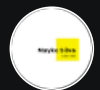# The Modern RICEFW Framework in SAP

In this presentation, we'll examine how Reports, Interfaces, Conversions, Enhancements, Forms, and Workflows are evolving to meet modern business needs while maintaining system integrity and future-readiness.

por **Mayko Silva**

Understanding RICEFW

1 **Reports**

Business intelligence tools that help management make decisions

2 **Interfaces**

Integration points between SAP and other systems

3 **Conversions**

Data migration and transformation processes

4 **Enhancements**

Customizations to standard SAP functionality

5 **Workflows**

Structured sequences of steps designed to automate and streamline business processes

The RICEFW framework categorizes the main types of development objects in SAP implementations. While the categories remain the same, the implementation approaches are evolving dramatically with SAP's cloud transition.
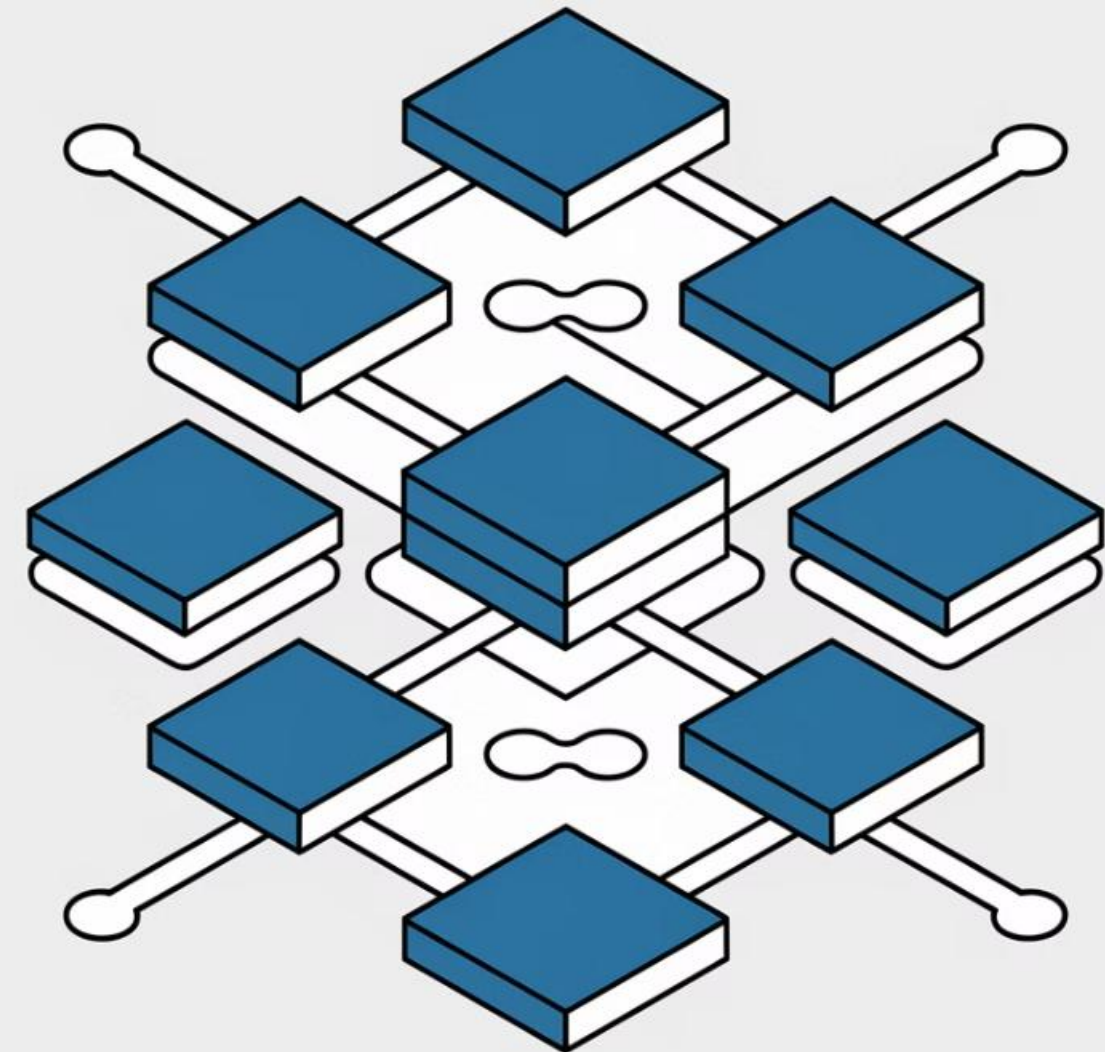
Modern Reporting Solutions

Traditional Approach

In the past, developers created ALV reports or used SAP Query, often requiring modifications to core SAP code. These approaches worked but created upgrade challenges.

Cloud-Ready Approach

Today's best practice leverages CDS views and Fiori applications. This keeps customizations separate from the core system, making upgrades smoother while delivering enhanced user experiences.

The evolution in reporting emphasizes clean architecture that doesn't interfere with standard SAP functionality, ensuring systems remain upgrade-safe while meeting business requirements.

Reporting in Action

Identify Reporting Need

A retail company requires specific sales reports with custom calculations and visualizations.

Leverage CDS Views

Rather than modifying core code, developers use SAP-provided CDS views as the foundation.

Add Custom Logic

Custom calculations are implemented as extensions without altering standard functionality.

Create Fiori Interface

The solution is wrapped in a user-friendly Fiori application for an enhanced experience.

Interface Evolution

1 — **Traditional IDocs**

Historically, SAP systems exchanged data through Intermediate Documents (IDocs), which functioned as one-way data transfers with limited real-time capabilities.

2 — **Modern OData Services**

Today's interfaces leverage OData services, enabling more dynamic, bidirectional communication between systems with standardized protocols.

3 — **Event-Driven Architecture**

The newest approach uses events to trigger actions across systems, creating responsive, real-time integration landscapes.

Real-World Interface Example

1

Business Need

A manufacturing company needs real-time access to supplier inventory data to optimize purchasing decisions.

2

Solution Design

Create a custom business object that interfaces with the supplier's system using modern SAP integration tools.
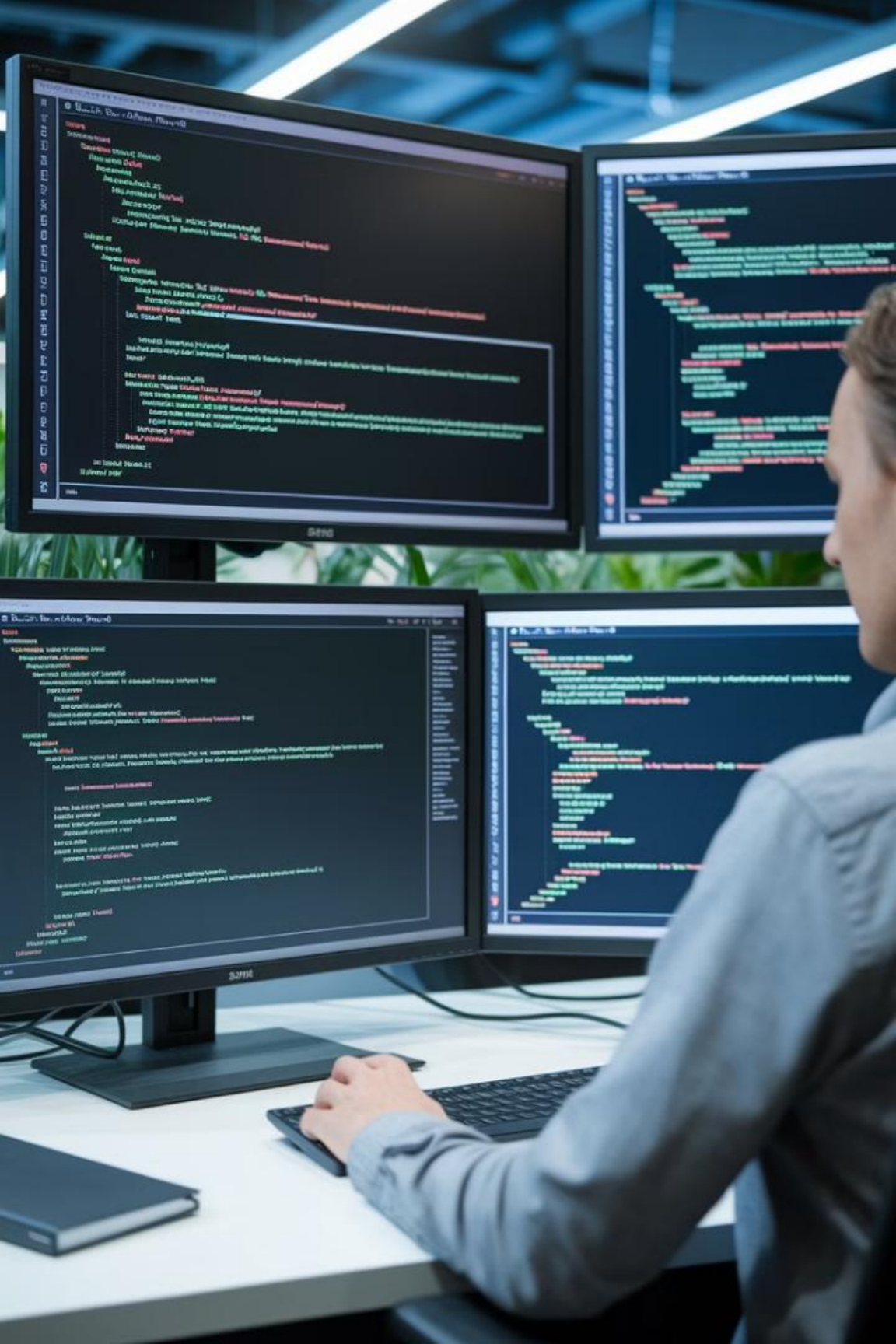
3

Implementation

Integrate the solution directly into the standard purchasing process without disrupting core functionality.

4

Benefits

Real-time inventory visibility improves decision-making while maintaining system integrity and upgrade safety.

Enhancement Approaches

Traditional Methods

User exits and Business Add-Ins (BADIs) were the standard ways to enhance SAP functionality. While effective, they often created dependencies that complicated upgrades.

Key User Extensibility

Modern SAP systems allow business users to extend functionality through configuration rather than coding, reducing technical debt and simplifying maintenance.

Behavior Extensions

These powerful tools allow developers to inject custom logic at specific points in standard processes without modifying the underlying code.

Enhancement Example

Business Requirement

Service company needs special approval for VIP customers

Add Custom Fields

Extend standard objects without modifying core

Implement Custom Workflow

Add approval process that integrates with standard processes

Create Event Handler

Capture customer creation/modification events

1

2

3

4

This approach allows the company to implement their unique business process while maintaining a clean system that remains upgrade-safe and cloud-ready.

Forms and Workflow Modernization

Modern Forms

Traditional SmartForms are being replaced by cloud-based solutions like SAP Forms Service by Adobe, offering enhanced flexibility and ease of use.
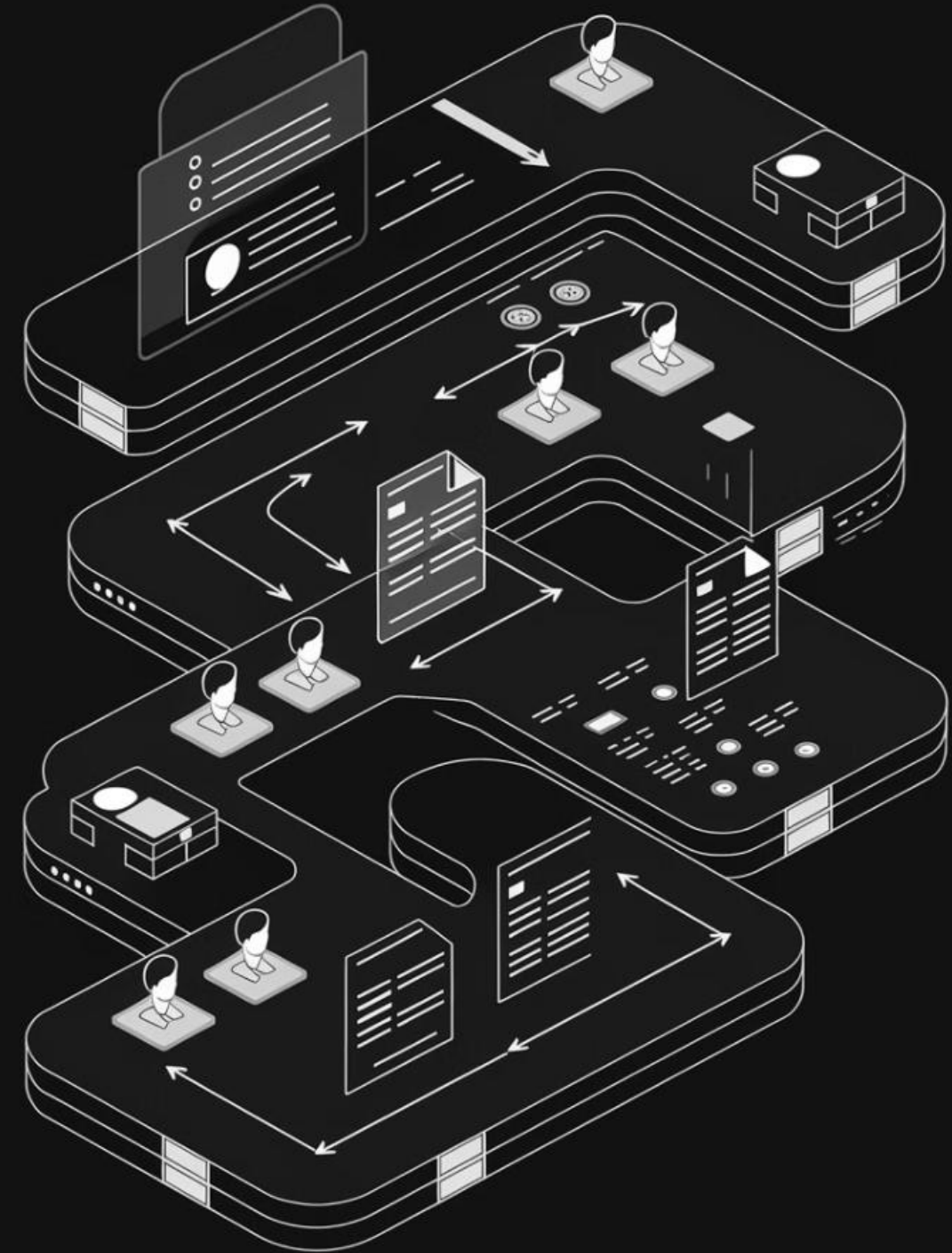
Flexible Workflows

Rigid workflows built into SAP are giving way to adaptable cloud-based solutions that can be modified quickly to meet changing business needs.

Seamless Integration

Modern forms and workflows integrate smoothly with standard SAP processes while remaining separate from core functionality.

Workflow Example

1   **Complex Purchase Approvals**

Company needs multi-level approval for large purchases

2   **SAP Workflow Management**

Cloud-based solution with flexible configuration

3   **Standard Process Integration**

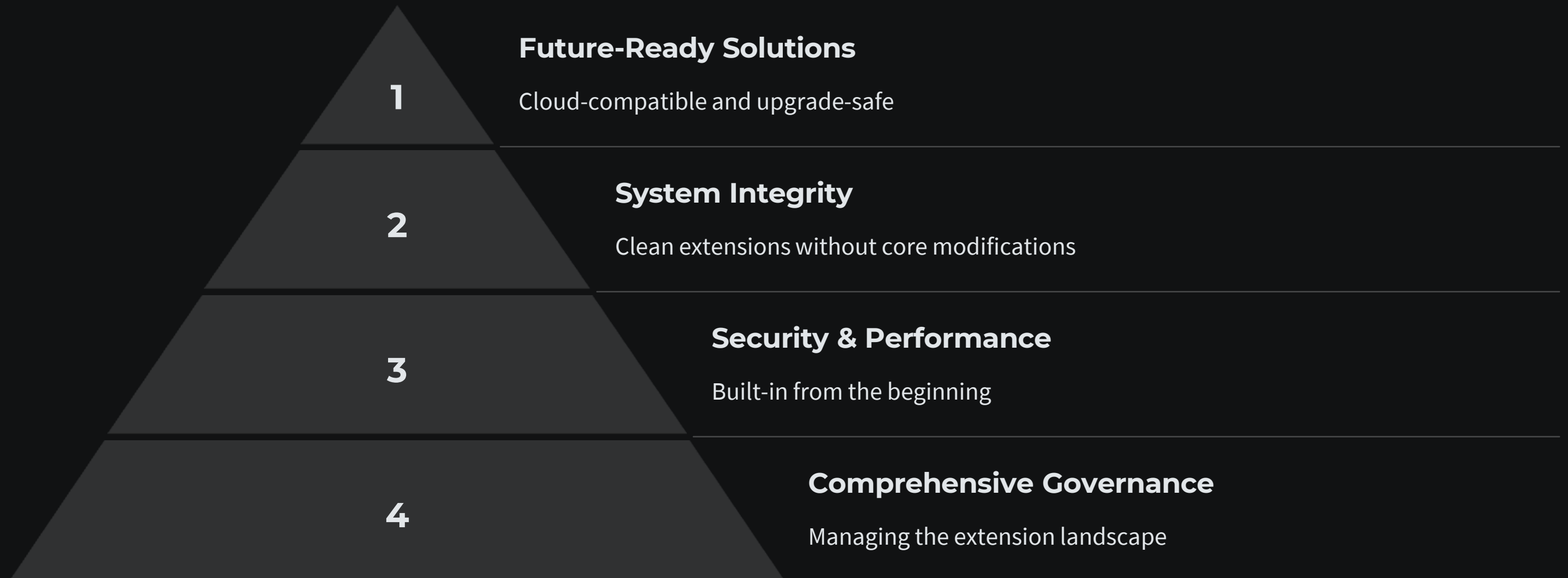Connects to core SAP without modifications

4   **Adaptable Solution**

Easy to modify as business requirements change

This modern approach delivers the complex workflow the business needs while maintaining system integrity and providing the flexibility to adapt to future changes without disruption.

The Big Picture: RICEFW Best Practices

1 **Future-Ready Solutions**
Cloud-compatible and upgrade-safe

2 **System Integrity**
Clean extensions without core modifications

3 **Security & Performance**
Built-in from the beginning

4 **Comprehensive Governance**
Managing the extension landscape

The modern RICEFW framework maintains the same categories we've always used in SAP development, but implements them in smarter, cleaner ways. By building solutions that are cloud-ready, secure, and maintainable, we ensure systems that can evolve with business needs without creating technical debt.