

Powerful Automation
Revolutionizes the Entity Close

Standardizing and
Automating Best Practices

Powerful Workflow
Combined with Deep Insight

Mission Control for
Record to Report

SAP S/4HANA® Cloud for Advanced Financial Closing | PUBLIC

Improve Automation and Transparency with an **Accelerated Entity Close**

Close Confidently and Quickly with SAP S/4HANA®
Cloud for Advanced Financial Closing

THE BEST RUN 





Powerful Automation Revolutionizes the Entity Close

The month-end close is stressful for any company. Your finance management team needs the visibility to ensure everyone is on track to produce **complete, accurate, and timely** financials. SAP S/4HANA® Cloud for advanced financial closing centralizes standard operating procedures, orchestrates automated routines, and accelerates manual processes. Management teams gain insight into the progress of each close.

Entity-level financial closing is a complex and risky task. With numerous shared service locations, ERP systems, and accounting regulations involved, the close challenges any organization. The order of procedures required to create the financial statements and close the books is often documented in a schedule or spreadsheet. These schedules are meticulously updated to account for weekends, holidays, and team member changes. Schedules also have to be stored in a single place, accessible to all participants.

Managers interested in finding out exactly where the team stands in the process of a particular closing rely on team members marking procedures as successfully completed. Team members must then notify the next person in the sequence so that they may begin their task. Documentation or evidence related to specific procedures also needs to be stored in such a way that it will be accessible when the financial reports are analyzed by internal or external auditors.



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If companies use ERP software to account for the debits and credits of business transactions, why not also use software to control the procedures needed at month end? A closing hub approach can provide the control and automation that teams need to improve the quality

of their entity close. As a result, the closing process is greatly accelerated, freeing up accounting and finance teams for more value-added activities and enabling them to become trusted advisors in the organization.



With the closing hub approach, you can close the books **quickly** while maintaining **full confidence** in the **accuracy** and **completeness** of the reported results.



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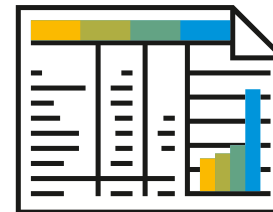
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Standardizing and Automating Best Practices

SAP S/4HANA Cloud for advanced financial closing provides a closing template that helps teams document their sequential tasks and procedures. The key tasks required to create financial statements, along with optimized sequencing and dependencies for the latest releases of SAP S/4HANA, are delivered as best practices. Companies use this content as a starting point for the creation of their company-specific templates – adding additional steps and procedures as necessary.

Each task in the template includes the documentation of standard operating procedures as well as the people responsible for it, approval requirements, and timing. These tasks can be performed in one or more ERP systems – a template represents the holistic view of the close across the enterprise.

When it is time to start the closing process for a particular month or year, the template generates task lists for the accountants and managers. The lists use the relative key date and organizational hierarchy information to parameterize specific tasks, which means teams do not have to manually adjust them each month. The task lists will always reflect a repeatable, best-practice approach.





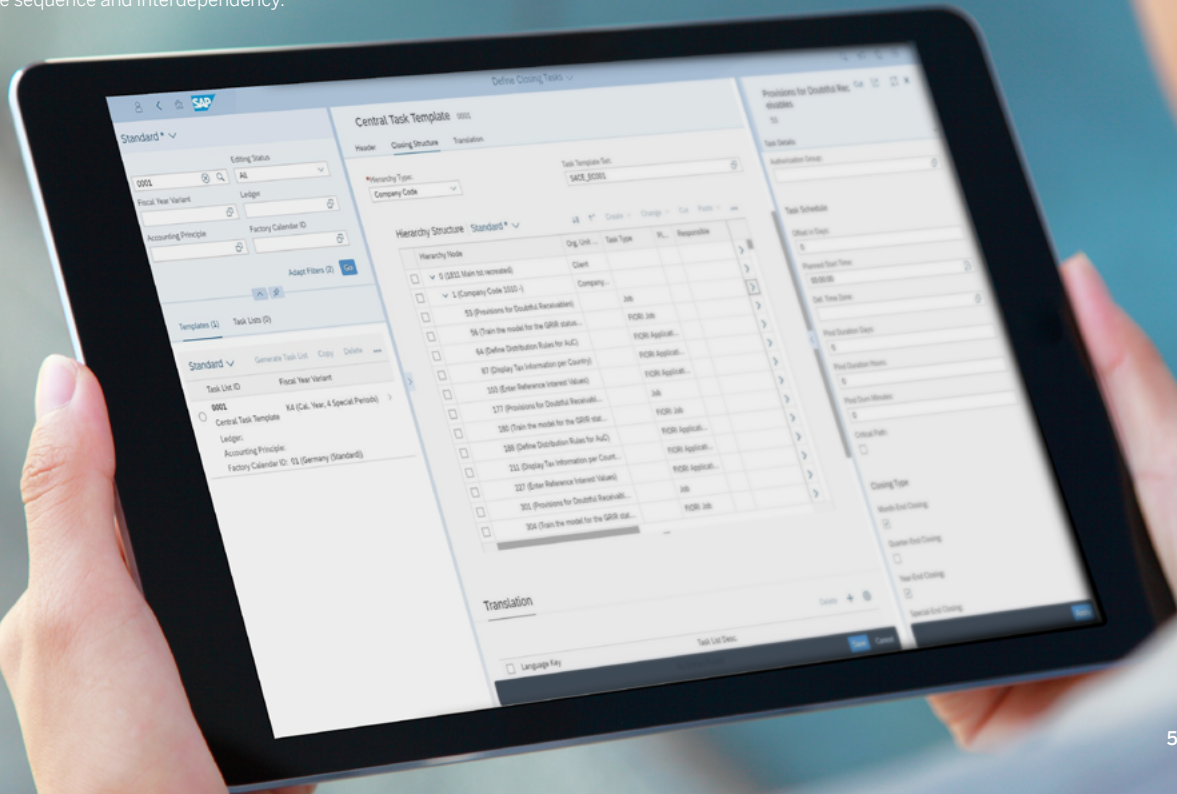
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Task template sets contain standard closing steps, including their respective sequence and interdependency.





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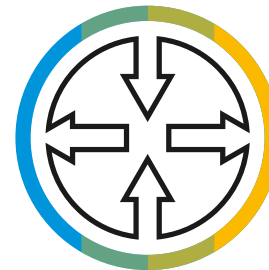
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Within the close, certain activities have to be completed before subsequent steps can be started. For example, settlement of assets under construction must be completed before the depreciation posting run can be started. The automated routines or jobs in the ERP system are triggered by the solution – this is based on the successful completion of predecessor tasks, and evidence is documented automatically and is ready for review.

SAP S/4HANA enables teams to focus on automatically identified exceptions – either on an ongoing basis or at critical points in time within the close. Should there be a zero balance in a certain account at month-end? Does a three-percent change in an account balance require further investigation? Once setup as closing tasks,

these powerful automation tools monitor values and alert accountants when they need to take action. And as ERP systems continue to automate more and more tasks using machine learning or robotics processing, the orchestration of these automated routines and the links among them are critical.





Powerful Workflow Combined with Deep Insight

Every day of a closing period is critical. Your system needs to consider factory and holiday calendars, weekends and bank holidays, and even vacation or unexpected illness. The system also has to coordinate the accountants' manual actions, based on the completion of preceding steps, especially for manual tasks where they need to actively make postings or analyze transactions. Time, in the accountant's calendars, needs to be reserved to avoid over planning. Direct links take the accountant from the notification to the application where they perform their task; they can always refer to the standard operating procedure documentation for instruction, and they have a single repository to file their evidence.

System-generated alerts resulting from automated monitoring tasks must be sent to the responsible

accountants for follow-up and resolution. Providing the right amount of information in the right context is key. A manager who is always traveling needs to be able to see key information on their mobile device, whereas some accountants can review dozens of transactions on a single screen.

Managers need to know exactly where the teams stand – regardless of team location or ERP system. Having online analytics, accessible to anyone with a web browser, will help keep your team on track. Performance of tasks along the critical path can be tracked, and collaboration tools help teams focus their attention on areas with errors or delays. Drilling down from a dashboard view to the level of an individual task to see detailed progress is straightforward.



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Teams need a single monitoring capability that provides real-time status reporting across task types: entity closing tasks, group closing tasks, audit and monitoring capabilities, and robotics. Especially as companies continue to adopt automation capabilities across the record-to-report process. This solution can schedule and trigger many types of repeatable activities in the SAP S/4HANA environment.

SAP S/4HANA Cloud for advanced financial closing accelerates the close through:

- Standardization – a best-practice, reusable approach each and every month.
- Automation – many of the procedures required can be triggered to work in ERP systems without any manual interaction.

- Workflow notifications – tasks and approvals required are sent to team members to keep everyone focused and acknowledge holiday calendars and weekends.
- Visibility – the closing schedule and central status tracking is available to everyone, regardless of location.

The SAP S/4HANA Cloud solution for advanced financial closing is a **cloud hub that orchestrates the entity close** across the landscape of on-premise or cloud systems.

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