

# SAP BusinessObjects addendum to Statement of Direction

## SCOPE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is an addendum to the [SAP Analytics Cloud, Business Intelligence Statement of Direction](#) and focuses on SAP BusinessObjects BI suite. SAP Lumira and SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office, both add-ons to BusinessObjects, are not covered here.

## BI 4.3 IS THE PLACE TO GO

In June 2020, we delivered SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 with major user experience innovations: full HTML5 powered Launch Pad and Web Intelligence, improved interoperability with SAP Analytics Cloud with hybrid user provisioning and access to universes, Web Intelligence and Crystal Reports documents from within SAP Analytics Cloud.

BI 4.3 Support Package 1 was released in December 2020, and we will continue to deliver Support Packages on a yearly basis. BI 4.3 will be supported until at least end of 2027.

BI 4.2 Support Package 9 is the last planned on the 4.2 stack which will receive mainstream support until end of 2022 and priority one support until end of 2024.

Planned patches on 4.2 and 4.3 will be based on an 8 weeks cycle. Please refer to the [maintenance strategy document](#) to get more details.

As many customers did already, we recommend moving to the 4.3 version to benefit from the latest features, up to date platforms, connectivity and security standards. Update from any 4.x version is simple as no artefact format has changed, which means that no migration is needed.

SAP BusinessObjects BI is an on-premise solution, but you can of course choose your favorite infrastructure. To help you move your workloads quickly to the cloud, SAP proposes a predefined package operated by SAP on the main Hyperscalers, including SAP BusinessObjects Software, Support, Technical Managed Services and Infrastructure: SAP BusinessObjects Private Cloud Edition.

## **We will invest in Web Intelligence and in the Enterprise Platform**

Because we want our investments to benefit to most of our customers, we will focus on the core components of the SAP BusinessObjects BI suite.

On the client side, Web Intelligence is by far the most used BI client and we want it to become even more pervasive in the organizations by increasing its ease of use for the end users, while remaining a powerful tool to fulfil new requirements. We plan to extend the strong reporting capabilities and improve dashboarding capabilities, we want to improve data wrangling in order to simplify the use of calculation capabilities and we will facilitate data access and sharing.

We will keep the BusinessObjects Enterprise platform as the most scalable one in the BI market for on premise deployments, and we will continuously support latest versions of operating systems and web browsers, as well as latest security standards. To improve security and reduce operating risks, we will continue to remove unnecessary 3<sup>rd</sup> party components. As we see traction for Infrastructure as a Service, we plan to ease deployments in hyperscalers' infrastructures and offer connectivity to their data sources.

Offering connectivity to most of existing data sources has always been in SAP BusinessObjects DNA. We plan to support new data sources and continue to support the latest versions of already supported data sources. Here again, focus is key, and single source .unx universes will be our priority from now on.

## **We will support Crystal Reports**

Crystal Reports Classic is a mature solution which delivers specific pixel perfect workflows. We will continue to offer full support on Windows platforms, but we don't plan to deliver major new features.

We plan to stop supporting Crystal Reports 2020 services on UNIX and on Linux operating systems from version BI 4.3 SP2 on. For customers running BusinessObjects on UNIX or Linux clusters and with Crystal Reports servers, we will offer two alternatives:

- host Crystal Reports 2020 services on dedicated Windows servers; this distributed deployment will be fully supported and this [blog post](#) details how to set this up,
- stay on BI 4.2 for which we will exceptionally extend the support until end of 2027, only on explicit demand.

This change doesn't affect Crystal Reports for Enterprise which will continue to be supported on all platforms. Nevertheless, we don't plan major enhancements either.

As Web Intelligence and SAP Analytics Cloud are the solutions we will invest in going forward, we recommend considering using them for generic reporting use cases.

## We plan to sunset

Our intention is to stop delivering and supporting the following components at the end of BI 4.3 maintenance period, end of 2027:

- Universe Design Tool and .unv universes,
- Multi-source universes and associated connectivity,
- SAP BusinessObjects Analysis, edition for OLAP,
- Live Office.

In the meantime, we will certify latest versions from the main data source vendors such as SAP, IBM, Oracle and Microsoft, but we will not proactively certify new data sources. The same logic will apply to supported platforms and browsers. Please use the [SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform influence channel](#) to request specific certifications.

.unx universes authored by Information Design Tool already cover all Universe Design Tool and .unv universes use cases and we strongly recommend their use.

Multi data source federation and exploration of OLAP data sources can be achieved with several other SAP solutions. Please contact your account manager to learn more.

SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office can be a good alternative for Live Office workflows.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

SAP BusinessObjects BI remains a key piece of our BI strategy and we are committed to our customers. Please help us fine tune our roadmaps by providing your input through the dedicated influence channels: [SAP BusinessObjects BI Platform](#) and [SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence](#).

We will appreciate any feedback and be happy to answer to questions you would email at [sapaskanalytics@sap.com](mailto:sapaskanalytics@sap.com).