

BUSINESS INSIGHTS USING SAP® ANALYTICS CLOUD (SAC)

TOP BUSINESS INSIGHTS FEATURES OF SAC

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Innovative Solution Partners
[isolutionpartners.com](https://www.isolutionpartners.com)

OVERVIEW

SAP Analytics Cloud (SAC) is rich with powerful tools to supercharge your business analytics and provide you with unparalleled dashboards. Here are a some of SAC's most useful features, many of which have recently been updated.

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SELF-SERVICE CAPABILITIES

SAP Analytics Cloud is “self-service” in that it allows users to surface analysis and predictions without the use of a developer. This is truly powerful for business analysts and executives. SAC has, for this purpose, an entire portfolio of [Augmented Analytics features](#), also known as Smart features. These features allow companies to build their own dashboards. After uploading data, users can immediately start using their dashboards to make business decisions.

Having the proper guidance from experts allows users to take advantage of the self-service capabilities of SAP Analytics Cloud – including its “Smart” features – by making insight discovery faster.

Here are just some of the elements of SAC that, when properly implemented, can supercharge your dashboards and analytics.

- **Search to Insight** allows the user to simply ask a question about their data and SAC will create relevant visualizations you can add to your story.
- **Smart Discovery** auto-generates pages of analyses to help reveal hidden patterns and discover insights. When triggered, Smart Discovery analyses are displayed as automatically generated pages of visualizations.
- **Coming in 2022:** Enhanced mobile analytics, with support for the navigation panel on iPads and other tablets.

PREDICTIVE PLANNING

[Predictive Planning](#) is a fairly new SAC feature – it was released in 2020 – and is one of the areas of SAP Analytics Cloud that is least used by companies. Mostly, this is because of a lack of knowledge about how to use this tool to its fullest.

By understanding and correctly implementing predictive planning, companies allow their business analysts to focus on other projects and priorities. Planners can use the “[Smart Predict](#)” feature of SAP Analytics Cloud to harness historical data and machine learning to perform predictive analysis and automate forecasts at any planning level. The user is guided to create predictive models through a workspace called a predictive scenario, where you create and compare predictive models to find the best one to bring the best predictions.

The great thing about Smart Predict is that it does not require the support of a data scientist - it is "no-code machine learning." It automatically learns from your historical data and finds the best relationships or patterns of behavior to easily generate predictions for future events, values, and trends.

[Innovative Solution Partners](#) spends time with clients identifying and uploading the data they need to create predictive models. Once set up, the client is able to get the most out of this very powerful tool. Our team doesn't seek to replace business analysts but instead strives to ensure companies are getting the most out of SAC so that business analysts can focus on other important business.

SIMULATION FUNCTIONALITY

Simulations allow users to make thoughtful and critical decisions in a complex business environment.

SAC's What-If Analysis/Simulation enables users to test a behavior of a complex system under given hypotheses. For example, strategic simulations can be used to understand likely consequences of a change in pricing or a competitor's response to a product improvement. The options range from the simple to the complex.

- A Slider is the most basic tool for what-if analysis in SAC. In a story, moving the indicator in the slider widget to set a value results in views corresponding to different values.
- In what-if on a dataset, the user can import a dataset then change the future period values. It allows for evaluating potential impacts without building a model.
- Smart Discovery's resulting simulation page displays the key influencers and their positive or negative impact. The user can then simulate a new record of data by setting the values the key influencers to see the value of the new entry, shown through the visualizations.
- Version Management allows for different assumptions and versions of your forecasts, resulting in views for Planning that enables a comparison of variance analysis against actuals. There are two ways to make assumptions: Tables, or Value Driver Tree visualizations.
- With Value Driver Trees, a user can visually and interactively set drivers and growth rates.

DATA EXPLORATION

Data exploration is a key task for information workers and data analytics. Data Analyzer is the central point for data exploration in SAC. With the latest updates, SAP has streamlined this tool. Innovative Solution Partners can help users to upload the data and best use the Data Analyzer.

This is especially crucial for businesses that have SAC Stories where Story Explorer is enabled on one or more widgets. For the time being, users will be able to access stories in both ways. But as SAC moves to a more “harmonized” experience for data exploration, focus will be on Data Analyzer. Businesses would do well to begin thinking about the transition to the newest “harmonious” approach. Innovative Solution Partners can help with this.

Early in 2022, the new data exploration features will include the ability to open Data Analyzer from a story in table visualizations. The table state will be passed to the Data Analyzer in order to perform deeper-dive exploration.

Also coming soon: Improved access to the live BW connectivity, including enabling SAP BW query conditions in table visualizations.

For a short video demo of Data Analyzer, [view here](#).

ANALYTICS DESIGNER

Analytics Designer is one of the most powerful elements of SAC because it allows for a seamless, customized experience for the user. It is, essentially, the programming engine for SAC, allowing users to avoid one complex application containing many data sources. There are a number of best practices that Innovative Solution Partners suggests to enhance performance, including:

- Use the **Navigation Utils API** to navigate from one application to another. Alternatively, divide one application into multiple tabs or panels.
- Start the analytics application in **embed mode**, which allows you to avoid loading and rendering the SAP Analytics Cloud shell and increases performance.
- The **Set Style API** allows you to avoid duplicating widgets unnecessarily. This API allows you to change the font, color, background color, etc, of widgets.
- The **Move Widget API** is helpful if your analytics application uses the same widget in several tab strips or panels.
- **Load invisible widgets in the background.** There are numerous tips and tricks to ensuring this is done correctly and doesn't result in the widget not being immediately accessible.
- Modify data sources or widgets at **application startup**, rather than using script methods during the on initialization event.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTION PARTNERS:

YOUR PARTNER IN OPTIMIZING SAC FOR BUSINESS INSIGHTS

SAP Analytics Cloud is a behemoth -- one of the most powerful business analytics tools available today. Features are rolled out regularly that make the SAC experience even more valuable, but many companies find it hard to keep abreast of the updates and enhancements.

With more than 40 years' combined expertise in every version of SAP, Innovative Solution Partners specializes in helping its partners to take advantage of SAC. Every quarter when SAP rolls out new and even more powerful elements of SAC, Innovative Solution Partners anticipates the changes and ensures its clients are at the forefront of taking advantage of the updates.

We consider it our business to be up to date so that we can ensure our partners can utilize SAC's latest and greatest tools.

Interested in a 30-minute consultation to discuss your business' needs?

- Email us at info@isolutionpartners.com
- Call Mariyah Saifuddin at 248-325-8152
- [CLICK HERE](#) to schedule a consultation call