Your problem:
SAP makes powerful solutions for enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, financial management and more—but no one would claim that it facilitates flexibility or organizational agility. Yet in a world of commerce that is changing as quickly as ours, flexibility and agility are the hallmarks of today’s successful companies.

Software AG’s solution:
How can an enterprise achieve the flexibility and agility required without compromising its investments in that foundational SAP landscape? By evolving the processes and services that interact with the SAP landscape. A digital business platform enabled by Software AG can both deliver the flexibility and agility your organization needs while mediating interaction with the SAP ERP landscape to ensure the integrity and consistency of your core business processes.

Inserting agility in the middle
In process-driven organizations, the agility challenge is fundamental. The organization has business models for engaging with customers and marketing its goods and services; it has business processes that support and enable those business models; it has a bedrock SAP ERP system that tracks and manages everything from financials to the supply chain to interactions with the customer.

The business models interact with the business processes, which interact with the foundational systems that make things happen.

But business models change quickly in response to new market conditions, new customer demands and even new technologies (think social media and the cloud). Instead of responding to this evolving world by trying to implement change at the level where the SAP ERP system resides, a better approach is to foster the evolution of that middle layer between the business models and the ERP system.

To enable this flexibility and agility, an organization needs to focus on enhancements in four distinct dimensions:
• Facilitating and managing business and IT transformation
• Expanding and enhancing process integration
• Incorporating more agile processes
• Evolving more intelligent business operations

By evolving your business processes so that they become more fully realized as a digital business platform, you can gain the agility and flexibility you need without trying to alter your SAP software to do things that it was never intended to do.

Traditional operational structures lack a digital business layer.
Business and IT transformation

Before you can facilitate the evolution of any business process, you need a full understanding of that process. You need to understand how that process interacts with, depends upon or affects others. Software AG offers a powerful suite to support business process analysis, IT portfolio management and governance, risk and compliance—all integrated to enable an optimal combination of flexibility, agility and control.

Software AG’s ARIS can automatically re-document your SAP landscape, providing the company’s business processes enriched with information of involved SAP roles, actual usage of standard and customized SAP transactions and reports, document types and enterprise structures. You can use Software AG’s Industry.PerformanceREADY to determine how to optimize those processes against industry best-practice models. You can easily synchronize optimized processes between ARIS and SAP® Solution Manager to ensure ongoing business and IT alignment.

ARIS Test Designer provides automatically test scenarios for test management in SAP based on the end-to-end process descriptions.

ARIS Connect incorporates mobile devices into your digital business platform and unlocks the power of social collaboration for business and IT improvement. ARIS also provides capabilities for risk, compliance, audit and policy management, all based on the foundation of business processes. With this “single point of truth,” the impact of regulatory change on processes and organizations is immediately visible. This is crucial because you need to maintain your ability to control your business processes even as you refine them for increased agility and responsiveness.

The planning of strategic transformations requires more than a portfolio and project management tool in SAP only. Software AG’s Alfabet provides services for IT planning and analyzing the interrelations between various IT portfolios, such as applications, projects and technology, independent of whether it’s SAP or not. It integrates technical know-how from the architecture management arena into portfolio management to reduce project failure, reduce operating expenses and facilitate innovation across your entire IT landscape—including both SAP and non-SAP systems.

And, by integrating with ARIS, Alfabet enables an integrated planning process from strategy and business capabilities the supporting applications, technologies and projects to ensure business-IT alignment.

Integration

Within a digital business platform, you will want capabilities that can facilitate the integration of applications and processes throughout the enterprise. Software AG’s webMethods for SAP Solutions is an SAP-optimized solution that enables you to connect systems, services, devices and processes—even business partners, social networks and data streams from a wide range of sources—quickly and effectively, no matter where they are. Gartner has positioned webMethods as a leader for application integration in heterogeneous environments, and webMethods for SAP Adapter has become a standard for plugging SAP applications into webMethods Integration Server without any coding.

webMethods for SAP Solutions provides services for managing file transfers, master data management and mobile applications. Companies that want to increase agility by participating in the API economy can also benefit from webMethods full life-cycle API management services. From API design, development and cataloging to exposure, access management and, ultimately, retirement, webMethods can ensure that your enterprise can manage and integrate APIs effectively and for maximum agility.

Building out the four dimensions of the digital business platform
Agile processes

Implicit in the idea of agility is the understanding that change happens. Marketplaces change; regulations change; customer demands and wish lists change. The one thing that should change very little is your SAP landscape.

In addition to the integration services, Software AG’s webMethods provides comprehensive services for business process management and the creation of agile processes that can offload change management services and shield the SAP foundational software from disruption. webMethods enables an organization to create and manage dynamic processes within the digital business platform. It integrates with ARIS to provide a full “Model-to-Execute” approach, enabling you to build and deploy applications quickly—for the Web, mobile, whatever you choose. A built-in rules engine facilitates app management and deployment while a service level agreement monitor ensures that you can stay on top of and refine the applications, informing your digital business platform quickly and effectively, whenever necessary.

Intelligent business operations

Finally, the digital business layer should support more than change initiatives that arise from within the organization. It must also enable an enterprise to detect and accommodate external events, opportunities and data streams as well.

This is the realm of Intelligent Business Operations (IBO). To facilitate the development of IBO capabilities within the digital business layer, Software AG provides operational intelligence tools from webMethods, in-memory data management functionality through Terracotta and streaming real-time and historical analytics from Apama.

The operational intelligence tools in webMethods can build off the insights gathered in ARIS and provide a deep understanding of how processes are running through your systems as well as how they are supporting your operational efforts. Software AG Process Performance Manager can even discover and analyze processes that span systems in a heterogeneous environment. Root-cause analysis functionality, benchmarks and performance monitoring tools benefit from predefined analytical content packages for SAP.

With webMethods operational intelligence tools, you don’t need to wait weeks to understand that there was a problem you should have dealt with. You can see the problem as it is unfolding and take real-time steps to mitigate your risks.

Software AG’s Apama streaming analytics brings big data management and insights to your digital business platform. Apama can help you see the pattern in the noise and respond quickly whether that pattern spells opportunity or risk. In conjunction, Software AG’s Terracotta in-memory data management ensures that you can engage in real-time with an ever-growing volume of data—which ensures, in turn, that you can respond faster and with greater agility and intelligence to events unfolding in the marketplace.
Digitizing the enterprise

By building a digital business platform on top of your foundational SAP systems, your organization gains the ability to respond to changing markets and customer needs more quickly and effectively. You gain the ability to interact with your customers, partners and supply chain members that are more aligned with the ways in which they would like to interact with you. You can seize new opportunities and roll out operations in new regions quickly—all while building on, but not compromising, your existing system of record.

This is the evolution not just of the Digital Enterprise but also of the digitized enterprise. You gain the ability to capture and analyze customer sentiment directly from social networks feeds, Twitter® trends and more. It may be monitoring long-range weather feeds to anticipate the impact of storms on shipping lanes, or analyzing traffic feeds to update logistics management tools in real-time.

The digitization of the enterprise is crucial to the transformation of the enterprise into one that can thrive in the 21st century. Without the ability to interact with the rest of the digital world, the enterprise will soon find its position in the marketplace overtaken by more agile companies that can interact in that manner.

Enabling the agility required for the future

Software AG is unique in its ability to deliver the full range of solutions that an organization requires for a digital business platform. With more than a dozen of connectors and integrations and with SAP-specific industry best practice models and analytics packages, Software AG can help you deploy a digital business platform quickly and without compromise. We have a clear concept of the role and function of a digital business platform as well as field-proven products and processes that can help an enterprise build on and make the most of an existing SAP investment.

In these evolving times, the breadth of these offerings and depth of that experience distinguish Software AG in the field—and can enable your organization to distinguish itself in the marketplace both today and tomorrow.

Take the next step

Contact your Software AG representative today to learn how Software AG can help you make the most of your existing SAP investments while facilitating the transformation of your organization to meet the dynamic demands of the 21st century.

Key capabilities of the Software AG Digital Business Platform and use cases

Find out how to power up your Digital Enterprise at www.SoftwareAG.com