

SAP Analytics Cloud (aka SAC) – Next Generation Cloud Platform

A Sneak Peak @ SAC Offerings & What's New In SAC Version 2020.8

SAC is the next generation **SaaS** (software as a service) cloud platform visualization tool with built-in **Augmented analytics** (embedded AI-ML capabilities) offering from SAP that supports built-in **AI-ML** (Artificial Intelligence - Machine Learning) features (aka **SMART** features - see list below). SAC supports **live connection** (data NOT stored in SAC) to SAP data sources and ad-hoc connection to other non-SAP(data persisted in SAC) systems via **OData, REST API, SOAP** connection types. SAC provides a rich set of front-end options for data analytics such as **Smart Assist Analytics** (**Google like** search to enable augmented analytics), business planning with responsive analytics, etc. all packaged in the cloud platform. SAC leverages SAP HANA as the **backend orchestration** DB engine with flexibility to expand capacity using **DBaaS** (also known as managed database service) subscription model. SAC long-term will replace SAP Lumira, SAP BPC and SAP PAL (predictive analytics).

Noteworthy SAC SMART Assist Features: Smart Assist Comprises of Search to Insight, Smart Insights, Smart Discovery, Time Series Forecasting, Smart Grouping and R-visualization features. **Search To Insight** - Refers to enabling Google like searching that lets a user ask a natural question to initiate or drive visualization to enable Augmented analytics i.e. “net sales by product and region product sales” – to display last week product sales data. **Smart Insights** – uses ML to automatically allow us to take advantage of classification and regression algorithms to uncover new or unknown relationships in our data. **Smart Discovery** – refers to the result generated from manually running an ML algorithm within a SAC story by choosing a set of measures and/or dimensions.

Digital Boardroom: Provides options to design a real-time, fluid interactive boardroom story or presentation that can be shared with peers. It requires an add-on license in addition to basic license. See licensing section for license details. In short, digital boardrooms are like collaboration workspace where executives can explore data using all the SMART features to make real-time decision based on data trends. Several templates are available in SAC to use for digital boardroom creation and usage. Smart Wrangling lets you use mockup data to build your SAC content and later finalize data after SAC content is configured to user's satisfaction.

SAC Financial Planning Roadmap: based on latest SAP roadmap, all SAP BPC cloud platform planning functionality will be moved to SAC except for on-premises BPC use-case

R Language Support: SAC supports integration of R language to enable re-use of existing R language statistical computing AI-ML algorithm

Widgets – are SDKs that lets developers build new SAC web components or enhance standard components delivered with SAC.

Microsoft Office & BO A40 (aka Business Objects Analysis for Office) Support – SAC provides Microsoft office applications (Power Point, Excel, etc) support by providing add-ons. In addition, SAC also provides A40 Microsoft excel add-in native connectivity to provide access for SAC stories (incl. financial planning stories) and applications.

Steps- 1st SAC Application

1) Create a Story (aka SAC application) and Setup a Data source: Create a new story using the menu and choose a Live connection OR import mockup data via flat file as A model into SAC using data modeler and customize model dimensions, measures, transformations and groups. Set story objects styling using story preferences

2) Configure Pages and Tiles for Story: Based on your requirement create new or clone existing default pages and tiles using page designer (a - canvas – blank pages, b - grids – data grids and c - responsive pages – enable mobile device compatibility pages) and tile designer (a - builder panel enables configuring of chart type, dimension, measure, drill by time dimension etc. and b – styling panel enables changing look and feel (color and font for your page and tiles)

3) Share SAC Stories – Content can be shared with other team members within SAC or can be exported as PDF and sent as attachment via email.

New in SAC 2020.8 / Q2 2020

1 – Expanded Data Limits: One Billion Cells for data sets, 100 million cells for data acquisition

2 – Custom hierarchy and group support for BW and HANA data using live connection which can be exposed to Geo web components

3 – Enhanced support for Microsoft Power Point application to download SAC stories for offline presentations

4 – Remove duplicate rows from source data during read operation

5 – Copy Widgets from a SAC story to another SAC story

6 - Safari web browser fully supported for analytics designer tool to build applications using S/4 and Success Factors data.

7 – Search To Insight now supports BOBJ Universe data and more...

SAC License Offerings

SAP provides flexible licensing options based on license levels outlined below both based on named users and concurrent users methods:

1 – Analytics Hub: entry level license only to access content delivered by SAP

2 - BI User: Developer level access

3 – Planning User: to participate in planning process. Includes BI user level access

4 – Planning Pro User: Full functionality user to create planning application. **Note: Digital Boardroom** will require additional add-on license to access standard content provided by SAP.

