Supported Identity Provider Options in SAP BTP

Welcome to Lesson 3 of our series on identity management in SAP BTP. In our previous lessons, we explored the various types of identity providers available in the SAP Business Technology Platform. Today, we'll examine the specific identity provider options that SAP BTP supports.

We'll start with the default option—the SAP ID service—and then explore custom identity providers and SAP's Identity Authentication service, discussing the benefits, use cases, and considerations for each option.

por Mayko Silva

SAP ID Service: The Default Option
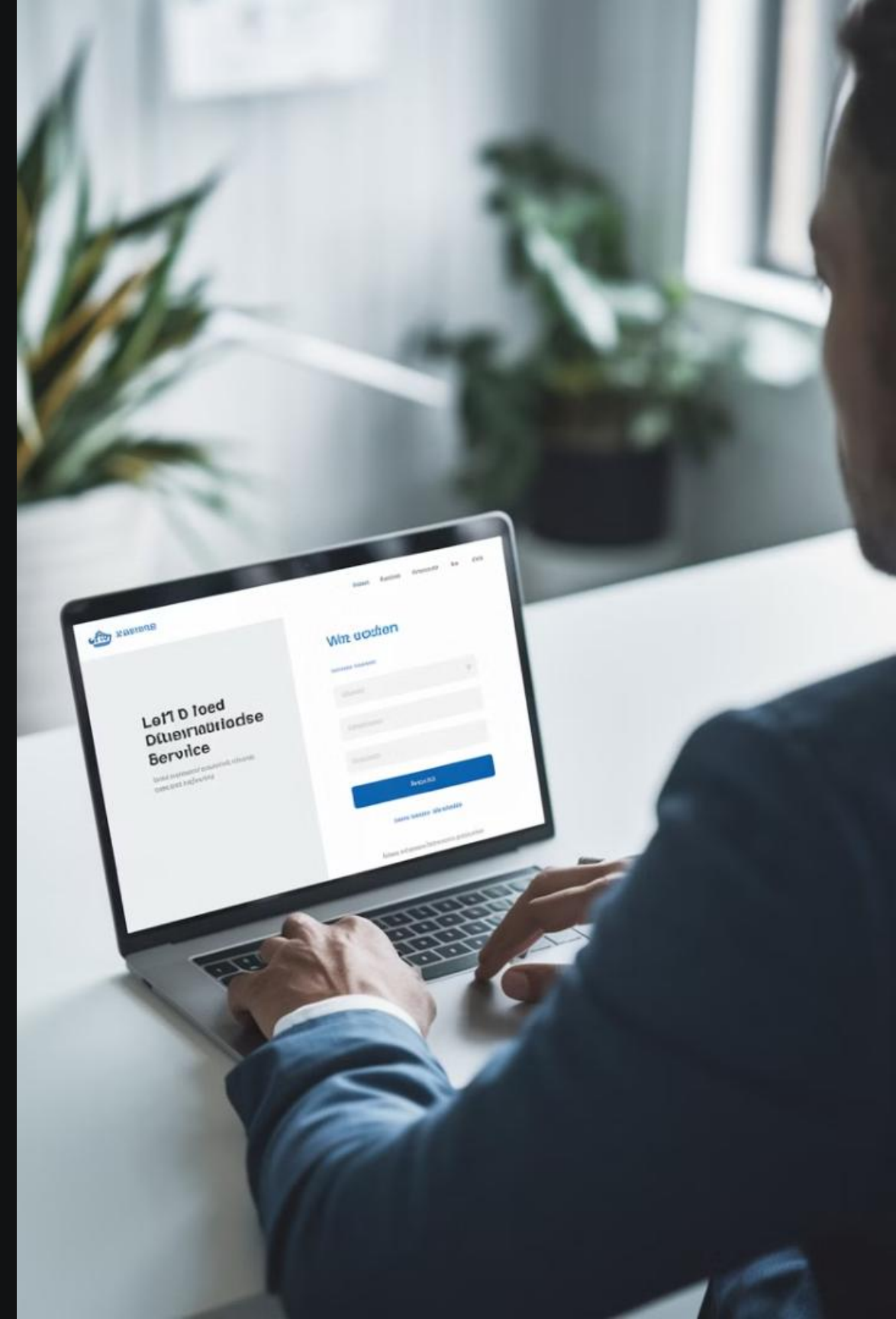
Pre-configured Trust

SAP BTP comes preconfigured with a trust relationship to the SAP ID service, making it both the platform identity provider and application identity provider right out of the box.

Zero Configuration

No additional configuration is required from your side, except for assigning users to the subaccount—making implementation quick and straightforward.

Cost-Effective

There are no additional costs for using the SAP ID service as it's included in your SAP BTP subscription, providing excellent value for organizations of all sizes.

Understanding the SAP ID Service

1 **User Management**

The SAP ID service manages users across all official SAP sites, including the SAP developer and partner community, providing a unified identity experience.

2 **User Creation Options**

Users can be created through a self-service capability, allowing individuals to register themselves when needed.

3 **Administrative Creation**

Alternatively, users can be created via the SAP Support Portal by an authorized user within your organization, enabling centralized management of identities.

Components of the SAP ID Service

Centralized User Store

A comprehensive repository for all identities that need access to protected application resources, ensuring consistent identity management across the platform.

Single Sign-On Service

A standards-based service that allows users to log on only once and gain access to all applications deployed through SAP BTP, enhancing user experience and security.

Security Framework

Provides robust authentication mechanisms and identity verification to protect sensitive business applications and data across the platform.

SAP ID Service: Best Use Cases

1 **Smaller Implementations**

The SAP ID service is ideal for organizations with limited user bases that don't require complex identity management solutions, providing simplicity and ease of use.

2 **Proof-of-Concept Projects**

When testing new applications or concepts, the SAP ID service offers a quick setup without additional infrastructure requirements, accelerating the development process.

3 **SAP-Centric Ecosystems**

Organizations primarily using SAP applications can benefit from the seamless integration between the SAP ID service and other SAP products.

Custom Identity Provider Option

Flexibility

1

You can use your own custom identity provider in both SAP BTP Neo environment and SAP BTP Cloud Foundry environment, giving you control over your identity management strategy.

Integration

2

This option is popular for organizations with established identity providers who want to leverage existing infrastructure for SAP BTP applications, reducing duplication.

Cost Efficiency

3

Apart from your existing license costs, there are no additional costs associated with SAP BTP services for using a custom identity provider, maximizing your current investments.

When to Use a Custom Identity Provider

Existing Investment

Organizations with significant investments in identity management solutions like Microsoft Azure AD or Okta

Unified Experience

Need for consistent user experience across all applications

Compliance Requirements

Specific security or regulatory needs that your existing solution addresses

Centralized Management

Desire to manage users in a single system rather than multiple platforms

1

2

3

4

For many enterprises, leveraging existing identity solutions provides better governance, reduces administrative overhead, and creates a more seamless experience for users accessing SAP BTP applications.

Identity Authentication Service

1   **Platform Identity Provider**

Acts as a comprehensive identity solution

2   **Proxy for On-Premise Systems**

Connects to LDAP directories

3   **Third-Party Integration**

Works with providers like Microsoft Azure AD

The Identity Authentication service offers a flexible approach to identity management in SAP BTP. It can serve as a platform identity provider while also functioning as a proxy for various identity sources, creating a bridge between your existing infrastructure and cloud applications.

This service is particularly valuable for organizations transitioning from on-premise to cloud solutions, as it maintains continuity in user experience while enabling cloud adoption.

Licensing Considerations for Identity Authentication

0
Additional Cost
For basic SAP BTP usage

$
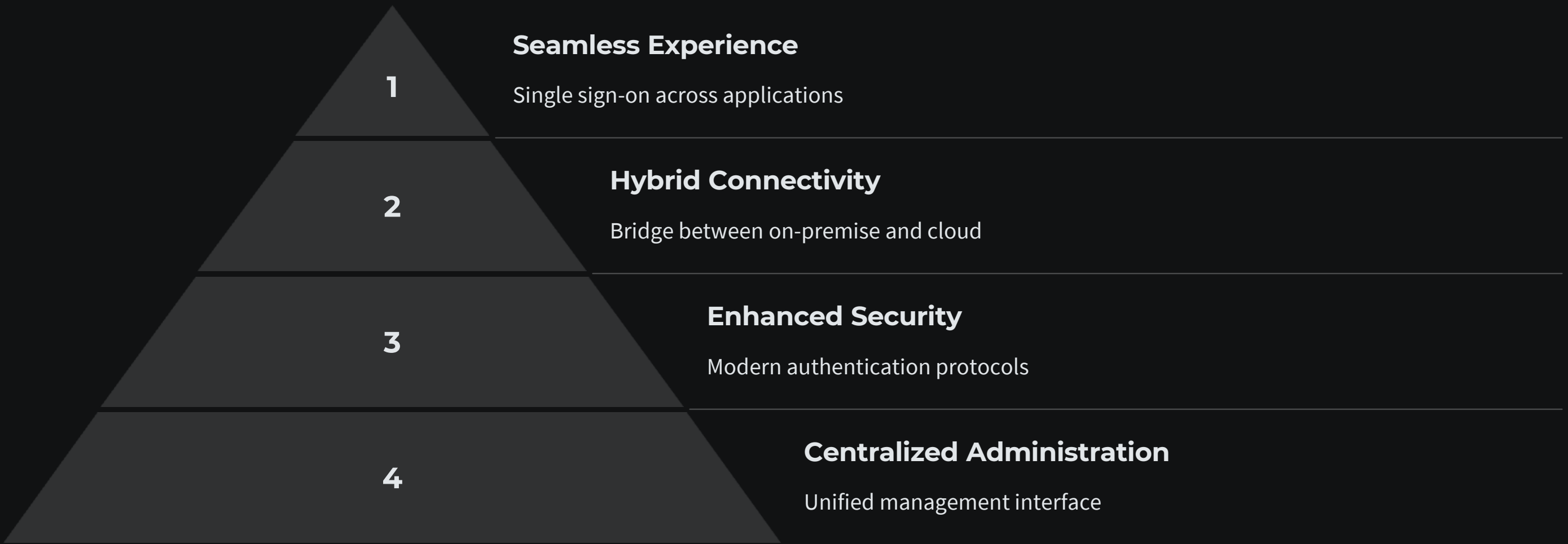### License Required
For certain use cases

1+
Billing Metric
Based on number of logons

While the Identity Authentication service is generally included in the license of SAP BTP, it's important to note that an additional license must be purchased for specific use cases. The billing metric is based on the number of logons, so usage patterns will affect your overall costs.

When planning your identity strategy, consider consulting with SAP to understand exactly which scenarios might incur additional licensing costs for your specific implementation.

Benefits of Identity Authentication Service

1 — **Seamless Experience**
Single sign-on across applications

2 — **Hybrid Connectivity**
Bridge between on-premise and cloud

3 — **Enhanced Security**
Modern authentication protocols

4 — **Centralized Administration**
Unified management interface

One of the most compelling aspects of the Identity Authentication service is its flexibility in bridging different identity systems. In many implementations, it serves as a crucial connector between legacy on-premise identity systems and modern cloud applications, providing users with a consistent and secure authentication experience.

This bridging capability is particularly valuable during digital transformation initiatives when organizations are operating in hybrid environments.
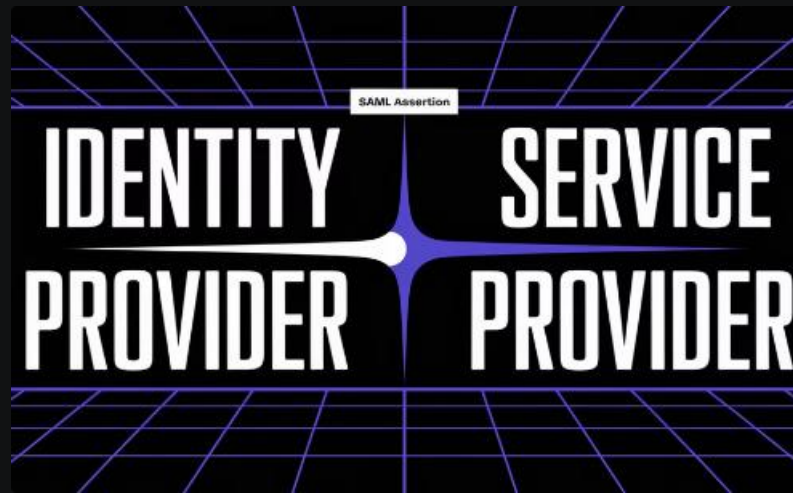
Summary of Identity Provider Options

Provider	Configuration	Cost	Best For
SAP ID Service	Default, minimal setup	No additional costs	Small implementations, POCs
Custom Identity Provider	Custom integration required	No additional SAP BTP costs	Organizations with existing identity solutions
Identity Authentication Service	Setup as proxy or direct provider	Included with some exceptions	Hybrid scenarios, bridging on-premise and cloud

Each identity provider option has distinct advantages depending on your organization's specific requirements, existing infrastructure, and strategic direction. The right choice will depend on factors such as your current identity management landscape, security requirements, and long-term cloud strategy.
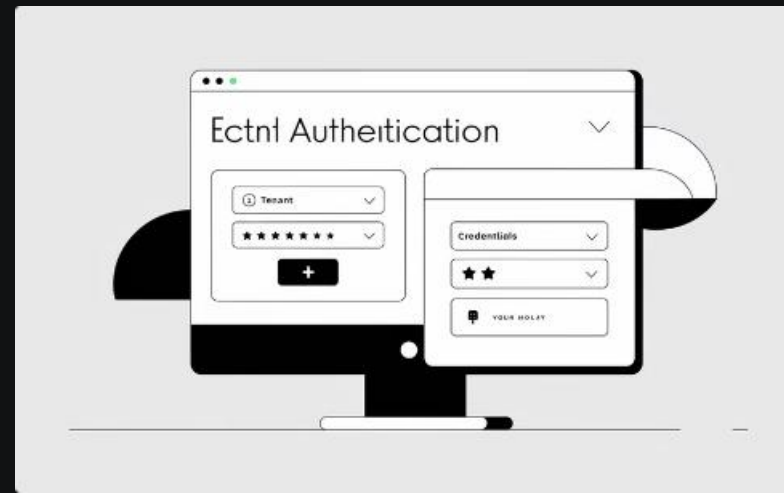
Next Steps: Authentication Scenarios

Standard Identity Federation

Our next lesson will explore how standard federation protocols enable secure communication between identity providers and service providers in SAP BTP.

Identity Authentication Tenant

We'll examine how to configure and optimize an Identity Authentication tenant for various business scenarios and security requirements.

Corporate Identity Provider

Finally, we'll discuss how to integrate your corporate identity provider with SAP BTP for enterprise-grade identity management.

In our next lesson, we'll build on today's foundation by exploring these supported authentication scenarios in detail, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of identity management options in SAP BTP.