

OVERVIEW OF PPG, DATA ANALYTICS, INFRASTRUCTURE, SAP

Executive Summary

PPG is a global coatings company with IT teams supporting Data Analytics, Cloud Infrastructure, and SAP for international operations and management. The company also provides strong internship opportunities and clear pathways for career growth.



Cloud Team

- Structure: Organizes its IT into three streams: Plan (strategy), Build (development), and Run (operations & support).
- Cloud Strategy: Uses a multi-cloud approach, selecting different providers (AWS, Azure, Oracle, Alibaba) based on specific workload and regional requirements.
- Core Focus: Managed by specialized teams using a range of monitoring and management tools to ensure service delivery.
- Future Direction: Moving towards autonomous operations, AI-driven processes (AIOps), zero-trust security, and edge computing to increase efficiency and agility.

Location



UOA, Tower 9 level 6 & 7 Business Park, Subang Jaya

Groupmates



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Introduction

PPG is a global leader in paints and coatings, operating in over 70 countries with \$15.8 billion in sales for 2024. The company is recognised as a FORTUNE 500 company (ranking #234), #2 on Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies in its industry, and is listed among TIME Magazine's World's Best Companies. Its Malaysia Technology Centre is a core hub supporting industries from buildings and cars to electronics and aviation. Its Malaysia Technology Centre plays a key role in Data Analytics, Cloud Infrastructure and SAP, ensuring smooth worldwide operations. PPG emphasizes innovation, sustainability, and community impact while providing strong learning and career growth opportunities in IT.



Data Analytics Team

- Supports data-driven decisions by analysing raw data to identify issues, predict trends, and find growth opportunities.
- Builds tools like the Global Marine Hull Navigator (predicts ship fouling risk) and the Complexity Analysis Tool (monitors raw material and supply chain risks).
- Work is structured across Master Data, ERP Analytics, Data Lake Analytics, and ML Ops.
- Core skills: SQL, data pipelines (Azure Data Factory, Databricks), data visualization (Power BI), and basic data modeling.



SAP Team

- Goal: Replace 30+ ERPs with one unified SAP S/4 HANA system (on AWS cloud).
- Purpose: Create a "single source of truth" and streamline processes.
- Integrated Streams: P2P, D2R, O2C, and RTR.
- Benefit: Enables advanced AI and predictive analysis.
- Timeline: Expected to take 3-5 years.



Reflection

The PPG Industry Talk highlighted that Connect PPG is not just a system upgrade but an important strategic move. Unifying 30+ ERP systems into a single SAP environment is the only sustainable way to reduce complexity and maintain a true "single source of truth." The simultaneous shift to S4 HANA and AWS further positions PPG to use advanced tools like AI and predictive analytics for smarter business intelligence. The talk also emphasized that raw data has no value on its own. Data analytics skills are essential for cleaning, transforming and organizing data to generate insights that elevate business efficiency.

Speakers

- Ooi Ai Ling - Associate Director, APAC IT Lead
- Derrick Tan Horng Shi - Data Analytics Manager
- Vijarkumar Dhandapani - Cloud CoE Architect
- Patrick Thong - SAP CoE Operations DTR Lead APAC