



EXEC SUMMARY

- Embrace API-led integration
- Accelerate SAP Fiori app development
- Unify data access for SAP and 3rd-party systems
- Provide apps interconnecting SAP with Azure, Oracle and Salesforce
- Deploy on-premises or in any popular cloud environment

AUTHOR BIO



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Christoph has more than 10 years of experience in SAP environments and holds a Master's Degree in Business and Computer Science. He is passionate about enabling businesses to revitalize their digital core by adopting technology that simplifies processes while delivering strategic wins and lasting competitive advantage.

A More Connected Way of Doing Business

If one word sums up the last decade, it would be 'faster'. Businesses are obsessed with accelerating processes and innovation. Their customers have embraced 'on-demand' via fast fashion, instant messaging and same day delivery.

Flexible payment models and short contract periods have also empowered consumers. Today, the customer is king. Meeting customer expectations is a business imperative, especially in a subscription world. Lose the fight and you'll lose the client, you'll lose revenue, and eventually, you'll lose your business.

To compete, business leaders demand new functionality, now. App developers are forced into a trade-off between perfect products and short timelines. Corporate-wide alignment becomes a secondary issue. Development teams prioritize speed above consolidation. This leads to a fragmented IT landscape and the stifling need for updates and rework.

The resulting technical debt is a roadblock to success. It erodes the time developers or client-facing staff can spend on serving customers. IT professionals work with a mish-mash of legacy systems from different vendors, for different purposes, with SAP and productivity apps scattered by function. Infrastructure is split across on-premises and cloud environments. Developers spend most of their time fixing and reworking the complex IT landscape, rather than developing new, innovative, tailored apps to reinvigorate their business.

This fragmented environment breeds stagnation. User interfaces become unnecessarily complex because of a lack of time and resources to focus on user needs.

Boards look at budgets and multi-year roadmaps in despair. Progress stalls and business leaders become frustrated at the time it takes to automate and optimize, as IT departments focus on 'keeping the lights on' rather than on meaningful change.

IT DOESNT HAVE TO BE THIS WAY

Imagine if your SAP-centric core systems could manage every basic business process AND work with non-SAP systems. Imagine if you could drive custom development AND keep your core systems clean. Imagine empowering your existing in-house IT team with rapid app development tools, freeing them to make changes that impact the entire company in tangible ways. The good news is, it's all possible. With the right approach.

This paper shows how a ‘SAP + Rapid Application Development (RAD) platform’ approach can deliver the data-rich, intuitive experiences you need to drive fast, business-critical results. It outlines the key challenges in unifying access across all systems, then describes how to modernize at your own pace, empower users, and change the way you run your business - for good.

Identify The Challenges

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING THESE COMMON ISSUES?

You're relying on brittle SAP integrations

iOS with a SAP-centric IT estate find their systems don't play well with 3rd-party systems. SAP's unique language, processes and logic lead to a piecemeal, time-consuming approach to integration. Every extra system adds complexity. The tangle of bi-directional interfaces makes innovation difficult.

You're maintaining systems rather than making decisive changes

Call it 'firefighting' or 'keeping the lights' on; if you're spending precious resources on maintaining fragile links between SAP and 3rd-party systems, you're wasting time and money. You should be making decisions that boost efficiency and results, not constantly rebuilding system bridges.

Meaningful reporting is impossible

A scattered IT landscape makes control over business processes complex. Can you drive and improve your end-to-end processes? Do you see the picture you need in strands? Or do you have a holistic overview?

Competing desires cause delays

The pressure to deliver easy-to-use applications at speed conflicts with your desire to minimize integration issues, stay secure and reduce costs. You need to add energy and functionality to the IT estate with new, non bi-modal thinking.



You're split between protecting investments and change

Your days are spent on maintenance and projects that don't create value. You find yourself coordinating update cycles for globally distributed backend systems, complicated by different release versions and custom code. Meanwhile, the board pressures you to innovate, digitalize and drive transformation and gets frustrated by lack of progress. Existing suppliers talk about costly upgrades, long-lasting, complex system consolidation projects or introducing extensive middleware and big data tooling. You'd like to change the way your business uses apps, but you can't see how to make it happen.

Doing nothing is not an option. If competitors are shifting to serve new market dynamics faster than you, your customers will desert you. Choose a holistic, future-proof integration approach, and you'll get back on the front foot.

IT LEADERS' CHECKLIST – ASK YOURSELF:

- A. DO I NEED TO CREATE NEW APPS FAST?**
- B. DOES OUR TECHNOLOGY ENABLE OR FRUSTRATE OUR PEOPLE?**
- C. DOES INFORMATION FLOW EASILY BETWEEN APPS, SYSTEMS AND DEPARTMENTS?**
- D. DO WE STILL HAVE PAPER-BASED PROCESSES THAT REQUIRE MANUAL DATA ENTRY?**
- E. DO WE HAVE THE PEOPLE AND TOOLS WE NEED TO GET FASTER RESULTS AND INNOVATE ON OUR OWN TERMS?**

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Our goal was to eliminate media breaks for our colleagues. Paper-based data entry and multiple SAP systems made their daily jobs complicated. Neptune Software is the most native platform to SAP ABAP and lets us design apps across devices and operating systems.

Ralph Urban, Head of SAP EAM, Infracore Höchst

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When I look at our IT landscape, I see an ocean of arrows – bi-directional, often proprietary connections. We are in dire need of a system 'membrane' so that we can get rid all those arrows.

**IT Enterprise Architect,
A global automotive business**

The High-Level Solution

You know where you want to get to — that's a great start. But to become a change agent in your business, you need to find ways to modernize, optimize and cut the time it takes to deliver new apps. A rapid application development platform can make the difference. Here's a high-level approach to getting one in place.

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED

Ask yourself, what does 'ideal' look like?

- A universal free **flow of data**, unhindered by the system it sits across?
- Omnichannel, **real-time** insight?
- **Effective** ABAP teams, working hand-in-hand with other business leaders and development teams?
- **Headspace** to work on digital direction and strategy?
- Swift strategic change with **zero worry about restrictions** from poor integration between SAP and non-SAP systems?
- Built-in security and intuitive log-on across user groups?

DEFINE YOUR PRIORITIES

Find the fit for you. Choose a rapid application development platform to build new apps that will:

- **Maximize your investment in SAP** and 3rd-party systems through data federation that ensures unified data access for all frontend applications.
- **Ensure free-flowing data** between systems and departments, delivering actionable insight at every level of your business.
- **Empower your ABAP team** to drive change while freeing them from the sole effort of 'keeping the lights on' maintenance.
- **Enhance collaboration and cut out complication** by getting ABAP and other development teams working closer together with a well-defined collaboration model.

DESIGN AND DEPLOY

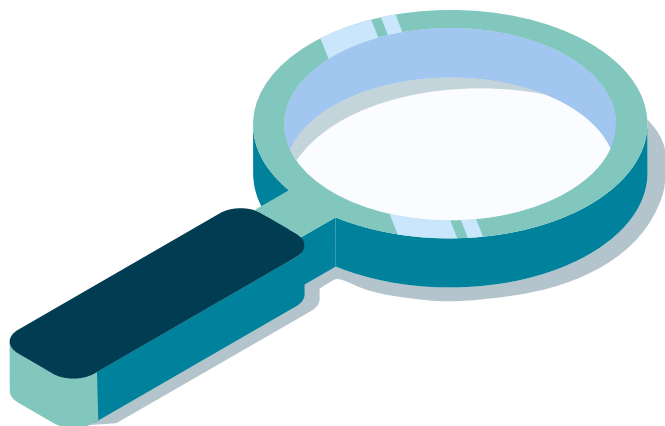
The 'SAP + rapid application development platform' approach can cut the friction from your end-to-end business processes. Here are key benefits and how you can achieve them:

- **Embrace API-led integration**
Give your SAP ECC or S/4 systems a new lease of life with a universal data provisioning approach. The free flow of information between SAP and non-SAP systems will revolutionize your digital agility.
- **Unify the user experience**
Adopt a unified digital interface to enable your workforce to get the job done: at ease, on-demand and on-the-move.
- **Simplify and accelerate**
Choose a rapid application development (RAD) platform to reduce the difficulties of working in an SAP-centric, heterogeneous IT landscape. With an RAD platform in place, you can quickly build the new capabilities your business needs to be able to compete – without fear of messy integrations later down the line.
- **Operate with an open mind**
Create a catalogue of architectural blueprints and reusable components with a RAD platform that uses building blocks of pre-existing functionality or choose collaborative microservices that can flex as you need. Or do both. With the RAD platform, it's never a case of either/or.
- **Go cross-functional**
Integrate teams as well as technology. A collaborative workplace that gets people and technology talking and working together is a recipe for high performance.

A WORD ON SECURITY

Opening your core systems to a broad user base – including those outside the organization – creates innovation opportunities. But it could weaken your defenses. Neptune Software has a no-compromise approach to keeping you secure. We believe in proactive security, easy to maintain and simple to use.

We offer standardized configuration options for Microsoft Azure AD and ADFS, Okta, SAP Enterprise Portal, and many more. With Neptune Software you can set-up and manage security within a centralized digital experience cockpit for the ultimate ease of use.



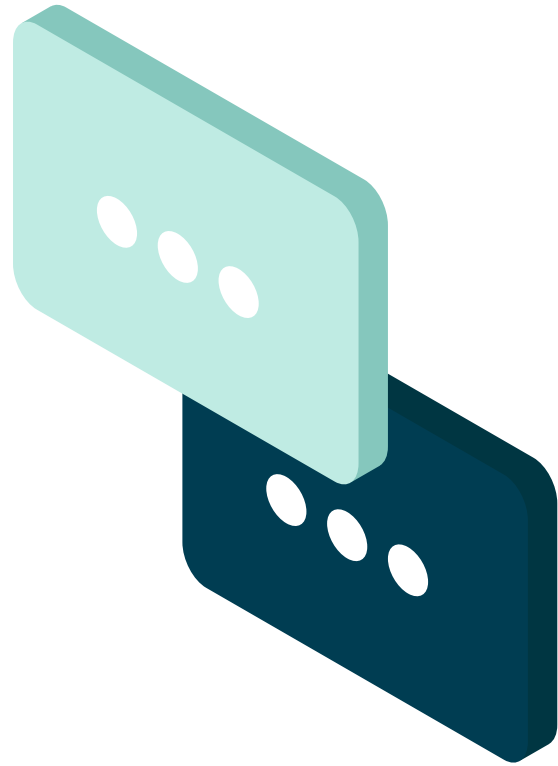
Bring SAP + 3rd-Party Systems Together As One

Complexity is the enemy of rapid action. A unified approach to data provision can cut through the complexity and leave your teams free to build at pace rather than engaged in costly and time consuming rework. With a RAD platform, you'll be in a position to meet the demands for fast app delivery, without sacrificing on consolidation. Your business will be ready to react, and you will be ready to drive meaningful change.

THE DETAIL

Neptune Software's RAD platform connects all your systems via API integration, whether they're SAP assets or otherwise. A single hub allows data to flow freely in real-time, so your team can build the SAP Fiori apps that will drive your business forward.

No more taming architectural complexity. No multi-year roadmaps. Just rapid, agile solution development and an interoperable environment — deployed across all devices and field scenarios



INTEGRATE THE EASY WAY

Neptune Software's RAD platform is the perfect fit for your entire IT estate:

- Enables you to deploy in containers, on-premise or on any of the popular cloud platforms.
- Uses a strict API-first architecture that couples with turnkey integration for any SAP NetWeaver ABAP system.
- Offers a simple single-sign-on via LDAP market leaders like Microsoft Azure AD to log-on via Office 365.
- Unifies data flow, allowing your teams to work on value-add projects.
- Guarantees an unmatched price point with predictable billing.



Digitalize On Your Own Terms

Aligning SAP with Microsoft Azure



THE BACKGROUND

Does your business use both SAP and Microsoft Azure? If so, you're not alone. IT leaders talk about integrating the two technologies, but don't always make it happen.

Has your company fallen into the 'two-camps' mentality?

- Your business sees SAP IT as 'keeping the lights on' and non-SAP as nurturing 'innovative cloud projects'. The two key components of enterprise IT are thought of separately, despite both serving a single organization.
- You've built custom code, modifications and integrations onto your ERP side over many years, making it tricky to update to newer versions or newer products.
- You're settling on 'lowest common denominator' digital products that fail to deliver competitive advantage.

THE CHALLENGE

One in five corporate employees now use a Microsoft Office 365 cloud service¹. Many choose Azure Active Directory (Azure AD) to manage user identities and single-sign-on for employees.

Enterprise IT architects must find a way to integrate the suite of Microsoft Office, Azure Cloud and Azure AD technology with their ERP solutions. They aim to build a seamless hybrid IT environment without cutting off other innovative digital solutions and technology stacks.

THE ANSWER

Neptune Software's RAD platform integrates with Microsoft Azure AD and countless other 3rd-party systems. It provides an authentication layer that supports both offline and server-side authentication, enabling single-sign-on and providing a seamless user experience across multiple systems instead of frustrating stop / start interactions.

With the Neptune Software platform, IT teams can develop and deploy all apps with Office 365 single-sign-on integration without depreciating existing development investments. As a result, businesses become faster and more flexible, ready to build new digital products to meet rapidly changing demands.

¹<https://blog.goptg.com/microsoft-office-365-statistics>



Equip Yourself For Success

Federating SAP with Salesforce.com



THE BACKGROUND

Salesforce is one of the world's market leaders in CRM solutions, with an approximate 20% market share². But despite investing heavily in Salesforce, many businesses don't realize its true potential due to integration issues.

Now, as companies worldwide reinvent their sales strategies, they are rethinking the tools they use as well. Some businesses struggle to define their leading system. They find cloud solutions lack flexibility in regard to customization and individualization. They also have business-critical processes stored in on-premise ERP or other legacy systems that cannot be thrown overboard.

THE CHALLENGE

Companies considering a holistic 360-degree approach to customer success have to ask themselves: how can I couple my existing landscape with a cloud solution?

THE ANSWER

Neptune Software's RAD platform follows a strict API-first strategy to ensure unified data provision. Users don't have to worry about where data is coming from, or where new data entries belong.

With the Neptune Software platform, IT teams can develop and deploy all apps within a hybrid architecture consisting of SaaS solutions like Salesforce, SAP cloud platform and on-premise core systems like SAP S/4HANA. As a result, businesses are equipped with tailored, consumer-grade applications that digitalize the workplace across desktop, tablet and phone, even offline.

²<https://www.forbes.com/sites/louiscolumbus/2019/06/22/salesforce-now-has-over-19-of-the-crm-market/#28b9477e333a>



Information Free Flow End-to-End

Uniting Oracle and SAP



THE BACKGROUND

In today's world of same-day shipping and real-time tracking, consumers expect to get what they want, when they want it. Keeping up with this demand is putting unprecedented pressure on traditional supply chains. The physical movement of goods is a business-critical link for global organizations. Businesses in nearly every industry, from construction to life sciences, use a supply chain management system, with Oracle regularly named a leader in Gartner's Transportation Management Systems Magic Quadrant³.

THE CHALLENGE

Global and local supply chains typically consist of multiple functional silos including manufacturing, procurement, logistics, marketing, and sales. Every department has its own specialty, agenda and goals. These goals and benchmarks are rarely aligned. This leads to a lack of transparency, excess costs, and friction in what should be simple processes.

The CIO's goal must be to break up those silos by unifying the system landscape and holistically connecting core systems like ERP and transportation management. The aim should be a common application landscape with free-flowing information between departments.

THE ANSWER

Neptune Software's RAD platform follows a strict API-first strategy and provides a unified approach to data access.

With the RAD platform, IT teams can build tailored new apps to drive meaningful change for their business. This approach to integrating APIs from Oracle and SAP, as well as other systems, lets businesses deploy new applications for entire user groups without disrupting existing applications. Functional silos are broken down, and the CIO gains information control and holistic insight.

³<https://www.oracle.com/applications/supply-chain-management/analyst-reports.html>



A Track Record You Can Trust

Neptune Software's RAD platform is making global enterprises more efficient and more agile by industrializing their app development. Here are three ways the platform has been driving faster app rollouts, easier data access, lower and more predictable costs, and improved employee experiences.

CONSUMER GOODS COMPANY ENCOURAGES SELF-SERVE

This major industry player encouraged its employees to use SAP-based self-serve applications via progressive web applications.

IT architects struggled to harmonize the log-on functionality to provide a cohesive single-sign-on experience to every user. The strategic decision to use Office 365 credentials to authenticate meant experts had to find a way to connect to several SAP backends with varying SAP user master data. The system had to simultaneously support log-on for native applications running on iOS and Android, plus several PWAs.

Integrating Azure Active Directory (AAD) with the Neptune Software RAD platform provided an authentication layer to support both offline and server-side authentication.

IT teams were able to develop and deploy all apps with integrated Office 365 single-sign-on authentication – while protecting investments in existing assets. They also improved speed and flexibility for future digital products that have to access any desired backend system.

RAPID INTEGRATION IN OUR OWN OPERATIONS

Neptune Software recently completed the first wave of its brand new SAP S/4HANA solution. We used our RAD platform to integrate Microsoft Azure AD as our identity provider via Office 365, and to connect multiple 3rd-party services, ranging from Salesforce to banking APIs.

The integration united 60 employees across Europe and the USA into one global platform, including one user interface with one logo. Within three months we standardized business operations within CRM, finance controlling, HR and contracts and orders to support our rapid growth and market expansion.

We believe it's only a matter of time before most enterprises transform their IT landscapes by integrating Microsoft and SAP at their digital core.

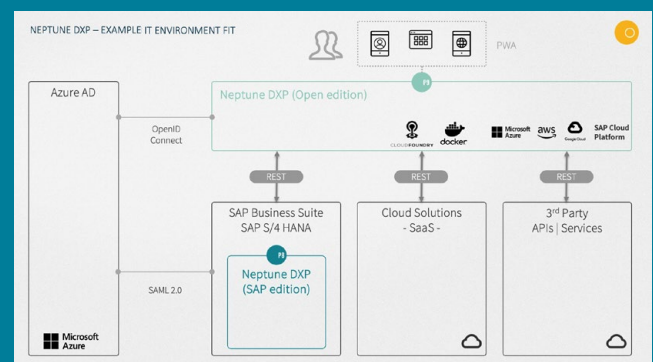
SEAMLESS INTEGRATION FOR AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY CHAINS

This leading car manufacturer is known for its reliability and the robust design of its models. However, it struggled to integrate its global supply chain management into one centrally controllable operation. Data silos stifled holistic insights and strategic decision-making.

Managing and supporting more than 6,000 suppliers was unnecessarily complex. And a scattered IT landscape included more than 50 major backends and thousands of proprietary – often bi-directional – interfaces.

Enterprise IT architects deployed Neptune Software's RAD platform to crack open the technological and organizational silos that were stalling performance improvements.

They replaced proprietary interfaces and gateways with a common REST-standard and created a central control system, adding applications one-by-one with a common UX design. The new system works with Oracle's transport management solution, Microsoft Azure Data Lake Analytics, as well as multiple SAP S/4HANA backends.



*Architecture sketch Neptune DXP

Feel The Benefits

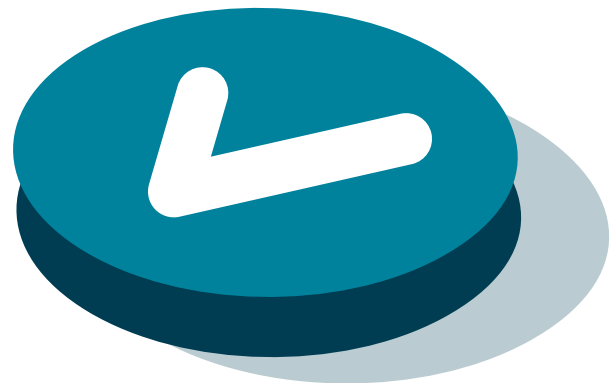
Partner with Neptune Software to turn your development department into an innovation powerhouse. Lead from the front by rapidly developing diverse, user-centric apps that work seamlessly with both your SAP and non-SAP systems. Choose the platform that will give your SAP system a 2nd lease of life.

END FRUSTRATIONS

- Earn time to strategize and innovate, rather than simply maintain the existing IT environment.
- Deploy modern frontends (UX) for all users that are quick to learn and easy to master.
- Experience a quicker route to developing progressive web apps and native mobile apps.
- Enjoy friction-free processes and data flows.
- Empower your existing teams to innovate in short release cycles and collaborate across departments.

SAVE TIME AND MONEY

- No need for expensive middleware or long-lasting integration projects.
- Maximize and extend the life of existing investments.
- Enjoy an unmatched price point and predictable billing.



INNOVATE WITH FREEDOM

- Create more useful, data-rich, and complex applications for your bespoke needs.
- Use custom-fitted solutions for specific areas with the reassurance that they'll work well together.
- Integrate with countless 3rd-party and SAP systems, regardless of your existing custom code.
- Deploy mobile UX and offline capability without specialist skills.
- Stay agile so you can adapt to the ever-changing business environment.

WHY CHOSE NEPTUNE SOFTWARE

Only Neptune Software has the platform and team to transform your IT department into a rapid innovation powerhouse. Reawaken your SAP systems with our RAD platform and you'll soon see the difference a modern digital app factory can make to your business. We'll work with your team to understand your core concerns, your unique circumstances and your ideal outcomes. We'll maximize your in-house expertise while minimizing complications for your teams in the months and years ahead. Be the change agent. Choose Neptune Software.



RAPID INNOVATION WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. HOW NEPTUNE SOFTWARE **CAN HELP.**

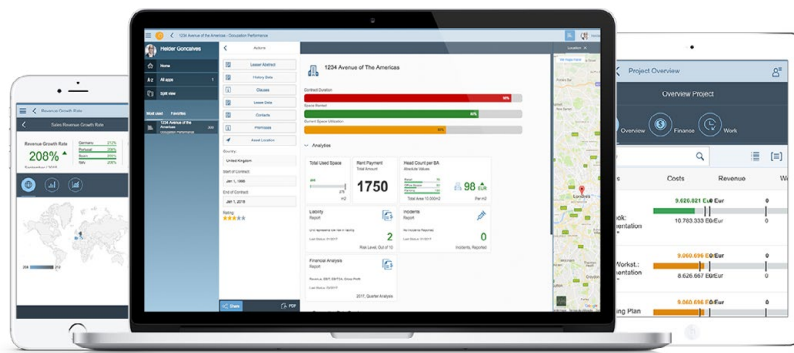
Neptune Software supports more than 550 customers around the world, addressing their organizational challenges and delivering on their digitization goals with a SAP-centric, rapid application development platform.

We can help technology leaders start or evolve their approaches and provide relevant reference points. We share our own knowledge and that of our ecosystem of current customers, consulting and software partners. Our cross-sector experience is an invaluable asset for your organization.

See the platform in action

Download a free trial of the platform and you'll receive an unlimited, perpetual license for two developers. See for yourself how the platform is streamlining processes, accelerating development and deployment and easing integration for more than two million users.

[Visit the download page now.](#)



[Neptune Software recognized by Gartner in Magic Quadrant for
Multiexperience Development Platforms along SAP, Salesforce & Microsoft](#)

ABOUT NEPTUNE SOFTWARE

Neptune Software is a global company with more than 550 customers and 2,000,000 end-users that is dedicated to empowering enterprise IT teams with a single digital experience toolset from which to drive fast, critical results. Neptune Software helps accelerate your enterprise application development projects and realize your digitalization strategies - all to increase employee satisfaction, productivity and business efficiencies. Neptune Software and its modern rapid application development platform help you overcome daunting IT landscapes and quickly enable users with leading-edge apps that change the way you do business.

Visit our website at: www.neptune-software.com