SAP S/4HANA & SAP Simple Finance

New SAP ECC Finance & ECC Logistics Capabilities

SAP S/4HANA: SAP recently launched S/4HANA which provides an all NEW ERP system with fully integrated data model (ECC internal tables, etc.) for Finance and Logistics. S/4HANA provides a next generation interface that is built using SAP Fiori technology with native planning and simulation functions. Existing SAP ERP customers can migrate to S/4HANA platform**.**

SAP Simple Finance exploits SAP HANA database performance by using an all new code set (new set of internal SAP tables) that combines the traditional analytical database structure for finance and transactional database structure for finance with a new data store (aka new data model) thereby reducing IT tasks to maintain analytical databases for reporting. SAP Simple Finance eliminates the need for redundant data for summary and detail values (i.e: GL) with secondary indices since the new tables are SAP HANA optimized. SAP Simple Finance supports On-premises, Cloud and Hybrid (combination of both) deployment options.

a) SAP Simple Finance Functional Sub-groups: SAP Simple Finance portfolio groups the end-to-end finance processes into 5 groups: 1. The financial planning and analysis, 2. Accounting and financial close, 3. Treasury and financial risk management, 4. Collaborative finance operations and 5. Risk and compliance.

b) Advantages of SAP S/4HANA: 1. Integrated data model: built in consistency using integrated data model that uses only one source of data, minimizes reconciliation time. 2. Rapid KPI reporting using on-the-fly calculations. 3. Usability – exploiting integrated data model - Can drill by any business context / dimension – Sales by customer / sales org / shipping point – out of box – using the single data model. 4. Free text questioning like search for reporting - i.e: type USA – can summarize finance and sales KPIs by additional drill. 5. Cumulative and non-cumulative value support. 6. Prediction engine built in for forecasting future trends for finance and sales KPI's - uses guided procedures (aka floating windows) – helps new SAP users to learns the process steps. 7. Integrated IMG configuration with Consistency checker for data changes as you do the configuration and more…

c) SAP Fiori Interface in SAP S/4HANA: SAP Fiori is a new development environment based on SAP UI5, OData services and Gateway Web Services. SAP Fiori is used primarily to build next generation SAP application interfaces that meets the high demands of the new end user who is used to the new PC (Windows 8.1 OS like interface that exploits the touch screen user experience), tablet and smart phone interfaces. SAP Fiori aims at **"Keeping Simple Things Simple".** In the long-term, SAP Fiori applications will replace the SAP GUI and will provide an aesthetic SAP front-end user experience. SAP Fiori is delivered with out-of-the box SAP interfaces and reports that are ready to activate and use. SAP Fiori primarily focuses on SAP ECC running on SAP HANA database. With SAP Fiori interface, SAP S/4HANA interface is highly customizable for different roles such as a - order fulfillment analyst/ finance analyst etc.. One key feature of the SAP Fiori interface is that it provides **Active view icons** with drill-down capabilities that visualize exceptions within each process areas based on customized business rules. i.e: show red color when actual sales is less than forecast on the Sales order fulfillment icon.

Rama Shankar
SAP CERTIFIED BI CONSULTANT

Rama Shankar is an SAP BW, SAP HANA and SAP BI/BOBJ (incl. BO Design Studio, BEx, BI OLAP, BO Explorer & Lumira) consultant with extensive experience with SAP ECC modules (incl. SAP Finance, SAP IKM –EHS-QIM analytics , APO-SCM, Sales, HR-WFM, CRM, SAP Retail, etc.). Rama has worked on several full lifecycle implementations of SAP BOBJ for SAP BW (incl. v7.4 on HANA DB & BI 4.1), and SAP ECC and standalone SAP HANA BI environments in the retail, utilities, pharma, state agencies and beverages industries.