

PRESS RELEASE

AEB fact sheet: cloud, on-premise, or hybrid – finding the right ERP landscape for global trade and logistics

- Advantages, disadvantages and practical examples of hybrid SAP® system architectures
- Hybrid system landscapes with clear cost benefits compared to broad on-premise solutions



Leamington Spa, 1st August 2016 – Update, upgrade, maintain: Keeping powerful ERP systems running consumes a lot of a company’s IT resources. Do hybrid system environments provide the flexibility required for the latest trends, such as big data analytics and collaboration? A fact sheet by software provider AEB shows how hybrid system environments consisting of ERP systems and cloud-based applications offer an escape from the resource trap. Titled “Optimized SAP® Systems in Global Trade and Logistics”, the fact sheet also explains what criteria businesses should apply when making a decision. It can be downloaded free of charge at www.aeb.com/uk/media/fact-sheet-hybrid-sap-environment.php.

A significant share of IT budgets is spent on expensive ERP applications – usually operated through on-premise installations. These applications require regular updates and maintenance, which results in high operating costs. Keeping ERP systems up to date ranks high on IT managers’ list of priorities. But these are not the issues that score points with the CEO or the sales team. Companies expect their IT managers to be more engaged in forward-looking issues, such as business intelligence, collaboration, and the development of helpful mobile apps for customers.

Capturing dynamic change in the cloud

How can CIOs carve out the necessary flexibility to deliver this? One option involves hybrid ERP systems. Hybrid IT infrastructures run business-critical IT services in on-premise solutions – legacy systems in the company’s own data centre – complemented by cloud-based IT services.

But which data and solutions should be moved to the cloud? Many companies opt for caution and rely exclusively on standardised data and solutions. A more efficient approach, however, is to use the cloud for those solutions that are subject to dynamic change and generate high operational and maintenance expenses. This includes the area of global trade, where customs and export management are impacted by international conventions, regulations, and laws. The resulting frequent adjustments are expensive as they require staff with expertise in global trade. The same is true of logistics, where the trend is toward collaboration among shippers, logistics service providers, and recipients – including IT integration.

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Hybrid system environments often more affordable

But is it worth extending on-premise SAP® solutions with cloud applications? One of the most important aspects is the total cost of implementing the required functionalities within the SAP® core compared to investing in a hybrid solution landscape. AEB's new fact sheet has a clear answer: Hybrid system environments are often significantly less expensive than on-premise solutions. Apart from cost aspects AEB's fact sheet, titled "Optimized SAP® Systems in Global Trade and Logistics", outlines five criteria that companies should assess before making a decision:

- Total cost of ownership
- Integration into the system environment
- Functionality and usability
- Service and expertise of provider
- Data privacy and security

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Contacts

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About AEB (www.aeb.com/uk)

AEB is one of Europe's leading providers of supply chain logistics software, consultancy, and services and has been delivering solutions to customers for over thirty five years. The company has over 5,000 customers worldwide, supported by offices in the UK, Germany, Singapore, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, France, and the US. AEB's core product - ASSIST4 - is the comprehensive solution suite for all logistics processes in global business. ASSIST4 offers a complete set of business services for end-to-end logistics, including international goods movements, making it possible to standardise and automate business processes in supply chain execution. ASSIST4 also creates transparency and provides a reliable basis for making the right decisions about the planning, monitoring, control, and continual optimisation of supply networks - even beyond the boundaries of the business. The ASSIST4 suite offers full functionality via a wide range of modules including Visibility & Collaboration Platform, Order Management, Warehouse Management, Transport & Freight Management, Customs Management, and Compliance & Risk Management.