database may also influence the license costs. Regardless of the licensing model, you should establish *housekeeping* (see Section 2.3) as a permanent process in the company. This will allow you to keep system tables lean.

### 2.1 Sizing

In recent years, we have been involved in the sizing of many BW on HANA systems. By far the most common case is the migration of an existing BW system to SAP HANA, referred to as the *brownfield* approach. The *greenfield* approach, in which a new BW is considered only on an SAP HANA system is less frequent. The transfer of a non-SAP data warehouse (DWH) to a BW system is rare, and we therefore address this approach only very briefly.

It is important to make sure that you size the database server for SAP HANA correctly because many mistakes can be made at this point. To help you avoid this, Marc Bernard, Product Manager SAP EDW, has written a very good blog detailing the most common errors made when sizing a BW on HANA system.

## Blog: How NOT to size an SAP BW system for SAP HANA



<https://blogs.sap.com/2013/08/28/how-not-to-size-a-sap-netweaver-bw-system-for-sap-hana/>

### 2.1.1 Sizing when migrating an existing BW system

When migrating existing BW systems to SAP HANA, we strongly recommend that you use the *ABAP sizing report* for the database sizing. This report guarantees more accurate results and it is independent of the database compression. It can also incorporate the concept of non-active data, extended tables (for details on both topics, see Section 4.1), as well as future growth. SAP Note 2296290 and the attachments to that note describe in great detail how to run the report and what the functions of the individual parameters are.

The sizing report is called `/SDF/HANA_BW_SIZING` and is delivered from Service plug-in ST-PI 2008\_1\_7xx SP8 or ST-PI 740 SP01. The minimum prerequisite for the report is NetWeaver BW 7.0 SP1. For BW 3.5 systems, there is a separate report (SAP Note 2021372).

You can use different parameters for the report, which means that you have good control over the required resources and thus the load on the system. The report also saves you a lot of work by, for example, considering influences such as the conversion to unicode and any potential compression of the source database automatically. You can also run the report just for certain subareas of the system if you are planning to migrate only part of your system.

We recommend that you run the report and specify growth values based on your experience from previous years. This will give you a better overview of the hardware requirement for the coming years. Experience shows that the usual values for annual organic growth are between 10% and 30%. We also recommend that you activate consideration of non-active data.

With regard to the precision level, **Low** is sufficient to give meaningful results. It is only for small systems with databases of less than 500 GB that we recommend you set this level to **High**.

As already mentioned, SAP Note 2296290 contains very good documentation with an example. It gives a detailed description of all input parameters, how the tool works, and the results. Therefore, we will not provide any further explanations or an example at this point. We will restrict ourselves to typical questions or important information that we often receive despite using the detailed sizing report.

### Up-to-date database statistics



We strongly recommend that you run the sizing report only with up-to-date database statistics because otherwise the results will be incorrect.

With regard to sizing, one aspect that is often forgotten is that every server has an operating system with a certain main memory requirement. 10% of the first 64 GB and 3% of the remaining main memory is reserved for the operating system. Furthermore, 50 GB must be reserved for services and caches for each server node. This results in the values shown in Table 2.1 for the different server sizes currently available. The sizing report takes these values into account fully automatically.

Available Memory	Operating System	Available for HANA	Available for BW Data
256 GB	12 GB	244 GB	194 GB
512 GB	20 GB	492 GB	442 GB
1024 GB	35 GB	989 GB	939 GB
1536 GB	52 GB	1484 GB	1434 GB
2048 GB	66 GB	1982 GB	1932 GB
3072 GB	97 GB	2975 GB	2925 GB
4096 GB	127 GB	3969 GB	3919 GB

Table 2.1: Available main memory for different server sizes

*Scale-out* configurations for BW systems have at least three computer nodes. As a minimum, we strongly recommend two worker nodes for one master node. For more information about scale-out, see Section 2.4.2 on Scalability. Additional details about the sizing of the master node and the optimum number of scale-out nodes can be found in SAP Notes 1855041 and 1702409.

### The sizing of the application server



With regard to the sizing of the application server, initially there is no change compared to a BW system with a different database. This applies to both ABAP application servers and JAVA application servers. You can use the Quick Sizer (see the next section) to work out the size for these servers.

### Sizing additional applications and projects



If you want to operate further applications in BW (e.g., BPC) or on the same SAP HANA database (MCOB, see Section 2.4.3) in the future, you have to consider the main memory requirement for these applications in addition to the sizing of the BW system.

This also applies for new projects: in this situation, further data enters the system and you should include this in your considerations additively. If you are intending to consolidate multiple BW systems, you should also consider this additively.

A useful side effect of the sizing report is that it provides information about the volume of data in certain objects. In the case of very large row stores, change logs, or PSA tables, you can quickly see whether a system is well-maintained. For more on the topic of housekeeping, see Section 2.2.7.

## Sizing reports for BW on HANA



Always use the latest version of the sizing report. The report is constantly being improved and only the most up-to-date version will guarantee the highest possible accuracy.

New sizing report for BW/4HANA:

<https://launchpad.support.sap.com/#/notes/2296290>

Sizing Report for BW on HANA (for BW 3.5 Systems):

<http://service.sap.com/sap/support/notes/2021372>

## SAP HANA Academy: “BW on HANA” sizing video



This video provides a step-by-step procedure for using the sizing report: <https://youtu.be/-qq6d92YJek>

### 2.1.2 Sizing a new BW on HANA

When you are sizing a new system for BW on HANA, you should use the *Quick Sizer* (<http://service.sap.com/quicksizer>). There is a special version of the Quick Sizer for SAP HANA-based systems (<http://service.sap.com/hanaqs>). The tool will help you not only to determine the correct size for the database server but also the correct dimensions for the application server where necessary. SAP provides very good and detailed information and videos on this topic and therefore we will not provide any further explanations here.



# B Index

## A

ABAP code 57  
ABAP Routine Analyzer 56  
Activation 23, 162, 275, 281  
ADK 20  
ADSO See DataStore object  
(advanced)  
Amazon Web Services 93  
AMDP 25  
Analysis Process Designer 20  
Analytic Manager 181, 285  
Analytic view 103, 223  
Appliance 21, 74, 75, 83  
Architected data mart layer 246  
Attribute view 103, 223

## B

BEx broadcasting 20  
BEx tools 21  
BEx Web Application Designer  
20  
BI Content 19, 25, 238  
Big data source system 128  
Brownfield 37, 47  
Business ByDesign 107  
Business Explorer 19  
Business transformation layer  
246  
Business Warehouse  
Accelerator 13, 14, 21, 23,  
273, 280  
BW analysis authorization 46,  
53, 227

BW Migration Cockpit 54, 69  
BW modeling tools 34, 184, 189,  
195, 202  
in Eclipse 25, 27  
BW reporting layer 247  
BW roadmap 282  
BW transactions 287  
BW Workspaces 22, 24, 251,  
259, 274, 276, 278, 281  
BW-MT See BW modeling tools

## C

Calculation engine 154, 181  
Calculation view 103, 218, 219,  
221, 223  
Change log 23, 68  
Change request 277  
Characteristics 19  
Checklist Tool 56  
Code push-down 22, 125, 144,  
154, 273, 280, 284  
CompositeProvider 22, 24, 99,  
127, 204, 281  
Core Data Services 27  
ABAP CDS 106  
Corporate Information Factory  
19  
Corporate memory 247  
Custom code See ABAP code

## D

Data acquisition layer 245  
Data archiving process 142  
Data Flow Editor 189

Data Lifecycle Management 131  
Data mart interface 19, 107  
Data Mining Workbench 20  
Data modeling 153  
Data Warehousing Foundation  
  Data Distribution Optimizer 149  
  Data Lifecycle Manager 150  
  Data Warehouse Monitoring 152  
  Data Warehouse Scheduler 152  
Database migration 47  
Database migration option 49  
DataSource 19  
DataStore object 22, 99, 136, 281  
DataStore object (advanced) 24, 26, 136, 191, 192, 199, 281  
DataStore object (classic) 19  
DataStore object (native) 148, 151  
DB Connect 20, 103, 123, 128  
DB2 125  
Delta merge 179  
Delta queue 50, 101  
DSO 160, *See* DataStore object (classic)  
DTP 21  
Dual stack 46, 49  
Dynamic Tiering 25, 135

**E**

Eclipse 217  
EDW propagation layer 246  
Enterprise data warehouse 19, 224, 243, 244

Exception 19  
Extended star schema 19  
Extended table 135  
Extension nodes 138  
External SAP HANA view 231  
Extractor 99

## F

Field-based DSO *See* DataStore object (advanced)  
Field-based modeling 214, 281

## G

Generic extractor 20  
Greenfield 37, 45, 52

## H

Hadoop 25, 146, 276  
Harmonization layer 246  
Heterogeneous system copy 47  
High cardinality 159  
Housekeeping 67  
Hybrid scenarios 271  
HybridProvider 22

## I

InfoArea 157, 174  
InfoCube 19, 27, 99, 165  
InfoCube compression 169  
InfoCube migration 170  
InfoObject 19, 99, 156  
InfoProvider 20  
InfoSet 21, 99, 173  
InfoSet query 19  
InfoSource 174  
Integrated Planning 21, 23, 274

**L**

Line item dimension 19  
LSA 243  
LSA++ 248

**M**

Master node 82  
MaxDB 12  
MCOB 40, 85  
MCOS 86  
Microservices 16  
Microsoft Azure 93  
Mixed scenario 24, 229, 281, 284  
MS SQL Server 125  
MultiCube 19  
MultiProvider 99, 173  
Multistore table 135  
Multi-temperature data management 131, 277, 280  
Multi-tenant database containers 90

**N**

Near-line storage 21, 127, 142, 280  
Non-active data 132

**O**

OData 108  
ODP 25, 95  
ODQ 95, 104  
OLAP 22, 267  
OLAP processor 19  
OLTP 267  
Open hub 20  
Open ODS layer 249

Open ODS view 101, 127, 209, 276, 278, 281  
Operational data store 247  
Operational delta queue 33  
Operational reporting 266  
Oracle 125

**P**

P\*Time 13, 14  
Planning Application Kit 22, 274  
Post-copy automation 50  
Private view 268  
Process chain Streaming 121  
Process chains 20, 178  
PSA 19, 68, 95, 136

**Q**

Query Designer 188, 261  
Query view 269  
Quick Sizer 40, 41

**R**

R3Load 47  
RemoteCube 19  
Report-report interface 19  
Reuse view 268

**S**

S/4HANA embedded analytics 267  
SAP BW/4HANA 31 starter add-on 59  
SAP BW/4HANA content add-on 241  
SAP BW/4HANA migration 58 In-place conversion 59 Remote conversion 66

SAP HANA 2.0 16, 73  
SAP HANA analysis process  
25, 276, 279  
SAP HANA Data Warehousing  
Foundation 147  
SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud  
93  
SAP HANA Live 15, 267, 270  
SAP HANA source system 26,  
110  
SAP HANA Studio 25, 27, 127,  
217  
SAP IQ 142  
SAP S/4HANA 16  
SAP S/4HANA embedded  
analytics 107  
SAP service API 20  
Scalability 79  
Scale-out 40, 78, 79, 82, 139  
Scale-up 79, 80  
Selective deletion 275  
Selective migration 52  
semantic group 193  
Semantically partitioned object  
99, 172  
SID generation 164  
Sidecar 15  
Simple Finance 15  
Simplification 15, 273, 277  
Sizing 37  
Sizing report 38  
SLT 25, 103  
Smart Data Access 25, 110,  
123, 146, 276, 279, 281  
Smart Data Integration 26, 110  
Software Update Manager 49  
Star schema 165  
Start routine 19

Starter add-on 28  
B4H mode 28  
Compatibility mode 28  
Ready for Conversion mode  
28  
Standard BW mode 28  
System measurement 43

## T

Tailored data center integration  
75  
Transaction sequence number  
33, 97  
Transactional InfoCube 20  
Transfer tool 61  
Transformation 275, 281  
Transformation Finder 57  
Transformation rule 21, 174  
TransientProvider 22, 203  
Transport concept 19  
TREX 13

## U

UD Connect 20, 124  
Update rule 19  
Upgrade Path Finder 55

## V

Virtual data model 15  
Virtual InfoCube with services  
20  
Virtual master data 159  
Virtualization 87  
Virtualization layer 247

## W

Worker node 82