Introduction PPG

This Industry Talk (PPG) aims to give university students enrolled in the Technology Information and System course a chance to explore PPG, Data Analytics, Infrastructure, and SAP. Four speakers shared their expertise:

Speakers
- Ai Ling Ooi, APAC IT Lead of PPG– PPG Introduction
- Lee Man Shin, Senior IT Manager, Data Analytics Lead of PPG – Data Analytics
- Vijaykumar Dhandapani, Cloud Architecture Lead of PPG – Global Infrastructure Introduction
- Patrick Thong, SAP Operations DTR Lead of PPG – SAP Introduction

Reflection

1. Strategic Alignment is Key
- PPG's tech strategy directly supports its business mission. IT is a strategic enabler, not just a support function.
- The "Plan, Build, Run" model shows how clear structure enables global execution.

2. Pragmatism Over Dogma
- The Multi-Cloud approach (AWS, Azure, Oracle, Alibaba) is a practical choice, using the best tool for each specific need (e.g., compliance in China).
- There is no single "best" cloud, only the best fit for the problem.

3. Technology = Business Transformation
- The "Connect PPG" SAP program is not just a software update. It's a business-wide effort to standardize processes and create a single source of truth.
- The goal is a Connected, Agile, and Scalable enterprise.

4. Skills for the Future
- Technical Core: Python, SQL, Cloud (Azure), Big Data (Databricks).
- Critical Mindset: Shift from "writing code" to "solving business problems with data."
- Continuous Learning: AIOps and Zero-Trust Security are essential future trends.

Summary

Three major technological pillars of the future of PPG :

- **Data Analytics:** Enable data-driven decision-making based on *Complexity Reduction, Centralizing Enterprise Data Assets, and Continued Optimization.* Key skills included: Python, SQL, cloud/Big Data solutions such as Azure and Databricks.

- **Global IT Infrastructure:** Designed via a *Plan, Build, Run* conceptual model and *Multi-Cloud Approach* (AWS, Azure, Oracle Cloud) ensures scalability. Trends to focus on AIOps (AI-Driven IT Operations) and the Zero-Trust Security Model in the future.

- **SAP Systems:** SAP is the foundation of the primary business operations, integrated in *Procure to Pay (PTP), Demand to Replenish (DTR), Order to Cash (OTC) and Record to Report (RTR) streams.* PPG has been implementing the *Connect PPG S/4 Transformation* to modernize and digitalize processes with SAP S/4HANA aiming to a *Connected, Agile, and Scalable* future state.

PPG Industries, Inc. (2025). Our purpose.https://www.ppg.com/en-US/about-ppg/company-summary

Content of Talk

Overview of PPG
(a) Who: A Fortune 500 global leader in paints and coatings with 140+ years of history and $15.8B in sales.

(b) Mission: "Protect and beautify the world," operating in 70+ countries.

Global IT Infrastructure
(a) Structure: Follows a "Plan, Build, Run" framework to ensure 24/7 global operational stability.

(b) Strategy: Uses a Multi-Cloud approach (Azure, AWS, Oracle, Alibaba) to leverage the best features of each provider.

Data & Analytics
(a) Goal: Transitioning from fragmented data to centralized Data-Driven Decision Making.

(b) Tech Stack: Utilizing Python, Azure Data Lake, and Databricks to process terabytes of complex industry data.

SAP Transformation
(a) Initiative: The "Connect PPG" program aims to standardize business processes globally.

(b) Future: Migrating to SAP S/4HANA on AWS by 2025 to create a connected, agile, and scalable enterprise system.

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