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SAP® Business Objects Analysis Office for Experts

- ▶ Get to know the BPC 10.1 Add-In for Excel
- ▶ Create a basic report from scratch
- ▶ Learn about the Connection Concept
- ▶ Case study with many screenshots and explanations

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2 Installation and prerequisites

This chapter describes how to install Analysis Office (AO), the hardware requirements, and how to set up an optimized installation within your enterprise or for your personal use.

Before you start using AO, make sure that you are using the correct version of AO, as well as the recommended client hardware. If you are using Version 1.4, I recommend using it in combination with the latest *Service Patch* (SP).

I encourage you to use AO 2.0, which is now generally available, because it has all the latest features and is in a stable condition and contains SAP enhanced functionality that you may need for daily reporting.

2.1 Client prerequisites

As its name suggests, Analysis Office (AO) requires Microsoft Office Excel for reporting analysis and Microsoft PowerPoint for presenting BW data.

2.1.1 Microsoft Office Suite

The functionality available in the different Microsoft Office versions depends on the Microsoft Windows operating system you are using. For details, see the appropriate SAP Note in Section 2.1.4.

AO is compatible with:

- ▶ Microsoft Excel 2003- 2013
- ▶ Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 and Microsoft Office 2013

Microsoft Office recommendations



I personally do not recommend using Office 2003 or 2007 in combination with AO.

SAP provides multiple SAP Notes for bypassing common problems, e. g., connecting charts. The joy of using AO lies in its broad spectrum of functionality. My suggestion is to use Microsoft Office 2010+.

2.1.2 Microsoft Windows operating system

Because of the Excel and PowerPivot requirement, AO is restricted to the Windows operating system. It can be used with Windows XP up to Windows 8.1. AO is restricted to use with Microsoft Office. SAP does not support any other office suites.

2.1.3 SAP GUI

SAP GUI installation is not mandatory on your individual computer client. If you prefer to use AO as a reporting application purely for end users, you can skip the installation of SAP GUI as well as the BW add-on installation (for installing SAP BEx tools). Nevertheless, I recommend installing the GUI and the add-ons because your users may need to change or create a query using SAP BEx Query Designer.

However, a local copy of *SAPLOGON.INI*, a file describing all SAP systems and their connection strings, IP addresses, etc., is required if you do not use a BI platform for connection management and want to connect to SAP NetWeaver BW.

SAPLOGON.INI file



The default folder containing the SAPLOGON.INI file is in your Windows installation, as shown in Figure 2.1.

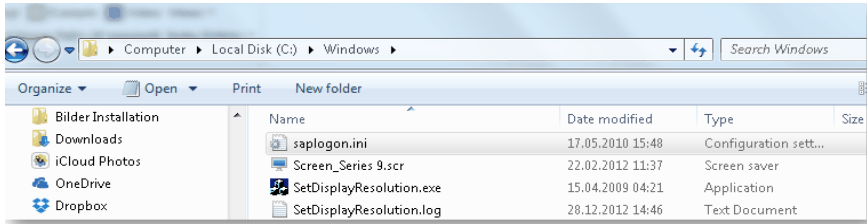


Figure 2.1: Location of your *saplogon.ini* file

Note that the file is only present if SAP GUI is actually installed, but you can create a manual copy in the Windows folder. Make sure that you do not overwrite an existing file.

I strongly recommend installing SAP GUI 7.30 and the SAP NetWeaver BW add-on (SAP BEx tools) with the latest service patch for users who plan to create BW SAP BEx queries as well.

With SAP GUI and the BW add-on installed locally, you will be able to switch back and forth from AO directly to SAP BEx Query Designer. Furthermore, your reporting can be enriched with SAP functionality for navigating to a specific characteristic, allowing you to use that key to retrieve further information by opening a SAP GUI screen showing the SAP ERP transaction screen.

We will cover AO integration functionality for the *Report-Report Interface* (RRI) in Chapter 5.


SAP GUI is a prerequisite for using the Report-Report Interface



If you like to use the Report-Report Interface (RRI) to jump, for example, from an SD query to FI/CO queries and transport the selected filter, or to jump directly to SAP transactions, **you have to have** SAP GUI installed on your client PC.

2.1.4 PC client sizing

I will not list all of the possible combinations of available frontends. Instead, I recommend that you read **SAP Note 1466118**, which explains the possible combinations in detail and also addresses memory usage.

SAP Note
 **1466118 - Hardware & Software requirements for Analysis, edition for MS Office**
 Version 7 Validity: 20.06.2014 - active Language English (Master)

Header Data

Released On 24.06.2014 07:21:44
 Release Status Released for Customer
 Component BI-RA-AC-XLA Excel Addin
 Priority Recommendations / Additional Info
 Category Installation information

Symptom

Questions on hardware and software requirements for the SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, edition for Microsoft Office.


Reason and Prerequisites

Figure 2.2: SAP Note 1466118

2.1.5 SAP NetWeaver BW server prerequisites

To use AO in combination with SAP NetWeaver BW, you have to have an installed version of at least SAP NetWeaver BW 7.0 EhP1.

Why do you need at least BW 7.0 EhP1?



I recommend using SAP NetWeaver BW 7.3 or 7.4, as there are significant total cost of ownership (TCO) and integration improvements between Business Objects Enterprise and NetWeaver BW. Queries defined in SAP BEx Query Designer are now fully integrated.

SAP NetWeaver BW 7.x allows direct access to SAP NetWeaver BW InfoProviders for ad-hoc reporting, queries, and query views. For this reason, I recommend using at least BW 7.0 EhP1.

My experience is that AO runs optimally with BW 7.3. From 7.0 EhP1 onwards, SAP has improved many aspects of stability and performance. See **SAP Note 1677627** for further details.

RSADMIN table settings and SAP Notes

Table RSADMIN in BW is one of the most important tables in BW that influences the behavior and performance of BW objects, as well as AO.

All of the following parameters can be set up using report SAP_RSADMIN_MAINTAIN (SE38). I recommend that you check the following list of SAP Notes and implement the parameters in table RSADMIN. I also recommend that you revisit the SAP Support Portal at least every six months to check for new parameters. Simply type RSADMIN Analysis Office in the notes search field.

The following SAP Notes will improve your AO performance. The numbers represent the SAP Note number you should look up in the SAP Support Portal.

- ▶ SAP Note 1656983: Result set size limit exceeded
- ▶ SAP Note 1947948: Optimization for queries with characteristic restrictions
- ▶ SAP Note 1972798: Long selection time for REPOLOAD RFC cache
- ▶ SAP Note 053007: Numerous certificate pop-ups during Excel export

Performance optimization via the RSADMIN table



Using the RSADMIN table it is possible to define a maximum number of cells (rows * columns) by implementing the parameter `BI_CS_DA_RESULT_SET_LIMIT_MAX` (check SAP Note 1750332).

By leveraging the parameters in the RSADMIN table, you can influence the performance of AO reporting (see Section 3.2 for further information on this topic).

2.1.6 Queries and BW data model

With AO, there is no need to migrate queries or make changes to BW data models.

You can access any existing InfoProvider and SAP BEx queries available in standard SAP BEx directly.

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