

Reading Sample

In this reading sample, we'll use Chapter 1 to show you how the book is structured to prepare you for the exam! In Chapter 1, you'll explore the architecture of SAP HANA, see the scope and deployment options of SAP S/4HANA, and learn the basic functions of the SAP Fiori user interface (UI).



"SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, and SAP Fiori"



Contents



Index



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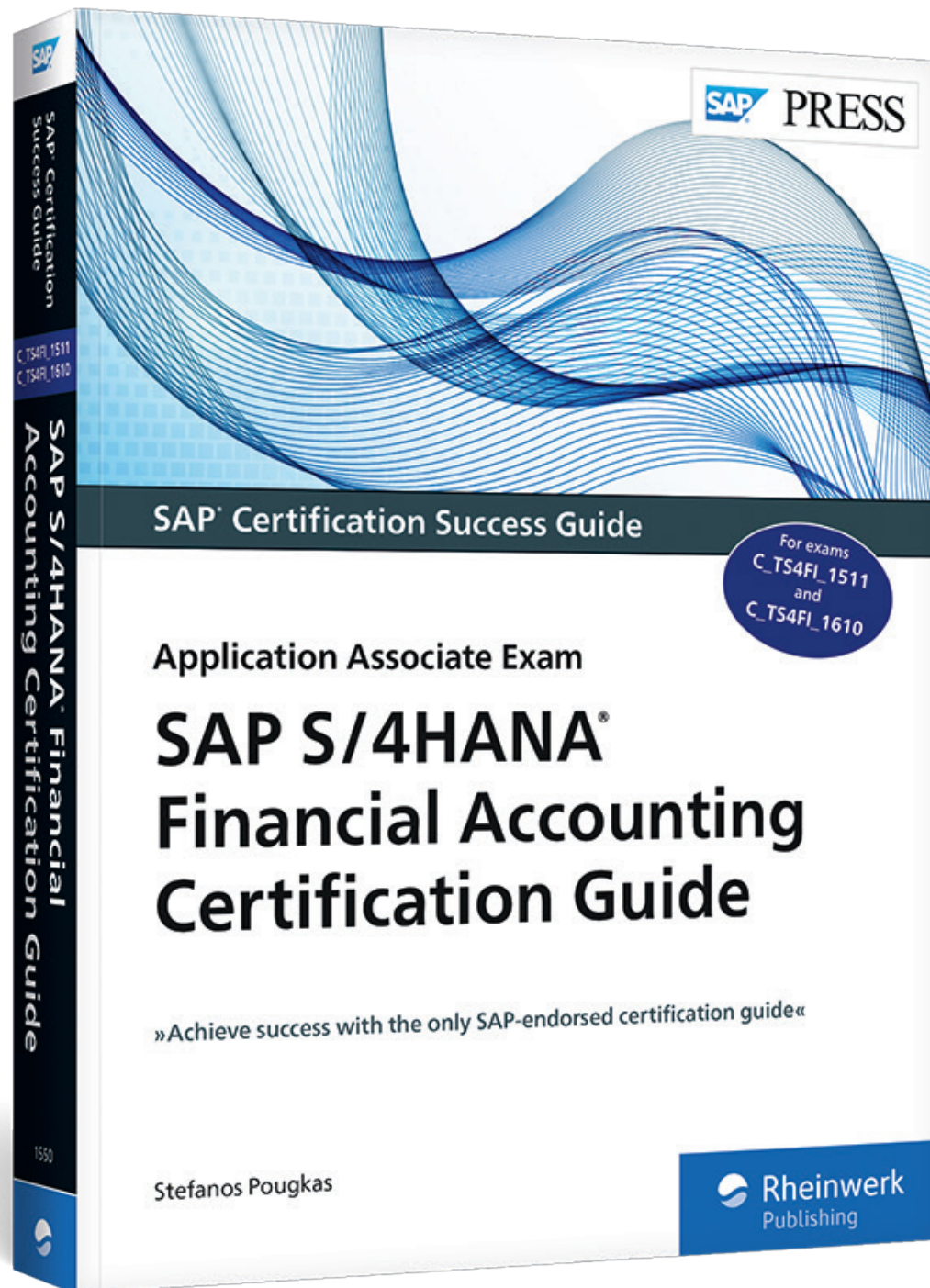
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Chapter 1

SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, and SAP Fiori



Techniques You'll Master

- Understand the SAP strategy for digital transformation
- Review basic SAP HANA technology
- Know the scope of financials for SAP S/4HANA
- Provide an overview of deployment options for SAP S/4HANA
- Learn the SAP Fiori design pillars
- Use the SAP Fiori launchpad
- Know the basic SAP Fiori application types

In this chapter, we'll explore the architecture of SAP HANA, describe the scope and deployment options of SAP S/4HANA, and discuss the basic functions of the SAP Fiori user interface (UI).

Real-World Scenario

As a consultant, you need to understand the underlying architecture that the SAP S/4HANA system is built on. SAP HANA is at the core of the SAP strategy, and you need to feel comfortable explaining this technology to your customers in simple terms. SAP HANA is a faster database, but there is more information you should be able to pass on without scaring nontechnical people off. SAP HANA is often perceived as expensive, so understanding technologies such as compression and columnar store, on a high level, can help you build a case to alter this perception for your potential customers.

The SAP S/4HANA system is a separate product line to the old SAP ERP system. SAP ERP is no longer the default go-to enterprise resource planning (ERP) platform for SAP. This was a huge change and a business decision with quite a large risk for SAP. It has proven to be successful, and more and more customers are persuaded of the true benefits of the new system. But what is special about it? How difficult is it to adopt? How can customers move to SAP S/4HANA, and do they risk losing the (potentially) millions they have invested in the “old” software? You need to be able to explain the reasons for this move by SAP and what it means for new and existing SAP customers.

Finally, SAP Fiori is the default graphical user interface (GUI) for end users in SAP S/4HANA, so you need to be able to use it with confidence, explain its components, and describe the benefits it brings. Explain the importance of a simple interface with great usability with applications that can be used on a mobile device as well as a desktop. You should also have knowledge of how the tile groups, tile catalogues, roles, and users cooperate to form what the user sees on his own SAP Fiori launchpad.

Objectives of This Portion of the Test

The purpose of this portion of the certification exam is to test your general knowledge of the SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, and SAP Fiori applications. The certification exam expects you to have a good understanding of the following topics:

- Overview of SAP HANA in-memory architecture
- SAP S/4HANA products, and architecture for financials
- Deployment options for SAP S/4HANA
- SAP Fiori launchpad features
- SAP Fiori application types



Note

The SAP HANA and SAP S/4HANA topic makes up 10% of the total exam.

Key Concept Refresher

Digital transformation is motivating innovation in business, and in this section, we'll see how SAP HANA and SAP S/4HANA support this innovation. We'll go over the basic SAP HANA architecture and look at the technology that enables SAP HANA to be the innovation platform of the future for SAP.

Additionally, we'll discuss the SAP S/4HANA solution, deployment options, and system landscape. Finally, we look at the SAP Fiori UX and analyze basic generic functions, application types, and administration tools.

Digital Transformation

As the technological world is expanding with unprecedented speed, it's imperative for businesses to not only catch up with these advances but also use them to their competitive advantage. Computers and software are traditionally considered supportive to business, and digital transformation brings the digital world to the forefront of innovation and makes it a key business driver on its own. Digital transformation in business implies the adoption and use of technologies such as Big Data, Internet of Things (IoT), mobile, artificial intelligence, and social media to drive business innovation and growth.

Traditional business applications and ERP software aren't designed to fully support businesses in this transformative journey. SAP saw this growing gap as an opportunity more than 10 years ago and created SAP HANA to be the core building block of business software that not only supports but drives digital transformation. Today, SAP HANA is at the core of virtually all SAP product development. But what is SAP HANA, and why is it so important?

SAP HANA Architecture

In the simplest form, SAP HANA is a database management system. It performs all the expected database functions of storing and retrieving data for applications that sit on top of it, but SAP HANA is unique in how it performs these tasks. In addition, SAP HANA has embedded advanced analytics capabilities such as predictive analytics and text analysis, mining, and search. SAP HANA also offers application development services supporting a variety of programming languages. Finally, SAP HANA offers a slew of data access, administration, and security support services. Clearly, SAP HANA is much more than “just” a really fast database.

Interesting as all the features are, we’ll concentrate on the database architecture a bit. We won’t get too technical, and we’ll keep things in scope both of the certification and the financial accounting associate role. The SAP HANA database has three standout features that work together and make it unique:

■ In-memory database

Using RAM to store all data has only even been imagined as a possibility in the past decade or so. Memory is faster than disk storage—in fact, much faster. In best-case scenario sequential reads, the best solid state disks today can read data at about 3 GB/s. Modern, fast memory reads, writes, and copies at rates around 60 GB/s. That is a factor of 20 against best-case scenario disk drive speed. Of course, this method is more expensive, but these costs usually aren’t prohibitive for enterprises. In addition, the data storage capacities supported aren’t as large, but modern servers can support tens of terabytes capacity. The memory size limitations are not critical in all but the most extreme cases due to the other features of SAP HANA, described in the next bulleted items.

■ Aggressive compression

All major databases support compression, but what you save in space, you lose in speed. SAP HANA uses smart techniques to make compression a viable option while sacrificing little speed. You can expect data in an SAP HANA database to be compressed by a factor of 10 on average, meaning both acquisition cost and storage capacity aren’t a huge factor. One of the ways SAP HANA avoids losing speed is by inserting only new data rather than editing existing entries; decompressing and recompressing for changing entries is a costly proposition. By only adding entries and appending the old ones, SAP HANA doesn’t go through the compress/decompress cycle. With versioning, the system knows always to read the latest entry for a given data set. This brings us to another major technical difference that allows larger compression, discussed in the next bullet item.

■ Columnar data storage

SAP HANA uses the columnar data store type for two major reasons:

- much better compression
- faster data retrieval for queries (where only a subset of the full table data set is required)

Column storage also works great for data aggregation (SAP HANA is used for ad hoc aggregation a lot) and parallel processing. Column storage is more commonly found in Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) applications (e.g., business warehouse systems) rather than Online Transaction Processing (OLTP) systems (as a typical ERP might be considered), where row storage is considered faster. Although SAP HANA supports both types of tables (developers can decide what works for their use case), the columnar store is where SAP HANA shines.

Technology Enablers for SAP HANA Success

Most databases are designed to work optimally with the technology available at the time of their design. The de facto approach before SAP HANA was for applications to minimize disk access requirements and perform calculations in the code. However, as technology continues to progress, this design is no longer the only way to go. Following are the main technology drivers and trends that led SAP to invest in SAP HANA:

■ Large-volume, extremely high-bandwidth, affordable memory

Memory has always been much faster, but 20 years ago, it was inconceivable to be able to purchase and take advantage of the volumes that we can today.

■ New generation microprocessors with multiple cores and larger optimized caches

CPUs can now access data at much higher rates than in the past.

■ Expandable modular data centers

Modular data centers that can be expanded by adding servers for more memory and processing power to scale to any new sizing requirements.

■ Cloud computing applications

These apps are used more and more by customers as an alternative to investing in on premise software, even for critical backend components. Customers save on IT costs, and their solution is always up to date. The subscription model makes the cost of ownership more transparent and increases flexibility as the buy-in is smaller.

SAP S/4HANA

SAP S/4HANA is the new ERP solution by SAP. As the name implies, it's optimized for SAP HANA. In fact, unlike all previous ERP solutions by SAP, it will only work on SAP HANA. SAP S/4HANA comprises the SAP S/4HANA Enterprise Management digital core, the component closest in scope to the SAP ERP solution, and various line of business (LoB) solutions, which are generally cloud solutions that are SAP products through mergers and acquisitions and that have been and are being optimized to work together as a seamless integrated solution (Figure 1.1). Following are the main LoB solutions you should be aware of:

- SAP Hybris Sales, SAP Hybris Customer Support, and SAP Hybris Marketing
- SAP SuccessFactors and SAP Fieldglass for human resource management
- Concur for travel management
- SAP Ariba for sourcing and procurement

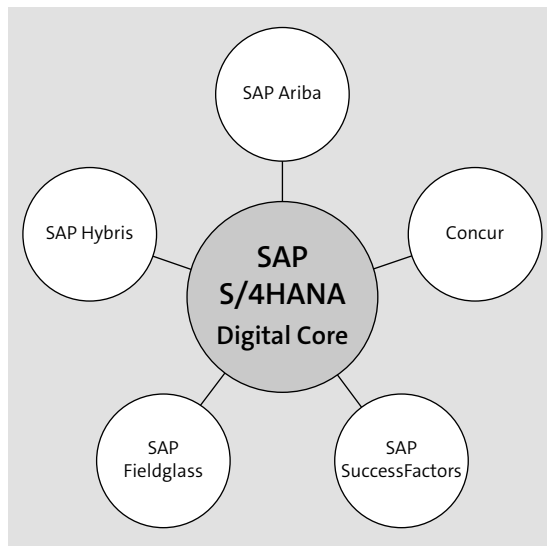


Figure 1.1 SAP S/4HANA, the Digital Core

Now let's explore the digital core, which is where you find the financial components this exam is about. SAP S/4HANA is a new breed of ERP written specifically with two major goals in mind:

- **Writing code to take advantage of SAP HANA**
SAP removes architectural redundancies to simplify and speed up the system. New code was developed for the core system architecture that did away with the

aggregation tables the old system relied on. The system doesn't use separate totals tables to store values; instead, totals are calculated on the fly from the line items. The system also did away with the index tables used for reporting because SAP HANA is fast enough to work on the line item level. Indices increase code complexity and have been removed. These are ambitious simplification steps that seem incompatible with the second goal.

- **Safeguarding existing customer investments**

Writing a completely new logic for the SAP S/4HANA system was and is ambitious, but doing so while maintaining compatibility with custom code written for the previous SAP ERP seems like it would require some form of witchcraft. However, this is exactly what SAP programmers have managed. The exact description of the mechanism isn't in scope for this certification, but, in a nutshell, SAP HANA compatibility views make it possible to replicate obsolete tables on the fly. In this way, an existing program that, for example, reads data from an index table (that was removed in SAP S/4HANA) can continue to retrieve the data as the system creates an on-the-fly replication of the original table. Another manifestation of this goal is the option SAP offers to customers to transform their SAP ERP system into an SAP S/4HANA system and continue business as usual without extensive downtimes.

Figure 1.2 shows how data is accessed for traditional applications that use compatibility views and aggregates, and the simplification achieved from reading directly from line item tables with SAP HANA-optimized apps.

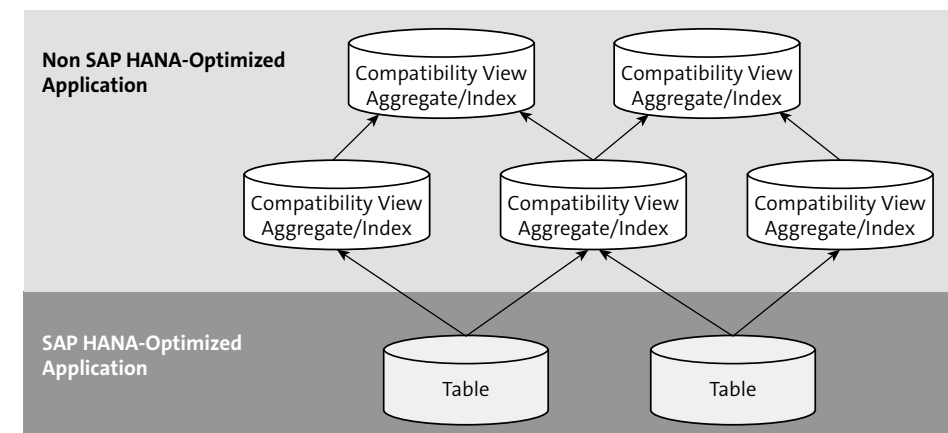


Figure 1.2 SAP HANA Application Simplification

**Note**

For a little history, the first component of the SAP ERP to be “simplified” through module unification and removal of aggregates was Finance with the release of the SAP Simple Finance 1503 add-on. The separate financials-only version of SAP S/4HANA is sold as a separate product: SAP S/4HANA Finance (current version at the time of writing is 1605).

SAP S/4HANA Deployment Options

SAP S/4HANA has two basic deployment options: on premise and cloud. The two editions of SAP S/4HANA aren't the same; they (currently) differ in scope and capabilities. On premise is the more complete solution, however, new functionalities are made available for both editions, and the cloud is catching up quickly. In addition, new versions of SAP S/4HANA Cloud are automatically deployed to cloud customers, whereas on-premise customer systems must be upgraded (and supported in general) manually, typically by an administrator from the in-house IT department. Customers might also decide to use both types of systems at the same time, for example, having an on-premise system for the large subsidiaries but adopting a cloud system for smaller subsidiaries with smaller transaction volumes and less complex business scenarios.

**Tip**

SAP naming conventions mandate that when referring to the on-premise edition, the product is SAP S/4HANA. The cloud edition is referred to as SAP S/4HANA Cloud.

SAP S/4HANA Adoption

Customers have three major options to start using the SAP S/4HANA: new implementation, system conversion, and landscape transformation. Let's drill down on these adoption options:

1. New implementation

In this case, customers can move from their legacy system (SAP ERP or a non-SAP system) and implement SAP S/4HANA from scratch. This scenario is also known as a greenfield approach. Customers with older, highly customized ERP solutions might prefer this option to clean-up their system and start over. This option is available for all editions of SAP S/4HANA.

2. System conversion

This is for customers who want to convert their existing SAP ERP system into an SAP S/4HANA system. The benefit is that customers can move to SAP S/4HANA without a re-implementation and with no major disruption to existing business processes. Once the conversion is completed, customers can gradually update their processes to adapt to SAP S/4HANA and SAP Fiori. This option is only available for on-premise customers of SAP S/4HANA.

**Tip**

The specific tasks required of an FI consultant during a system conversion project are a part of the SAP Certified Application Professional - Financials in SAP S/4HANA certification curriculum. Yet, this is out of scope for the application associate certification.

3. Landscape transformation

This adoption method is for customers who want to consolidate their landscape, or to selectively bring data into an SAP S/4HANA system.

For example, through Central Finance, customers can take advantage of the features and advantages of the Universal Journal and reporting using the SAP S/4HANA system. In this case, the source systems remain intact and business transactions are still performed in the source systems. Landscape transformation scenarios work on-premise and may selectively work with the cloud deployment as well.

SAP S/4HANA Cloud Options

SAP S/4HANA Cloud is offered in the following flavors:

■ SAP S/4HANA Cloud, private option:

- Resources are dedicated to one customer, and the system is accessed through a Virtual Private Network (VPN).
- The system is owned, managed, and operated by the customer, a third party, or both.
- Servers can be on or off customer premises.
- This is the closest option to an on-premise system.

■ SAP S/4HANA Cloud, public option:

- The system resources are shared by multiple customers (multitenant system).
- Customers log on through an Internet portal.

- Servers are on the premises of the third-party cloud provider (not the customer).
- **SAP S/4HANA Cloud, hybrid option:**
 - This is a combination of two or more distinct clouds.
 - The systems are integrated through technology that enables data and application portability.

**Warning**

The certification and this book focus only on SAP S/4HANA (i.e., the on-premise version).

The SAP S/4HANA System Landscape

System landscapes can vary greatly depending on the customer requirements and legacy ERP systems in use. A new installation for SAP S/4HANA would typically require two basic productive systems: the SAP S/4HANA backend server, and an SAP Gateway server. The SAP S/4HANA backend is, of course, the required component because without this, there is no ERP. The SAP Gateway server is where the connections and settings to SAP Fiori are established. SAP Fiori is an optional component of SAP S/4HANA; however, you aren't taking full advantage of SAP S/4HANA without it. You can access both with the traditional SAP GUI, in Figure 1.3 you can see the SAP Logon window with the two education systems, T41 is the back-end server and T4N is the gateway server.

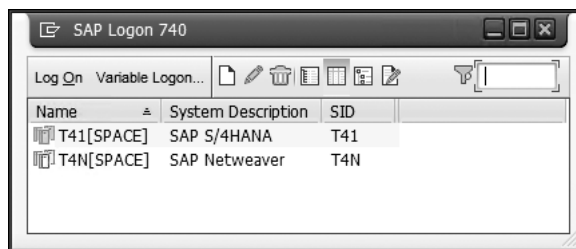


Figure 1.3 SAP Logon Screen with SAP S/4HANA Backend and SAP Gateway Server

The SAP Fiori User Interface

SAP Fiori is the common design paradigm for SAP. The SAP Fiori design language affects the look and feel of all things SAP and not only the interface of the new SAP

S/4HANA system. SAP recognized that everyday apps are becoming simpler to use and more flexible. Business software needs to keep up with this development or else the disconnect between “work software” and “daily apps” will cause issues in user acceptance, satisfaction, and productivity.

To create apps in SAP Fiori, you use the SAPUI5 framework. This framework is in turn based on the open source OpenUI5 framework, with the addition of a few extra SAP-specific tools. SAPUI5 is an open-source framework; that is, anyone can use it and implement improvements. The main development tools include HTML5, CCS3, jQuery, and JavaScript. Basing the entire development platform on open standards with general and broad acceptance ensures a lot of people will be familiar with the tools needed to develop SAP Fiori apps and that the apps have great compatibility with multiple device platforms.

SAP Fiori User Experience Paradigm

The SAP Fiori design and user experience paradigm is built on five principles:

- **Role-based**

Applications should be focused on providing the functionality required for a specific task. Complex screens with infinite selection options and one app for doing everything isn't the aim.
- **Responsive**

Apps should be usable on multiple devices and be able to adjust the interface to fit the device size, input methods, and so on.
- **Simple**

Apps should not need a manual or special training to be used. The apps should be designed for a single user and use case and require no more than three screens end to end.
- **Coherent**

The design has to be coherent between apps, and users should feel instantly familiar when accessing new apps. Also, apps should be designed with technical coherence as well, meaning they can be ported to other systems and speak the same language.
- **Instant value**

Apps need to be useful immediately, meaning they need to be easy to install, configure, and deploy in your IT landscape. On the user side, the purpose of the apps should be clear, and users should have no problem learning how to use

them. Ideally, users who have seen a couple of SAP Fiori apps in action should be able to move on to other apps without needing help or training.

SAP Fiori for SAP S/4HANA

SAP Fiori for SAP S/4HANA refers more specifically to the apps available for the system. The SAP development teams are constantly developing new native applications for SAP Fiori to replace the traditional and usually “busier” SAP GUI apps that SAP S/4HANA inherited. Native applications can also make use of all the exciting new technology available with SAP S/4HANA such as conversational UI, machine learning, immersive experiences, and so on. SAP S/4HANA Finance has a good head start, and quite a few native applications are already available.

In addition to the native SAP Fiori apps, you can also launch SAP GUI apps from the SAP Fiori launchpad, which will be launched in the web browser with an SAP Fiori “look” design theme called Belize (see Figure 1.4). The scope of the SAP ERP apps is huge, and not immediately having to replace everything at once gives SAP some breathing room to create useful and simpler native applications without sacrificing scope coverage. Customers can always develop their own apps as well, and easily adding SAP GUI apps to SAP Fiori allows any legacy custom ABAP apps to work through SAP Fiori.

You can see an example of the SAP Fiori look classic applications in Figure 1.4. The basic design elements for these include:

- A text based toolbar instead of icons
- All labels are right aligned
- New design icons with common design language
- Condensed table rows
- The SAP Fiori header back button replaces the in-app navigation controls
- Tab strips (the active tab highlighting) are redesigned
- Processing and closing actions are moved to the footer of the screen



Tip

SAP GUI apps are referred to by SAP in the new system as SAP S/4HANA classic applications.

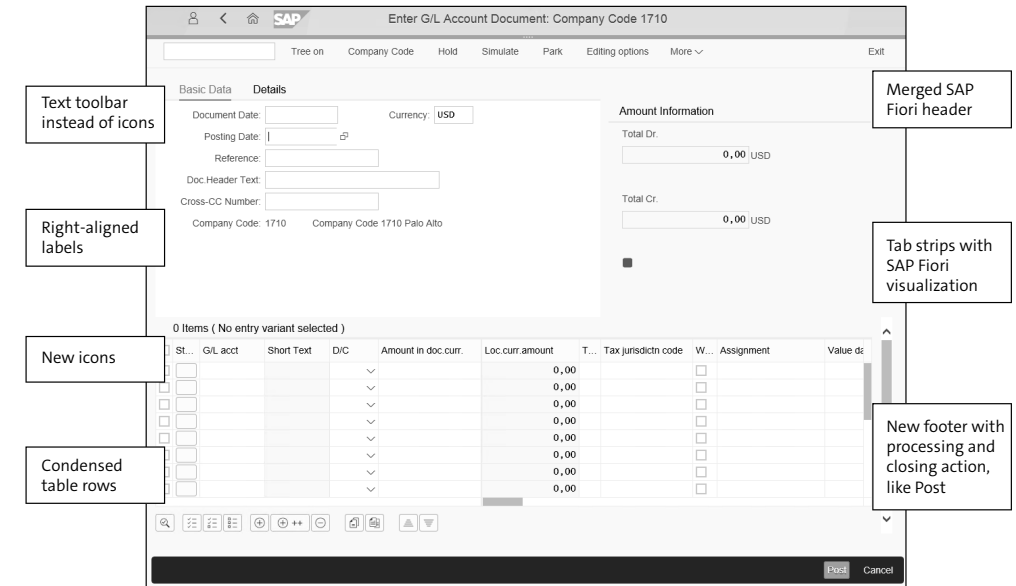


Figure 1.4 SAP Fiori Look for HTML GUI app

SAP Fiori apps fit into one of three categories:

■ Transactional apps

Apps used to perform operations such as master record creation and maintenance, or posting transactions. For example, the clear incoming payments app, as seen in Figure 1.5.

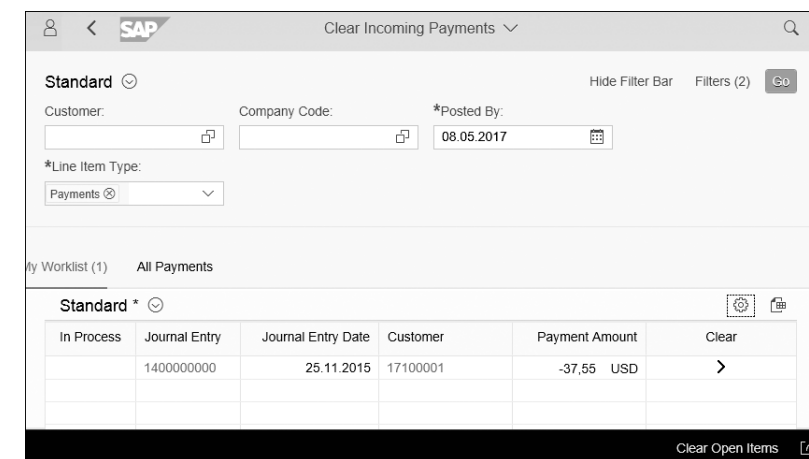


Figure 1.5 Transactional Application Example, Clear Incoming Payments

Analytical apps

These are detailed reports used to drill down to great details or “zoom out” to the organization level you need. One of these, the overdue payables, can be seen in Figure 1.6.

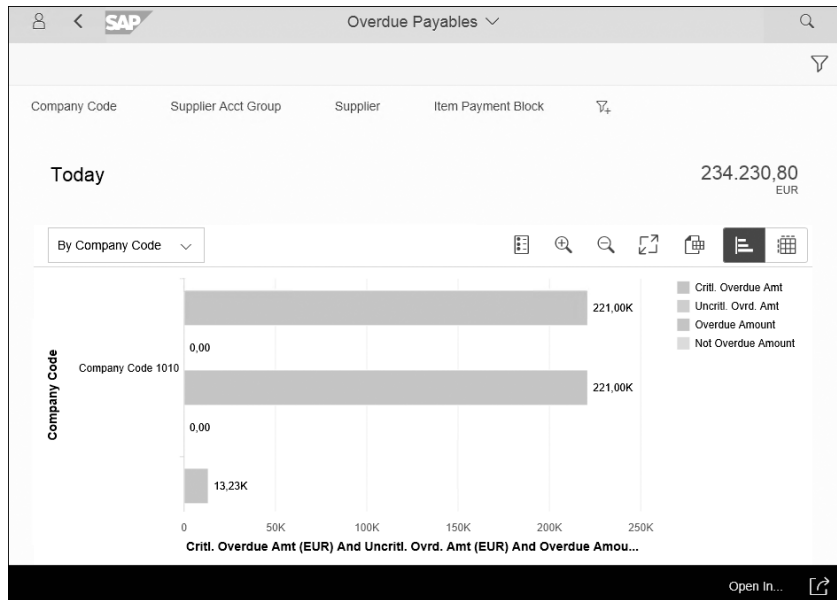


Figure 1.6 Analytical App Example, Overdue Payables

Factsheet apps

Quick overviews of a specific object with the basic details and even some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in one screen, you can often navigate directly with links from one factsheet to another for related objects. Figure 1.7 shows an example of this, the supplier invoice search.

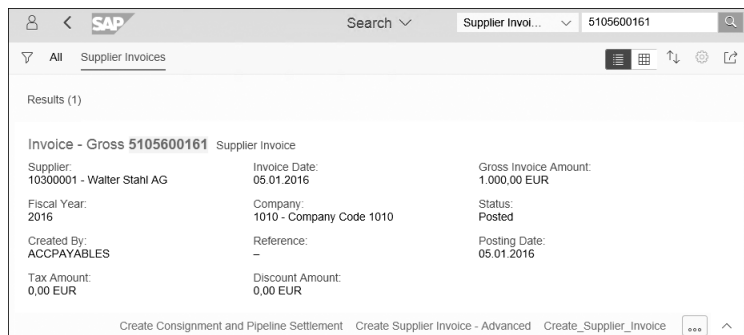


Figure 1.7 Factsheet App Example, Supplier Invoice Search

The SAP Fiori Launchpad

The SAP Fiori launchpad is the user access point to the system (as seen in Figure 1.8). It's a customizable web-based interface where all the apps a user has assigned can be launched. The apps don't need to be from one specific system, the tiles can launch apps and links for any system connected and compatible.

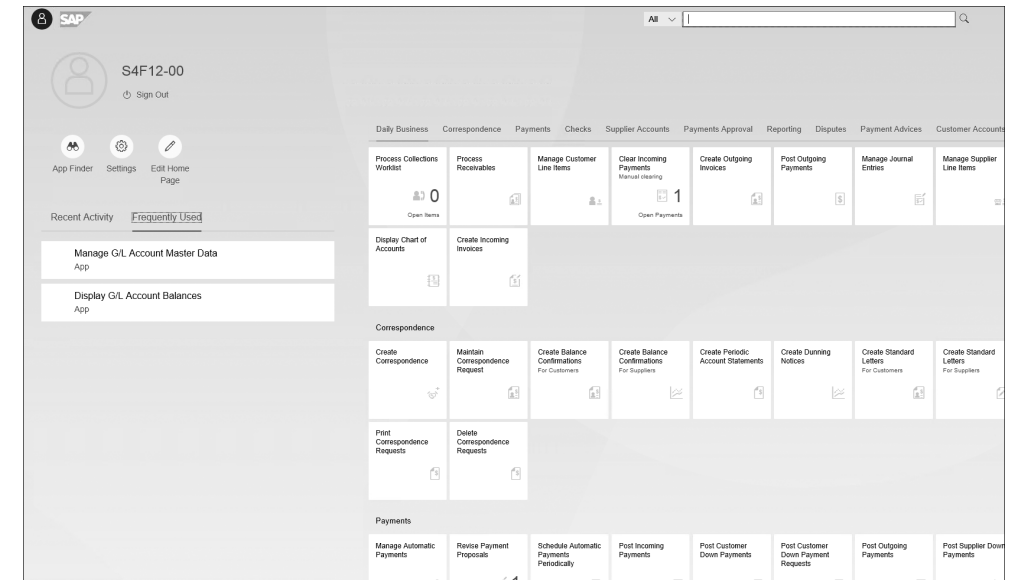


Figure 1.8 The SAP Fiori Launchpad with the “Me” Area Expanded

Let's explore the important characteristics and functionalities of the SAP Fiori launchpad:

- You access it from a web browser with a fixed URL. The URL can be shared with anyone on the network. If they have a username and password and are authorized, they will be able to log on without further installations of local software (see top of Figure 1.9).

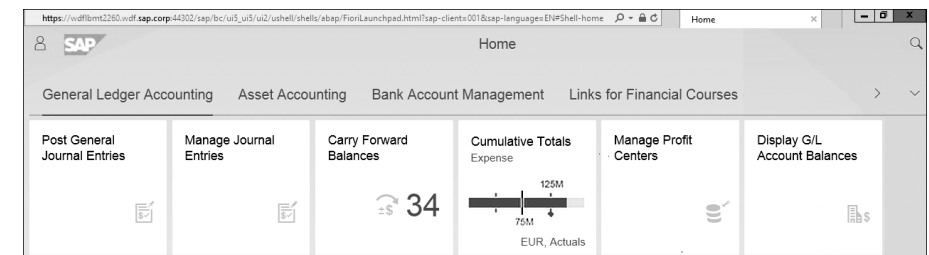


Figure 1.9 Browser View of SAP Fiori

- Apps are displayed as tiles (or rarely also as text links). The tiles can be static, meaning they have a fixed icon or active. Active tiles show some important information directly on them without needing to be clicked on. Active tiles update displayed information at customizable periodic intervals and can be helpful to provide a quick status overview for topics of interest such as open payments, number of open workflow messages, and others. You can see the active tile for the app cumulative totals in Figure 1.9.
- Advanced search functionality isn't limited to applications; there is a dropdown list to search for many characteristics. The system will directly display information for the searched object in a factsheet, as shown in Figure 1.10.
- An end user can customize the apps and app groups displayed in his SAP Fiori launchpad. Selecting the **Edit Home Page** option (shown previously in the **Me** area in Figure 1.8) will allow a user to reposition apps, remove apps, add apps (that the user has access to), move groups, add groups, rename groups, and remove groups completely. A user can at any time reset groups back to their default.

Company Code	User Responsible	Valid from	Valid to
1010 - Company Code 1010	-	01.01.2012	31.12.9999
1010 - Company Code 1010	-	01.01.2012	31.12.9999
1010 - Company Code 1010	-	01.01.2012	31.12.9999

Figure 1.10 SAP Fiori Launchpad: Search for Cost Centers



Warning

The scope of apps each user can open, the initial grouping of apps, and the apps included in these standard groups are all controlled by an administrator.

Within most native SAP Fiori apps, and especially for reports, a user has the option to save the current view (with whatever inputs have been made) as a new tile.

Clicking on the tile directly from the SAP Fiori home page will execute the app with the settings defined when the tile was created. This is useful, for example, in KPI reports when you want to have easy access to information for a specific combination of characteristic values.

Customers can use their own themes to fully customize the look of the SAP Fiori launchpad. The colors, background, logos, fonts, and so on can all be changed from the SAP standard delivered theme. You can design multiple themes, and users can select between them. All such Customizing is done with the UI theme designer, as shown in Figure 1.11.

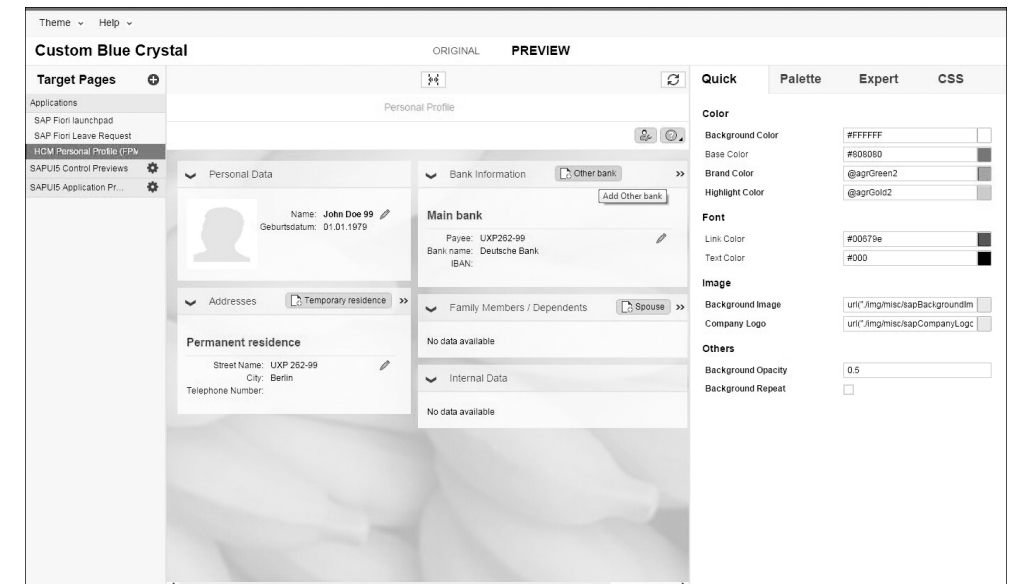


Figure 1.11 UI Theme Designer

The user can select the **Settings** option in the **Me** area to display information for his user account, as shown in Figure 1.12. This is also where users select the theme and default language and region settings. Under **User Profiling**, the user can select to enable customized search (which tracks activity of the user to tailor search results) and, if enabled, select to clear the search cache. Finally, the user can set default values proposed by apps for many system attributes such as company code, plant, planner profile, and so on.

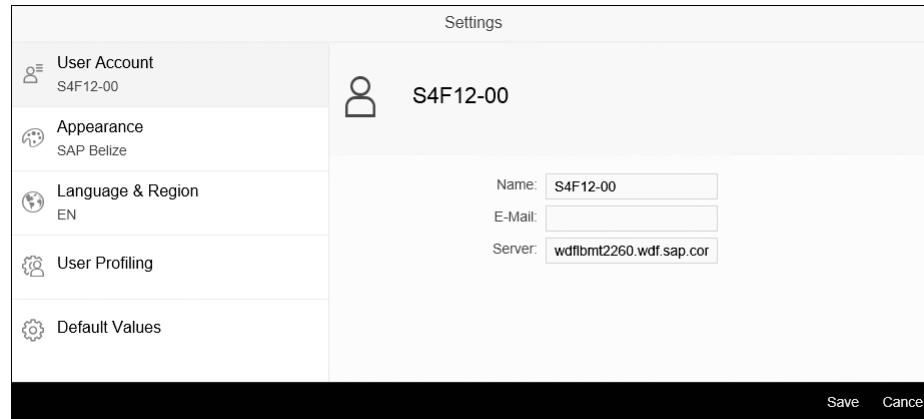


Figure 1.12 Launchpad User Settings

SAP Fiori Launchpad Designer

In SAP S/4HANA, you define roles, which provide authorizations for performing various functions, and then you assign these roles to users. A user can be assigned to multiple roles. SAP delivers a standard set of roles and sample users through best practice content. It's the same in the SAP Gateway server, however, the business roles you assign here contain SAP Fiori tile catalogs and tile groups. Catalogs and groups are assigned to roles, which are in turn assigned to users. This assignment defines which application tiles a user sees on his launchpad and has authorization to add to groups and launch through the App Finder. You can rely on the many SAP-delivered standard catalogs and groups if you don't want to make changes, or you can use them as a reference for your own. With the SAP launchpad designer, you create the catalogs and the groups for your SAP Fiori launchpad, as shown in Figure 1.13.

SAP Fiori catalogs hold configuration information for apps. Here you maintain names, subtitles, icons, and other options for the more technical settings for your tiles (these are useful to understand but completely out of scope for this book). After you've created a catalog, you assign it to a role (and the role to a user). The application tiles inside the catalog define the applications a user has access to. If a tile is included in a SAP Fiori tile group to which a user is assigned, but the tile isn't in any of the catalogs assigned, the user won't be able to see the tile. You'll need to assign the catalog to the user that the tile is in. You can create as many catalogs as required to meet the needs of end-user roles (see Figure 1.14).

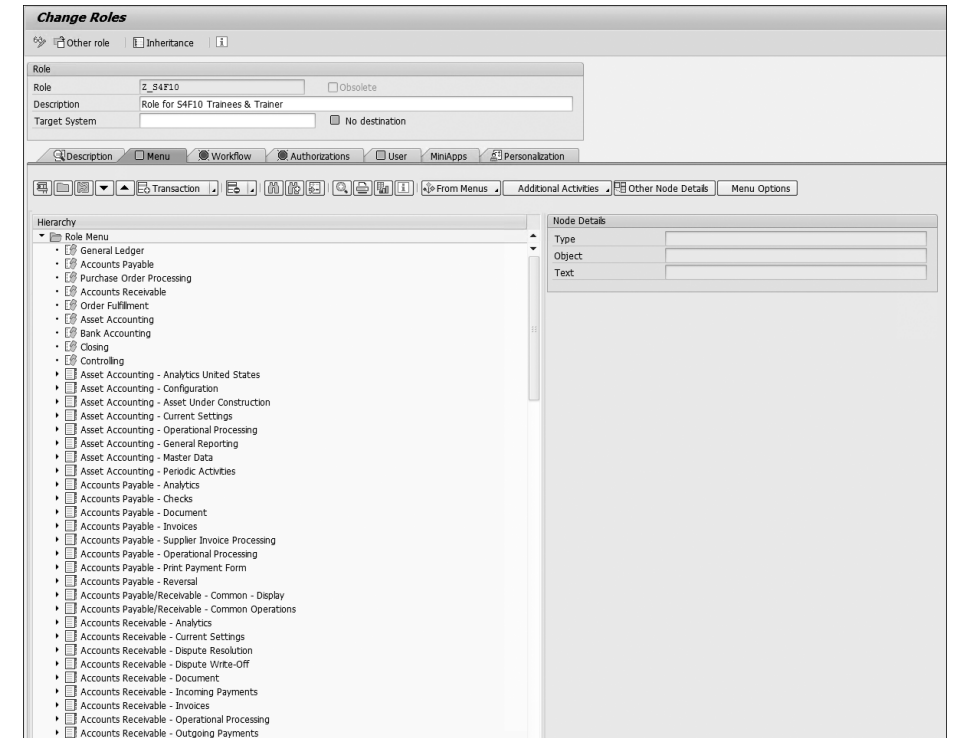


Figure 1.13 Role Maintenance in the SAP Gateway Server

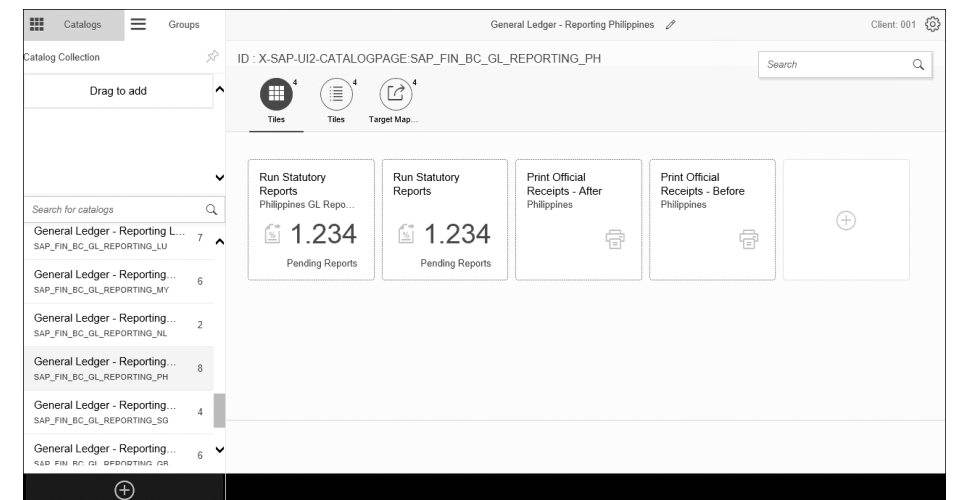


Figure 1.14 Launchpad Designer: Catalogs

The name of a group and the tiles included in that group are assigned in the SAP Fiori tile group configuration in the SAP Fiori launchpad designer (see Figure 1.15). You can add tiles to the group from many different catalogs, but the user must be assigned to all the relevant catalogs to see and use the tiles. You can select whether the end user will be allowed to change a tile group on his own launchpad or not. Finally, you select whether apps will be displayed as tiles or as links.

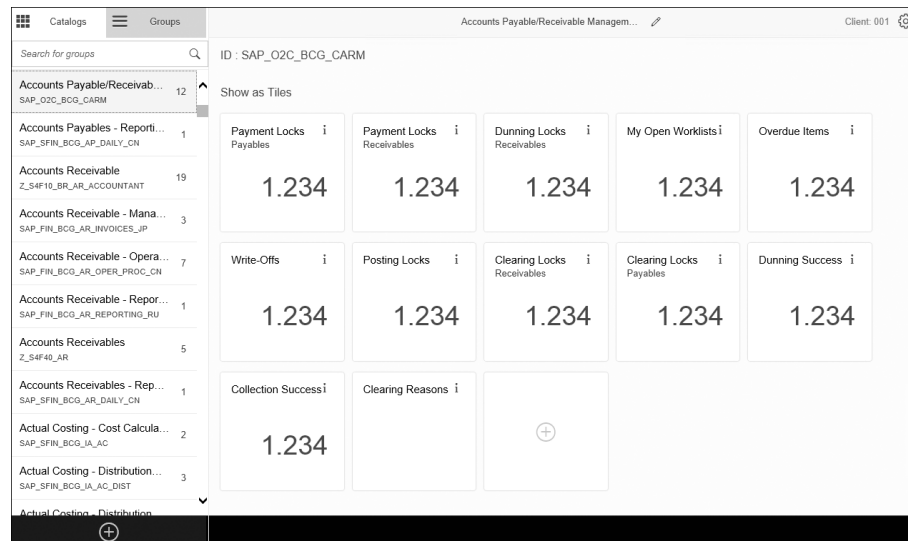


Figure 1.15 Launchpad Designer: Groups



Warning

If you make changes to SAP-delivered catalogs or groups, these will be overwritten by updated versions of the groups and catalogs provided by SAP. It's always best to create your own and assign tiles as needed. You can then assign these to your own roles.

Important Terminology

In this chapter, the following terminology was used:

■ In-memory technology

Data storage in RAM instead of in disks to capitalize on lower latency and read/write times. The technology still makes use of disks for historic data and backup purposes.

■ Columnar store

Data are stored in columns instead of in the more traditional rows; this allows speedier read performance and greater compression capabilities. The downside is suboptimal transactional processing.

■ SAP S/4HANA

The new ERP system from SAP that leverages SAP HANA to simplify the code and data structures. It's designed to be the digital core for all business applications of the customer and to allow businesses to go digital. It's offered on premise with a traditional ownership model and in the cloud with a subscription model.

■ SAP S/4HANA Cloud, public option

A standardized SAP S/4HANA solution with a specific scope and fewer Customizing options. The infrastructure is shared with other customers. You don't get exclusive-use hardware.

■ SAP S/4HANA Cloud, private option

A customizable SAP S/4HANA solution with increased scope and greater Customizing options. The infrastructure is used only by a single customer. Customers own or rent exclusive-use hardware.

■ SAP S/4HANA Cloud, hybrid option

Involves combining a public and private cloud offering, or running a private and public cloud together. Each cloud may run a separate edition of SAP S/4HANA Cloud. The servers in the cloud act as if they are part of your own data center, even though they are in the cloud provider's data center.

■ SAP Fiori

A new common design paradigm for all SAP applications. The design goal is to make business apps intuitive to use and available on all platforms and devices. SAP Fiori is based on the following design principles: role-based, responsive, simple, coherent, and instant value.

■ SAP Fiori for SAP S/4HANA

A group of applications that are designed for SAP S/4HANA. There are three basic app types: transactional, analytical, and factsheets.

■ SAP Gateway server

The server used to connect SAP Fiori to one or more SAP S/4HANA, SAP ERP, SAP Business Warehouse (SAP BW), and so on backend systems. SAP Fiori application configuration is performed here as well as SAP Fiori user maintenance.

■ SAP Fiori Launchpad

The end-user interface "cockpit" for SAP Fiori that is accessed through any

modern web browser without extra software requirements. It displays several applications in flat rectangular forms called tiles. The applications available depend on the user role and authorizations. It offers many Customizing options for the end user such as theme selection, custom grouping, and displayed application selection.

■ **SAP Fiori launchpad designer**

Administrator interface to customize the catalogs and groups available in the system. You define the configuration for SAP Fiori tiles in the catalog section and the tiles included in groups in the group section.

Practice Questions

These practice questions will help you evaluate your understanding of the topics covered in this chapter. The questions shown are similar in nature to those found on the certification examination. Although none of these questions will be found on the exam itself, they will allow you to review your knowledge of the subject. Select the correct answers, and then check the completeness of your answers in the Practice Question Answers and Explanations section. Remember that on the exam, you must select all correct answers and only correct answers to receive credit for the question.

- Which SAP technological product provides the platform required for SAP to support the digital transformation of an organization?
 - A. SAP HANA
 - B. SAP CRM
 - C. SAP Fiori
 - D. SAP NetWeaver
- The SAP HANA database relies on which of the following technologies for storing data? (There are three correct answers.)
 - A. In-memory
 - B. Aggregation
 - C. Indexing
 - D. Columnar store
 - E. Compression

- Data in the SAP HANA database is stored in which two ways?
 - A. Random
 - B. Vector
 - C. Column
 - D. Row
- True or False: In an environment of systems using SAP HANA, you can perform both OLAP and OLTP processing without duplication of the data for the SAP BW and SAP ERP systems.
 - A. True
 - B. False
- SAP HANA makes extensive use of which high-speed hardware technology to offer more speed?
 - A. Read-only memory
 - B. Solid-State Drives (SSDs)
 - C. Graphic Processing Units (GPUs)
 - D. Multicore CPUs
- True or False: SAP S/4HANA replaces SAP ERP, and development and support are shifted completely to it.
 - A. True
 - B. False
- Which of the following product lines does the SAP S/4HANA system rely on for most human resource management functions?
 - A. Concur
 - B. SAP Ariba
 - C. SAP SuccessFactors
 - D. SAP Hybris

8. What technology did SAP leverage to eliminate aggregate tables from the SAP S/4HANA system while maintaining compatibility with many legacy programs?
- A. Columnar store
 - B. Compatibility views
 - C. Data aging
 - D. Indices
9. True or False: Choosing between SAP S/4HANA and SAP S/4HANA Cloud is also a matter of required scope.
- A. True
 - B. False
10. Which is the most flexible SAP S/4HANA Cloud solution for customers?
- A. Private option
 - B. Public option
 - C. Hybrid option
 - D. Community option
11. True or False: The only version of the public cloud edition of SAP S/4HANA a customer can be on is the latest released version.
- A. True
 - B. False
12. A user wants to add an application to his SAP Fiori home page but can't find it in the App Finder. What does the admin have to do?
- A. Assign the corresponding SAP Fiori tile group to the user.
 - B. Assign the corresponding SAP Fiori tile catalog to the user.
 - C. Add the tile to a tile group already assigned to the user.
 - D. Add the corresponding tile catalog to the tile group.

13. Where can an SAP Fiori end user change the theme of their launchpad?
- A. In the **Me** area of the launchpad
 - B. In the **Tile Catalog** area of the launchpad designer
 - C. In the **Tile Group** area of the launchpad designer
 - D. In the UI theme designer
14. True or False: Anyone with an appropriate user name and password can log on to the SAP Fiori launchpad through a web browser.
- A. True
 - B. False
15. What kind of customization can users do on their launchpad? (There are two correct answers.)
- A. Change the name of tile groups.
 - B. Create their own tile groups.
 - C. Change the names of tiles.
 - D. Change the icons on tiles.
16. Which of the following are SAP Fiori design principles? (There are two correct answers.)
- A. Role-based
 - B. Routine
 - C. Rational
 - D. Responsive

Practice Question Answers and Explanations

1. Correct answer: A
SAP HANA is SAP's default platform to support the digital transformation for businesses. It's the cornerstone on which current and future SAP products are built.

2. Correct answers: **A, D, E**
In-memory is the most obvious answer here, columnar store is the preferred SAP HANA data storage technique, and through compression, SAP HANA manages to cut down on the infrastructure costs and support larger customers. On the other hand, aggregates are supported but should be avoided as the idea is to have all the data at the highest granularity to provide flexible reporting. The same is true for the indices because with SAP HANA, they offer little speed improvement and sacrifice too much in the way of flexibility as they must be predefined, and adding reporting characteristics is difficult.
3. Correct answers: **C, D**
Column store is the preferred method for SAP HANA as discussed because it's better for reading data. Row storage is preferred by classic databases and is supported fully by SAP HANA.
4. Correct answer: **True**
SAP HANA was designed to fulfill the goal of combining optimal OLTP and OLAP processing in one database. This simplifies the process of answering questions such as "How did I come up with this number" and saves on IT resources requiring fewer systems to support.
5. Correct answer: **D**
With many streams of data to process and large requirements for communication between memory and CPU cache, you can use a lot of CPU cores at the same time. Even though GPUs might seem the most out of place here, they offer tremendous calculation power and are developing faster than the CPUs. Although many companies are considering using some of their special characteristics in the business application world, and we might be hearing of more of these exploits in the future, for now, they aren't used by SAP HANA. Solid-state drives (SSDs) offer a big boost to traditional databases, and because SAP HANA uses disk drives for many nonspeed critical processes (e.g., backup and aged data), they can be used with SAP HANA. Unfortunately, they don't offer much in the way of improved speed due to the architecture. Read-only memory is irrelevant.
6. Correct answer: **False**
SAP S/4HANA is the successor to SAP ERP, but it doesn't replace it. There is still a huge customer base who relies on SAP ERP, and SAP has promised support until 2025 (at the time of publication) for these customers.

7. Correct answer: **C**
SAP SuccessFactors is the go-to solution for human capital management with SAP S/4HANA.
8. Correct answer: **B**
Compatibility views can be materialized on demand for data in line item tables of the SAP HANA database to support programs that read old aggregate and index tables that are no longer in the system.
9. Correct answer: **True**
The product scopes still vary with SAP on premise being the more complete solution currently.
10. Correct answer: **A**
The private cloud solution gives the customer full control over the infrastructure and software, which enables the most flexibility among the available cloud solutions.
11. Correct answer: **True**
Updates in the realm of the public cloud are always required. A customer can't choose to skip a product release cycle because the system is upgraded for all at the same time.
12. Correct answer: **B**
The SAP Fiori tile catalog defines which tiles a user is authorized to use. If the user isn't assigned to the right catalog, he won't see the application tile even if it's part of a group he is also assigned to.
13. Correct answers **A**
An end user will only typically have access to the launchpad; other SAP Fiori tools are for admins. The **Me** area is where users control all changeable settings for their launchpad, including theme selection.
14. Correct answer: **True**
No special software needs to be installed; all modern, up-to-date web browsers with HTML5 support will work.
15. Correct answers: **A, B**
Changing the name and look of tiles can only be done in the catalog view of the SAP Fiori launchpad designer. End users can only access the SAP Fiori launchpad where they can manage their tile groups.

16. Correct answers: A, D

SAP Fiori principles mandate that applications should be role-based, catering to specific tasks performed by specific users. SAP Fiori apps should also be responsive, adjusting their interface to work optimally for different devices.

Takeaway

You now have a good overview understanding of the SAP HANA database. You understand the benefits of the SAP HANA architecture and the technologies that it uses to improve on traditional disk-based databases.

In addition, you were introduced to SAP S/4HANA, the new SAP ERP and the core software required for what SAP envisions to be the digital business revolution. You understand the deployment options available and should be able to determine which option best fits a customer's needs.

Finally, you gained an insight into the SAP Fiori design paradigm and what it means specifically for SAP S/4HANA. You learned the basic SAP Fiori tools and how the tile catalogs and groups control the apps a user sees and can use.

Summary

You've gained the high-level understanding of SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, and SAP Fiori. You can now explain the basic concepts and benefits of these to customers and can propose deployment options. You can also help users with basic SAP Fiori operations.

This chapter is the only one not directly related to Financial Accounting (FI) in SAP S/4HANA, and it's also the most technical chapter in the book and exam. However, the knowledge here is very important for new as well as experienced consultants with no prior experience with SAP S/4HANA.

In the next chapter, we'll cover General Ledger (G/L) accounting business processes and Customizing, starting first with the description of the core organizational units in Financial Accounting with SAP S/4HANA.

Contents

Preface	11
Introduction: The Path to Certification	17
1 SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA, and SAP Fiori	43
Objectives of This Portion of the Test	44
Key Concept Refresher	45
Digital Transformation	45
SAP HANA Architecture	46
Technology Enablers for SAP HANA Success	47
SAP S/4HANA	48
SAP S/4HANA Deployment Options	50
The SAP S/4HANA System Landscape	52
The SAP Fiori User Interface	52
SAP Fiori User Experience Paradigm	53
SAP Fiori for SAP S/4HANA	54
The SAP Fiori Launchpad	57
SAP Fiori Launchpad Designer	60
Important Terminology	62
Practice Questions	64
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	67
Takeaway	70
Summary	70
2 General Ledger Accounting	71
Objectives of This Portion of the Test	72
Key Concept Refresher	73
Organizational Units	73

Integration to Non-Financial Accounting Organizational Units	86
Master Records	88
Global Financial Accounting Configuration	101
Business Transaction in the General Ledger	131
Important Terminology	143
Practice Questions	144
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	152
Takeaway	157
Summary	158

3 Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable 159

Objectives of This Portion of the Test	160
Key Concept Refresher	161
Business Partners	161
Payment Terms	181
Invoicing	187
Manual Payments	194
Automatic Payments	197
Dunning	216
Correspondence	229
Special General Ledger Accounting	232
Reporting	240
Important Terminology	242
Practice Questions	245
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	252
Takeaway	257
Summary	257

4 Asset Accounting 259

Objectives of This Portion of the Test	261
Key Concept Refresher	261
Fixed Asset Accounting	261
Chart of Depreciation	262
Depreciation Areas	264
Asset Class	267
Account Determination	269
Screen Layouts	271
User-Defined Fields	273
Asset Master Data	274
Integration with Plant Maintenance	276
Asset Transaction Types	276
Asset Acquisitions	278
Asset Retirements	284
Asset Transfers	287
Low-Value Assets	291
Assets Under Construction	292
Asset Depreciation	294
Asset Year-End Process	298
Asset Reporting	300
Asset Legacy Data Transfer	302
Important Terminology	306
Practice Questions	308
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	313
Takeaway	317
Summary	318

5 Financial Closing 319

Objectives of This Portion of the Test	320
Key Concept Refresher	321
Financial Statement Version	321

General Ledger Closing	332
Accruals and Deferrals	340
Closing Activities in Receivables and Payables	343
Closing Activities in Materials Management	356
SAP Financial Closing Cockpit	362
Methods for Intercompany Reconciliation	365
Important Terminology	372
Practice Questions	374
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	379
Takeaway	381
Summary	382

6 SAP Financials Cross Topics 383

Objectives of This Portion of the Test	385
Key Concept Refresher	385
Bank Account Management	386
Document Parking	391
Validations and Substitutions	402
Data Archiving	416
Data Aging	423
Important Terminology	428
Practice Questions	431
Practice Question Answers and Explanations	434
Takeaway	436
Summary	436

The Author	439
Index	441

Index

A

ABAP	54, 74, 152	Asset accounting (Cont.)	
Account assignment	326	<i>year-end process</i>	298
Account clearing	357	Asset acquisitions	278
Account determination	269, 307	<i>automatic offsetting</i>	278
Account group	91, 143, 179	<i>integration with accounts payable</i>	280
<i>correspondence</i>	179	<i>simulation</i>	283
<i>customer</i>	168, 243	<i>transaction data</i>	279
<i>details</i>	169	Asset class	267, 306
<i>house bank</i>	177	<i>configuration</i>	268
<i>individual payment</i>	179	Asset depreciation	294
<i>maintenance</i>	177	<i>calculation</i>	294
<i>normal</i>	171	<i>depreciation key</i>	295
<i>one-time</i>	171	<i>posting run</i>	297
<i>payment methods</i>	177	<i>time-dependent</i>	295
<i>payment terms</i>	177	Asset legacy data transfer	302
<i>posting block</i>	177	<i>data migration</i>	304
<i>reconciliation account</i>	177	<i>migration preparation</i>	302
<i>sort key</i>	177	Asset master data	274
<i>supplier</i>	168, 243	<i>creation</i>	274
<i>tolerance group</i>	177	<i>subnumber</i>	275
Accounting principle		Asset reporting	300
<i>assignment</i>	109	<i>balance report</i>	301
<i>definition</i>	108	<i>history sheet</i>	302
Accounting principles	108	<i>value report</i>	300
Accounts payable	159	Asset retirement	
Accounts payable/accounts receivable		<i>create</i>	285
regrouping	159, 354	<i>worklist</i>	286
Accounts receivable	159	Asset retirements	284
Accrual	372	<i>asset sale invoice</i>	284
Additional learning resources	35	Asset sale, line items	285
Alternative payer/payee	174	Asset transaction type	307
Analytical app	56	Asset transfer	287
AP/AR regrouping	373	<i>intracompany</i>	288
Application area	429	Asset transfers	
Archive, variant	430	<i>intercompany</i>	289
Archiving	430	<i>methods</i>	290
Asset accounting	259	Asset under construction	307
<i>assets under construction</i>	292	Asset value date	307
<i>low-value assets</i>	291	Audit journal	332, 338
<i>PM integration</i>	276	Auditing	338
<i>transactions</i>	276	Automatic payment	
		<i>company codes</i>	199
		<i>country level</i>	202

Automatic payment (Cont.)	
<i>customization</i>	200
<i>parameters</i>	210
<i>review</i>	212
<i>run</i>	209
Automatic Payment Program	197, 243
<i>customizing</i>	198
Automatic payments	197
B	
Balance carryforward	337
Balance confirmation	343, 372
Bank account management	386
<i>create</i>	387, 389
<i>house bank</i>	388
Bank directory	386, 428
Bank group	428
Business area	85
<i>definition</i>	85
Business partner	161, 177
<i>address</i>	176
<i>categories</i>	162, 242
<i>communication</i>	176
<i>customers</i>	175
<i>field attributes</i>	166
<i>general data</i>	173
<i>grouping</i>	243
<i>groups</i>	162
<i>organizations</i>	162
<i>persons</i>	162
<i>role</i>	163, 242
<i>role definition</i>	163
<i>role grouping</i>	164
<i>suppliers</i>	175, 181
<i>type</i>	166, 243
C	
C_ACT_2016	20
C_S4IMP_16	20
C_TS410_16	19
C_TS4CO_16	20
C_TS4FI_1610	20, 21
Call-up point	430
Carryforward	372
CCS3	53
Central Finance	51
Changing documents	136
Chart of accounts	89, 143, 154
<i>alternative</i>	89
<i>blocked</i>	91
<i>country</i>	89
<i>create</i>	90
<i>description</i>	90
<i>group</i>	89
<i>maintenance language</i>	90
<i>operational</i>	89
<i>settings</i>	90
Chart of depreciation	262, 306
Client	73, 143
000	74
001	74
066	74
100	74
200	74
Company	82
Company code	76, 143
<i>address</i>	79
<i>chart of accounts</i>	80
<i>company</i>	81
<i>copy</i>	77
<i>country chart/accounts</i>	80
<i>create</i>	77
<i>credit control area</i>	81
<i>currency</i>	78
<i>definition</i>	78
<i>field status variant</i>	81
<i>fiscal year variant</i>	81
<i>global parameter</i>	80
<i>posting period variant</i>	81
Concur	48
Controlling	86
CO-PA, account-based	87
Correspondence	229
<i>payment differences</i>	231
<i>printing</i>	231
<i>types</i>	229, 244
Cross-company code postings	140
Currency	112
<i>types</i>	114
Currency exchange rate	113
<i>direct quotation</i>	114
<i>indirect quotation</i>	114

Currency exchange rate (Cont.)	
<i>maintenance</i>	113
Current partition	430
Customer/supplier tolerance	186

D

Data aging	423, 430
<i>activation</i>	424
<i>customizing</i>	424
<i>run</i>	427
<i>table partitioning</i>	426
Data archiving	416, 430
<i>administration</i>	421
<i>archiving objects</i>	418
<i>cross-object</i>	417
<i>customizing</i>	417
<i>define</i>	419
<i>G/L example</i>	419
<i>job logs</i>	422
<i>object-specific</i>	418
Data Medium Exchange Engine	205
Deferral	372
Depreciation area	264, 306
<i>configuration</i>	265
<i>definition</i>	264
<i>derived</i>	266
Depreciation key	307
Digital transformation	45, 64
Document header	132
Document line item	135
Document parking	391
<i>holding</i>	392
<i>release approval path</i>	397
<i>release groups</i>	395
<i>workflow</i>	394, 398
<i>workflow builder</i>	393
Document splitting	124, 144
<i>activation</i>	127
<i>characteristics</i>	127
<i>deactivate</i>	127
<i>inheritance</i>	126
<i>method</i>	126
<i>steps</i>	129
Document type	144
<i>authorization group</i>	116

Document type (Cont.)	
<i>definition</i>	116
<i>maintenance</i>	116
<i>number range</i>	116
<i>reverse</i>	116
Document types	115
Down payments	237
Dunning	216
<i>areas</i>	244
<i>block reason</i>	218
<i>block reasons</i>	244
<i>company code</i>	225
<i>configuration</i>	216
<i>grouping</i>	226
<i>letter</i>	222
<i>procedure</i>	244
<i>procedures</i>	218
<i>program</i>	244
<i>run</i>	227
<i>text maintenance</i>	222
Dunning charges	223
Dunning details	226
Dunning key, definition	217
Dunning level	221
<i>maintenance</i>	220

E

eAcademy	27
Exam format	22
Exam scope	23
Extension ledger	143

F

Factsheet apps	56
FI integration	86
<i>controlling</i>	87
<i>logistics</i>	87
<i>SAP ERP HCM</i>	88
Field definition	92
Field groups	92
Field status	
<i>error example</i>	119
Financial accounting	101
Financial closing	319
<i>real-world scenario</i>	320

Financial statement	321	General Ledger closing	332
ABAP	329	<i>posting period</i>	333
<i>definitions</i>	322	GR/IR account	373
<i>hierarchy</i>	323	H	
<i>item definition</i>	324		
<i>node</i>	325	Head office	177
<i>output with SAP Fiori</i>	327	Held document	428
<i>output with SAP Jam</i>	328	Historical partition	430
Financial Statement Version	372	House bank	428
Fiscal year variant	110, 144	HTML5	53, 69
<i>definition</i>	111	I	
<i>list</i>	110		
<i>period</i>	111	Individual value adjustment	373
Fixed asset accounting	261	Intercompany reconciliation	365, 374
Foreign currency	197	International Financial Reporting	
Foreign currency valuation	373	Standards (IFRS)	84
Formula editor	430	Internet of Things	45
Functional area	84	Invoice payment	
<i>definition</i>	84	<i>details</i>	189
G		<i>screen variants</i>	189
General Ledger	72	Invoicing	187
<i>integration with controlling</i>	111	J	
<i>invoice document</i>	125		
<i>special indicators</i>	224	JavaScript	53
General Ledger accounting	71	jQuery	53
<i>business transaction</i>	131	L	
<i>posting</i>	131		
General Ledger accounts	88	Ledger	103
<i>account currency</i>	95	<i>configuration</i>	103
<i>allocation</i>	96	<i>currency type</i>	104
<i>balance sheet account</i>	93	<i>deactivating</i>	104
<i>copy</i>	77	<i>extension ledger</i>	106, 107
<i>field status group</i>	96	<i>fiscal year variant</i>	104
<i>general data</i>	94	<i>posting period variant</i>	104
<i>maintain</i>	93	Ledger comparison report	331
<i>master record</i>	98	Ledger group	105
<i>nonoperating expense or income</i>	93	<i>assignment</i>	106, 109
<i>open item management</i>	96	<i>create</i>	105
<i>primary costs</i>	93	<i>definition</i>	105
<i>primary revenue</i>	93	<i>leading ledger</i>	105
<i>reconciliation account</i>	96	<i>list</i>	106
<i>retained earnings</i>	95	<i>representative ledger</i>	105
<i>secondary costs</i>	93		
<i>tax category</i>	95		
<i>universal journal</i>	72		

Logistics	86	Payment term (Cont.)	
Low-Value Asset	307	<i>day limit</i>	182
M		<i>definition</i>	182, 183
		<i>payment block</i>	183
Manual payments	194	Payment terms	243
Master data, supplier	174	Physical inventory	357, 373
Master records	88, 152	<i>continuous</i>	357
Materials Management	88	<i>cycle counting</i>	357
<i>closing activities</i>	356	<i>periodic</i>	357
Multiple choice example	32	Plant Maintenance	88
O		Posting accrual	340
		<i>automatic reversal</i>	342
OLAP	65, 68	<i>journal</i>	341
OLTP	65, 68	Posting deferrals	340
Open posting periods	334	Posting key	117, 144, 156
openSAP	41	<i>account type</i>	120
OpenUI5	53	<i>definition</i>	118
Organizational object	429	<i>range</i>	120
Organizational units	71, 73, 152	Posting period variant	144
<i>client level</i>	86	Practice questions	144
Outgoing payment	195	Primary cost and revenue account	97
P		Profit center	
		<i>heirarchy maintenance</i>	100
P_S4FIN_1610	20	<i>hierarchy</i>	83, 100
Parallel accounting	102, 143	<i>maintenance</i>	101
<i>accounts approach</i>	102	Profit centers	83, 99
<i>example</i>	102	<i>definition</i>	99
<i>ledger approach</i>	102	Profitability analysis (CO-PA)	87
Parked document	428	R	
<i>save</i>	399		
Payment		Real-time consolidation	370
<i>block reasons</i>	243	Reconciliation account	238
<i>methods</i>	243	<i>alternative</i>	239
Payment block		Recurring entry	372
<i>reasons</i>	185	Release approval path	429
Payment media creation	215	Release group	429
Payment Medium Workbench ...	203, 205, 243	Reporting	240
Payment term	181, 184	<i>balances</i>	241
<i>account type</i>	182	<i>line item</i>	242
<i>baseline date</i>	182	Reporting characteristic	372
		Reporting key figured	372
		Reversing documents	137
		Rules	430

S

Sales and Distribution	88
SAP Ariba	48
SAP Best Practices	37
SAP Business Partner	160, 227, 242
SAP Business Workflow	429, 434
SAP Community	40
SAP Education courses	24
SAP ERP	99, 158
SAP ERP HCM	86
SAP Fieldglass	48
SAP Financial Accounting	71
SAP Financial Closing cockpit	362
<i>task list</i>	374
<i>task template</i>	373
SAP Fiori ... 44, 52, 63, 66, 69, 131, 191, 240, 327	
<i>app customization</i>	58
<i>for SAP S/4HANA</i>	54, 63
<i>launchpad</i>	54, 57, 63, 69
<i>launchpad designer</i>	61, 64
<i>themes</i>	59
<i>tiles</i>	58
<i>user experience</i>	53
<i>user interface</i>	44, 52
SAP Fiori Apps Reference Library	39
SAP Fiori Launchpad Designer	60
SAP Gateway	52, 63
SAP Gateway Server	61
SAP GUI	52
SAP HANA	44, 46, 67
<i>architecture</i>	46
<i>columnar store</i>	47, 63, 66
<i>compression</i>	46
<i>database</i>	64
<i>in-memory database</i>	46, 62
SAP Help Portal	37
SAP Hybris Customer Support	48
SAP Hybris Marketing	48
SAP Hybris Sales	48
SAP Learning Hub	28
SAP Learning Rooms	29
SAP Live Access	29
SAP Logon	52
SAP S/4HANA	44, 48, 63, 65, 68, 74, 102, 161, 262
<i>backend server</i>	52

SAP S/4HANA (Cont.)	
<i>deployment</i>	50
<i>system landscape</i>	52
SAP S/4HANA adoption	50
<i>landscape transformation</i>	51
<i>new implementation</i>	50
<i>system conversion</i>	51
SAP S/4HANA Cloud	63, 66
<i>hybrid option</i>	52, 63
<i>private option</i>	51, 63
<i>public option</i>	51, 63
SAP SuccessFactors	48, 69
SAP User Assistance	39
SAPUI5	53
Screen layouts	271
<i>definition</i>	271
<i>tab layout</i>	272
Secondary cost account	97
Segment	
<i>definition</i>	84
<i>profit center</i>	84
Segment reporting	143
Segments	84
Sets	414, 430
<i>basic</i>	414
<i>create</i>	414
<i>multiset</i>	415
Special G/L accounting	232
<i>configuration</i>	234
<i>indicators</i>	233
Special G/L indicator	244
Standard ledger	143
Stock valuation	360, 373
Substitution	
<i>fields</i>	407
<i>methods</i>	408
<i>rule definition</i>	415
Substitutions	402, 406, 429
<i>define</i>	409

T

Tax code	123, 144
<i>categories</i>	124
<i>management</i>	123
Tax handling	121
<i>sales tax</i>	121

Tax handling (Cont.)	
<i>value-added tax</i>	121
<i>withholding tax</i>	121
Tax procedure	122
Technical clearing account	307
Tips	31, 34
Tolerance group	120, 144
<i>maintainence</i>	121
Transaction	
<i>ABLDT</i>	305
<i>AS100</i>	306
<i>FI10</i>	214
<i>FBZP</i>	198
<i>FTXP</i>	156
<i>OBY6</i>	80
<i>SCC4</i>	76
<i>SU01</i>	190
Transactional app	55
Transactional data	152

U

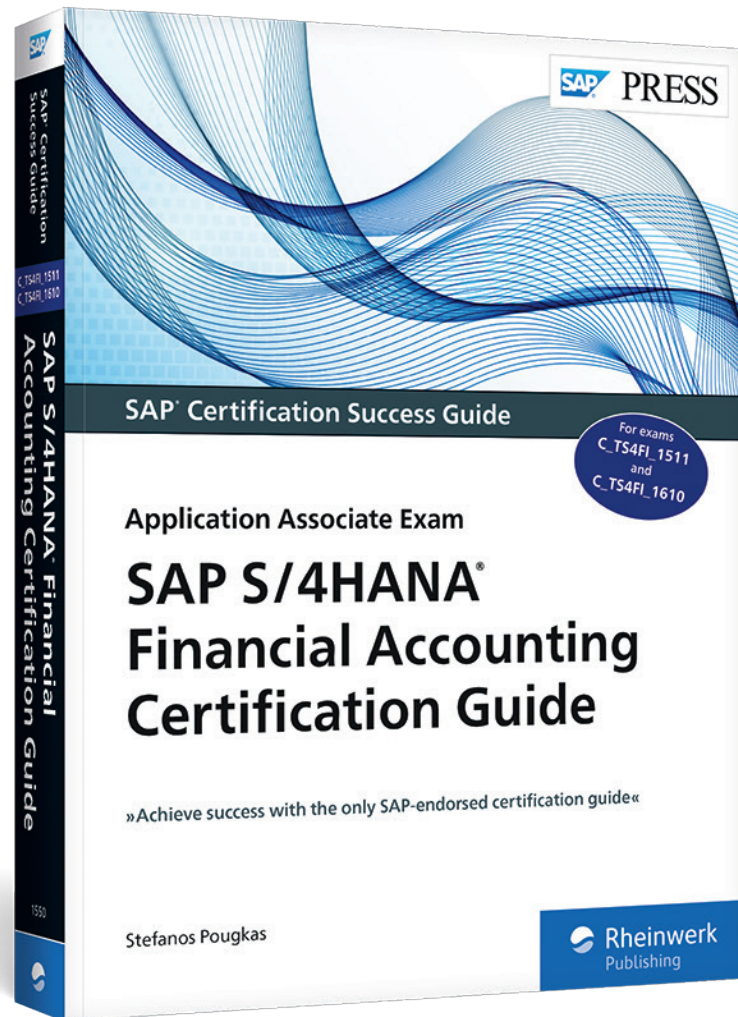
U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting	
Principles (GAAP)	84
UI theme designer	59
User defined fields	273

V

Validations	402, 429
<i>definition</i>	411
<i>rule definition</i>	415
Valuation	
<i>area definition</i>	347
<i>configure</i>	346
<i>delta posting logic</i>	347
<i>foreign currency</i>	345
<i>results</i>	351
<i>run</i>	354
Valuation area	373
Valuation method	352, 373
Value adjustment	
<i>flat-rate</i>	352
<i>individual</i>	352
Virtual Live Classroom	27

W

Warehouse Management	88
Workflow	429
<i>subworkflow</i>	429
<i>variant</i>	429



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