CLOUD COMPUTING

Reporting in the cloud

Faster, bigger, better. The digital age, a designation used to describe the last two decades, puts the focus on a key feature for companies: speed. This presents new challenges, particularly for the IT industry.

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Developing a permanently available, fast, modern, adjustable and scalable system are attributes often associated with the cloud, which is why the term "cloud" is used to illustrate the concept of maximum flexibility and high speed. For these very reasons, the cloud is, especially in the area of reporting, a suitable means for adequately and flexibly meeting company needs. A further declared goal of having all relevant company data available on every verified device at all times is achieved with the introduction of the cloud. Selecting the right tools is thus essential for achieving the best possible advantages through cloud reporting.

All About Internal Transparency

SAP Analytics Cloud is one solution that comprises reporting as well as planning and predictive functions, at the same time providing various options for connecting up data. Runtime data from an S/4 cloud system, historical data from a BW system, actual time worked and absences from SuccessFactor or travel expenses from Concur can be connected to SAP Analytics Cloud. Even separate uploading of flat files or access to classic databases as an additional data source can be realized. This makes it possible for all divisions of the company to prepare analyses, which in turn improves internal transparency. By combining reporting, planning and predictive, a comprehensive company analysis can be developed that allows a look at past performance, anticipates and predict future developments and also provides a basis for planning.

Introducing the Digital Boardroom

The multiplicity of functions and the resulting data are optimally bundled and visualized within a dashboard. Analytics Cloud offers the required functions to create such a dashboard through what are known as stories. This is where the overall strength of dashboards, their use as an analytical tool, comes into play. To get a dashboard started, key performance indicators (KPIs) serve as rough orientation about the company's current situation. From this rough overview, it should be possible at any time to obtain further detailed information on the particular KPIs. In Analytics Cloud, this overall dashboard approach finds practical implementation in the Digital Boardroom, which contains three touchscreens facilitating interactive and comprehensive reporting. Through the use of the three screens in the Digital Boardroom the most important information can be provided to users at any time, by consciously applying the information-seeking mantra. Thus, every monitor is given a role that determines the level of detail of the information displayed. Through this splitting up into overview, content and context screen, the user can analyze certain facts in detail at any time without losing sight of the fundamental question.

Allgeier uses SAP Analytics Cloud in multifarious ways. Through the real-time connection to S/4 Hana Cloud for Professional Services, SAP Analytics Cloud provides an ideal reporting platform for internal analyses. This data is linked within the cloud with data from existing on-premise data sources, e.g. SolMan. These possibilities mean that future monthly management meetings receive effective support through the use of the Digital Boardroom. In addition, selected reports are provided to authorized employees, also on their smartphones. Analytics Cloud thus offers Allgeier the possibility to respond quickly and flexibly to new requirements and the capability to analyze certain situations in detail at any time without losing sight of the fundamental question.

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