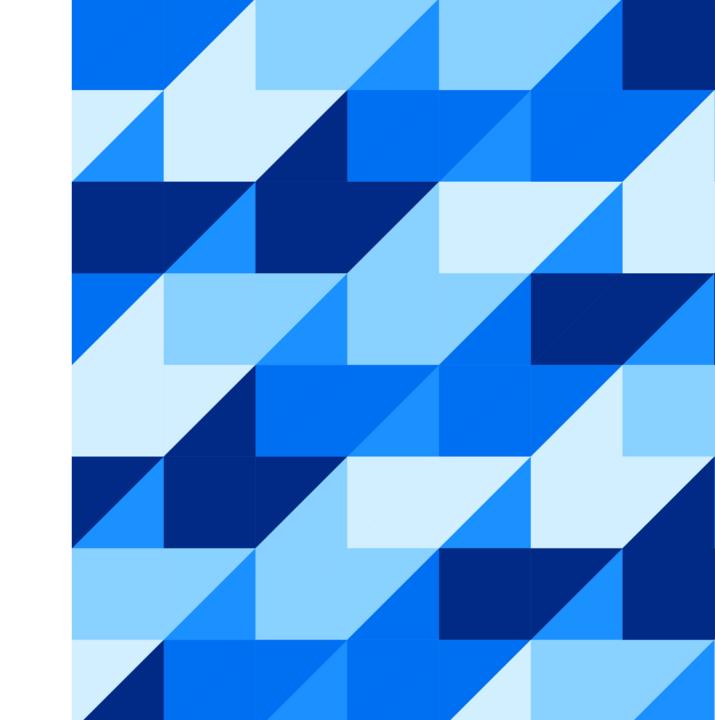


Clean Core und ABAP – Projekterfahrungen

Lukas Bretschneider & Daniel Huser, SAP June 04, 2025



Agenda

Clean Core – Update 2025
What is new? What has changed?

- Measuring Clean Core
 Focusing on Governance, outlook on system measurability
- Lessons Learned & Best Practices
 In reality, clean core relies on experts & governance

Public

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Clean Core is a set of 5 guiding principles

The clean core principles help ensure customers' business-critical systems remain agile, cost-effective, and ready to adopt innovations that drive business forward.

By adopting standard processes, while incorporating stable **extensions and integrations for differentiating processes**, the clean core principles help customers flexibly adapt to changing business requirements and adopt new capabilities



What It Is and Why It Matters

What is a clean extension?

Clean extensions are de-coupled from the core by leveraging released APIs. A clear governance process ensures to leverage the best available option within the SAP S/4HANA extensibility model. This can happen on-stack with ABAP Cloud or side-by-side with SAP BTP.

Clean extensions allow you to differentiate from the competition while staying upgradestable

- De-Coupling extensions eases your upgrade process and enables you to consume innovation faster
- Reducing technical debt and gaining transparency on extensions will allow you **more flexibility**
- Technical de-coupling of extensions can reduce your time-to-market from an extension idea to the realization
- Leverage the options of the three-tier extensibility model by using onstack as well as side-by-side extensibility (with SAP BTP) capabilities, covering low-code to pro-code extension technologies



Create decoupled extensions to ensure upgrade stability - leveraging released **APIs** from SAP

- Leverage modern extensibility technologies and the three tier extensibility model
- Use **released APIs** wherever possible to make extensions not breaking your upgrades – and upgrades not breaking your extensions
- Leverage on-stack and side-by-side extensibility **best** – depending on your use case

Ensure continuous governance – from requirement to design over implementation to deployment

- **Requirement:** Ensure extensions are only created if they are valuable and distinguish you from your competitors
- Design: Establish design guidance to ensure the cleanest option is considered
- Implementation: Encourage your developers to stick with your design and clean core approach – and document any technical debt accordingly
- **Deployment**: Introduce mandatory code checks including a well-managed exemption process

Ensure technical debt is always an informed decision – and manage it professionally

- Ensure new technical debts are **limited** and always documented with a clear justification
- Ensure the right balance between governance/strictness and practicability
- Housekeeping: Measure your technical debt and set yourself ambitious but **realistic** goals to reduce it – but be aware: decades of classic custom code will not disappear over night!

Governance & Operational Maturity

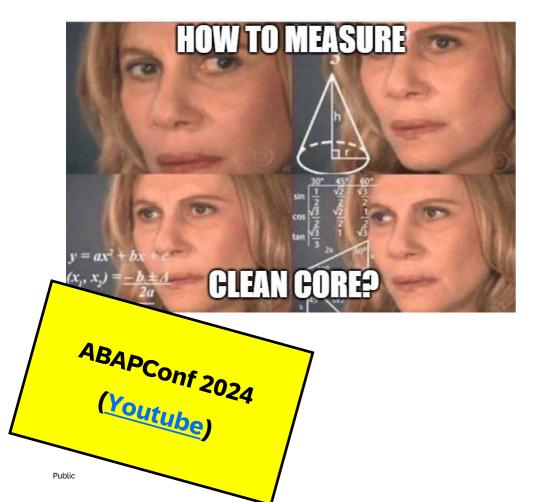
- 1. Governance Maturity
- 2. System Setup

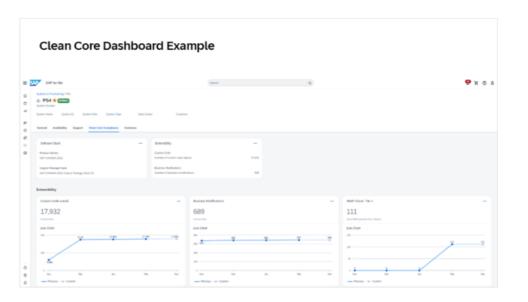


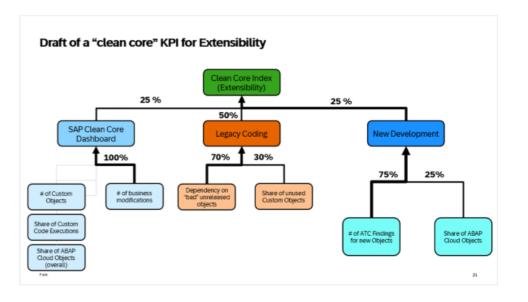
KPI Categories

- 1. Clean Core Share
- 2. Technical Debt Score
- 3. Unused Code Share
- 4. (Business) Modifications

The bad... measurability

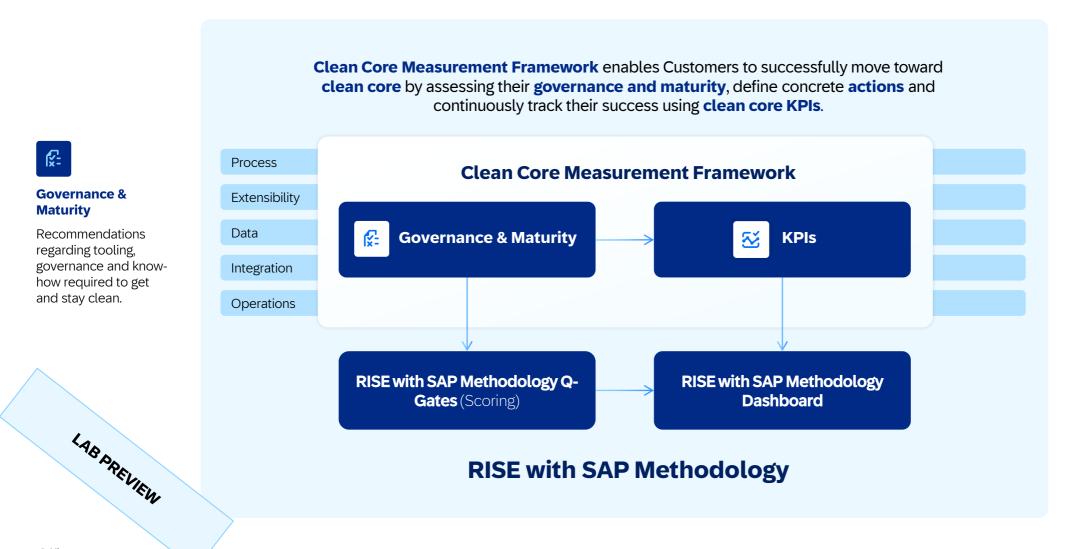






How to Measure Clean Core?

How can I assess my current state of cleanliness, track my progress and improvements over time?





KPIs

Measure clean-core adherence during a project and business as usual. Derived from analysing system data or data points collected.

Governance and Operational Practices Extensibility Maturity - Result

	CURRENT SCORE	TARGET SCO	REV.
Extensibility Score	<0-5>	<0-5>	VIEW

Governance Maturity (0,00)	Practices	Importance	Current Score	Target Score
	Maturity of Governance Process (for Extensions)	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of Extension Architecture Guidelines	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of Development Guidelines	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of Developer Skills & Enablement	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of Measurements & KPIs	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of Housekeeping Practice	Medium	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Maturity of scoping process for custom code adoption (conversion only)	Medium	<0-5>	<0-5>

System Setup (0,00)	Practices Practi	Importance	Current Score	Target Score
	Setup of Automated code checks	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Setup of exemption process	High	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Setup for Three-Tier-Model	Medium	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Setup of Usage Data Collection	Medium	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Setup of SAP BTP Account for Clean Core Extensibility	Low	<0-5>	<0-5>

EXT-GOV-02: Extension Architecture Guidelines

		IMPORTANCE	CURRENT SCORE	TARGE, PREVIEW	
Practice	Maturity of Extension Architecture Guidelines	HIGH <0-5> <0-5>	<0-5>		
Rationale	In order to evaluate the best technical architecture, you ideally have architecture guidelines in place that recommend "cleaner" options over "uncleaner" ones and considers the choice between On-Stack or Side-by-Side extensions in your technical environment.				
Practice Summary This practice ensures consistent and high-quality extension architecture by establishing comprehensive guidelines, favoring cleaner options (like Tier 1 extensions), and basing extension domain choices on documented, objective criteria. It links guidance to governance processes, enforces the use of released APIs, and mandates thorough documentation and control over architectural decisions and exceptions.				uidance to	

	Current Score	Target Score
Is there a guidance implemented that ensures consistent e.g. based on the SAP Application Extension Methodology?	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is the 3 Tier Extension Model for SAP S/4HANA considered and is the guidance aiming for Tier 1 extensions whenever possible?	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is the extension domain (On-Stack or Side-by-Side) chosen based on your extension use case? Is there an objective guidance in place to choose the best fitting extension domain?	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is your guidance on architectural level guiding towards released APIs (local or remote)? Is there a well-defined exception process in place? (e.g. mandatory influence request to SAP in case of missing APIs)	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is your governance approval process linked to your guidelines? (e.g. choosing a modification needs approval from central architecture board; classic user exit only from local architect)	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is there a clear documentation process for your decisions on extension architecture established?	<0-5>	<0-5>
Is there a definition in place on how exemptions in development will be approved and documented upfront? (e.g. allowing package exemptions in ATC only in exceptional cases)	<0-5>	<0-5>
	Is the 3 Tier Extension Model for SAP S/4HANA considered and is the guidance aiming for Tier 1 extensions whenever possible? Is the extension domain (On-Stack or Side-by-Side) chosen based on your extension use case? Is there an objective guidance in place to choose the best fitting extension domain? Is your guidance on architectural level guiding towards released APIs (local or remote)? Is there a well-defined exception process in place? (e.g. mandatory influence request to SAP in case of missing APIs) Is your governance approval process linked to your guidelines? (e.g. choosing a modification needs approval from central architecture board; classic user exit only from local architect) Is there a clear documentation process for your decisions on extension architecture established? Is there a definition in place on how exemptions in development will be approved and documented upfront?	Is there a guidance implemented that ensures consistent e.g. based on the SAP Application Extension Methodology? Is the 3 Tier Extension Model for SAP S/4HANA considered and is the guidance aiming for Tier 1 extensions whenever possible? Is the extension domain (On-Stack or Side-by-Side) chosen based on your extension use case? Is there an objective guidance in place to choose the best fitting extension domain? Is your guidance on architectural level guiding towards released APIs (local or remote)? Is there a well-defined exception process in place? (e.g. mandatory influence request to SAP in case of missing APIs) Is your governance approval process linked to your guidelines? (e.g. choosing a modification needs approval from central architecture board; classic user exit only from local architect) Is there a clear documentation process for your decisions on extension architecture established? 40-5> Is there a definition in place on how exemptions in development will be approved and documented upfront? 40-5>

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Measuring Clean Core – the SAP way

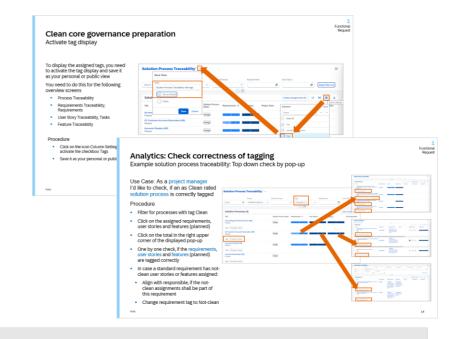
Manage your gaps and features in SAP Cloud Application Lifecycle Management (<u>CALM</u>) – e.g. with "clean" tags

Learn about improvements (now and upcoming), especially on:

- RISE with SAP Methodology Dashboards in CALM
- ABAP Test Cockpit (ATC)

RISE-Dashboard will include more KPIs in future (Still 2025) – KPI definition ongoing.

- Share of Tier 1 objects
- Share of objects leveraging "classic APIs" (see new ATC check)
- Share of objects with usage of "noAPI" (see new ATC Check)
- Object Score (weighted per findings of the categories above)
- Share of unused Code



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Clean core governance preparation

Activate tag display

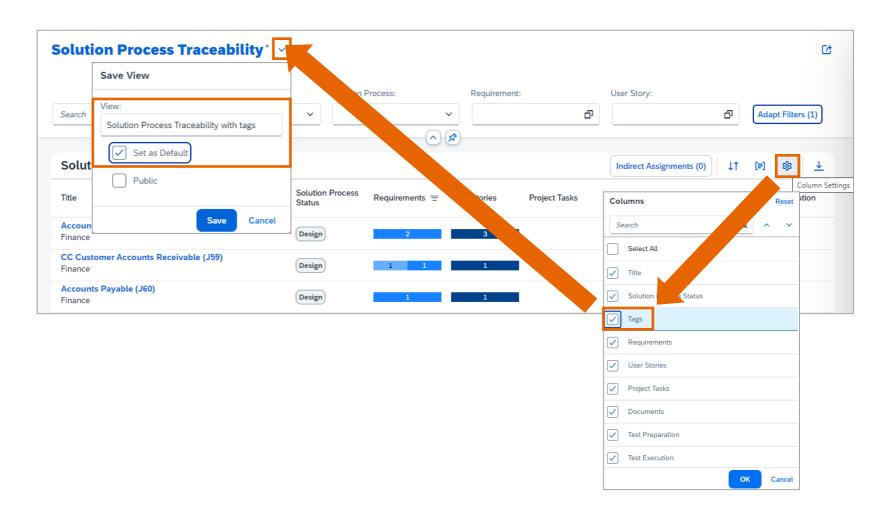
To display the assigned tags, you need to activate the tag display and save it as your personal or public view

You need to do this for the following overview screens

- Process Traceability
- Requirements Traceability, Requirements
- User Story Traceability, Tasks
- Feature Traceability

Procedure

- Click on the icon Column Settings and activate the checkbox Tags
- Save it as your personal or public view



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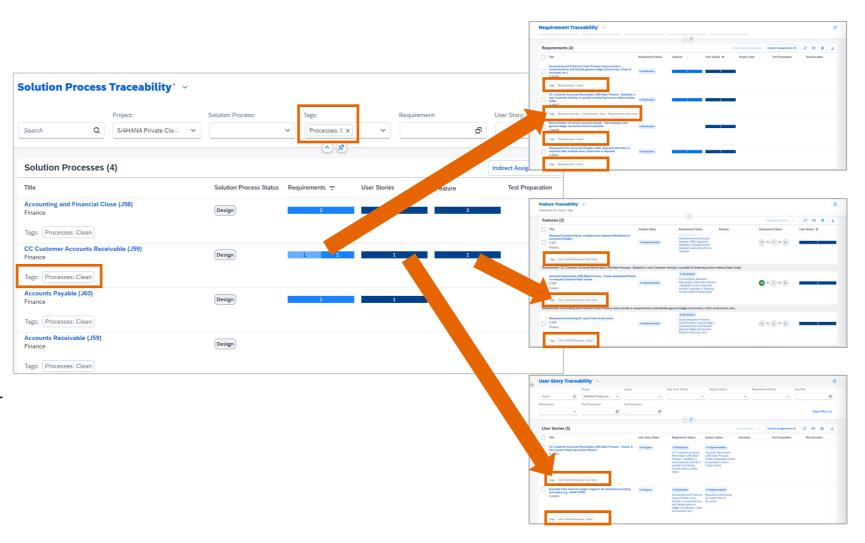
Analytics: Check correctness of tagging

Example solution process traceability: Top down check by pop-up

Use Case: As a project manager I'd like to check, if an as Clean rated solution process is correctly tagged

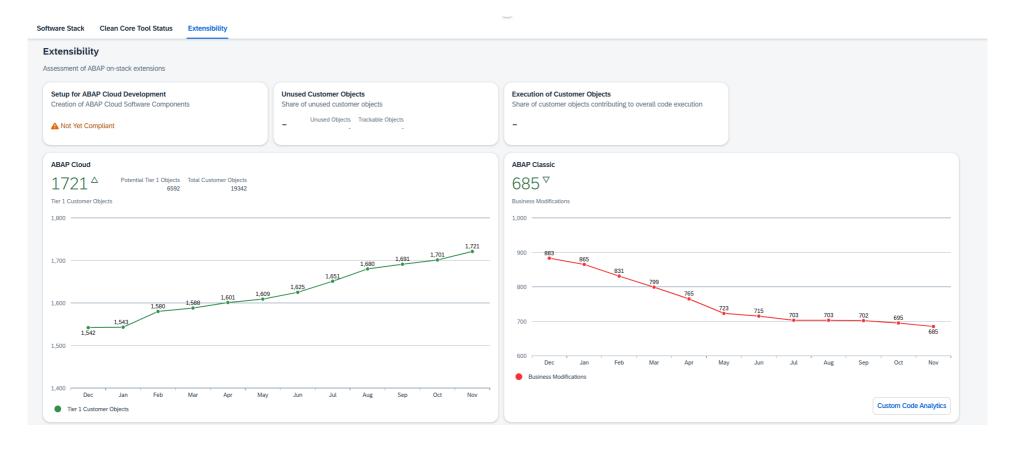
Procedure

- Filter for processes with tag Clean
- Click on the assigned requirements, user stories and features (planned)
- Click on the total in the right upper corner of the displayed pop-up
- One by one check, if the requirements, user stories and features (planned) are tagged correctly
- In case a standard requirement has notclean user stories or features assigned:
 - Align with responsible, if the notclean assignments shall be part of this requirement
 - Change requirement tag to Not-clean

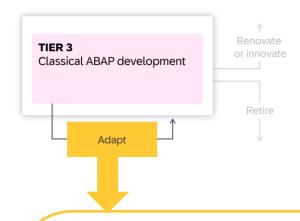


System View – Tab Extensibility

The cards displayed under "Extensibility" give you an overview of your ABAP Cloud (Customer Objects) and ABAP Classic (Business Modifications) extensions.



Enhanced guidance for custom development in tier 3



Recommended <u>classic APIs for tier 3</u> (e.g. CL_GUI_ALV_GRID) provided as JSON file on GitHub

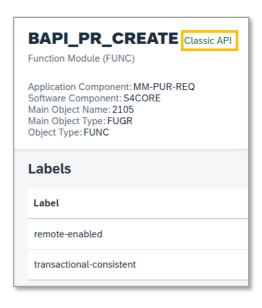
New ATC check variant detecting the classic ABAP custom code which shall be adapted

- Report violation of standard security and quality rules
- > Report on modifications and implicit and explicit enhancements
- Report use of critical statements, for example, SYSTEM-CALLs
- > Enforce usage of SAP released and classic APIs instead of internal APIs
- > Enforce Clean ABAP guidelines



Classic APIs on GitHub





New ATC Check based on usage guidelines for SAP APIs



- Checks usages of SAP standard objects in custom code like interfaces, classes, function modules, CDS views, behavior definitions, DDIC database tables and DDIC database views, programs or their subroutines.
- Does not check usages SAP DDIC object types like data elements, domains, table types and structures
- Check behavior
 - > No finding in ATC
 - ✓ Usage of released APIs
 - Priority 3 (Info)
 - ✓ Usage of classic APIs

Priority 2 (Warning)

- Usage of internal Objects (not classified Objects)
- ✓ SQL read access to SAP database table
- ✓ SUBMIT statement on programs

Priority 1 (Error)

- Usage of "no API" (with successor if available)
- SQL write access to SAP database table
- PERFORM statements on external subroutines

Example: Check a simple ABAP report with ALV using

ABAP CLOUD READINESS checks:

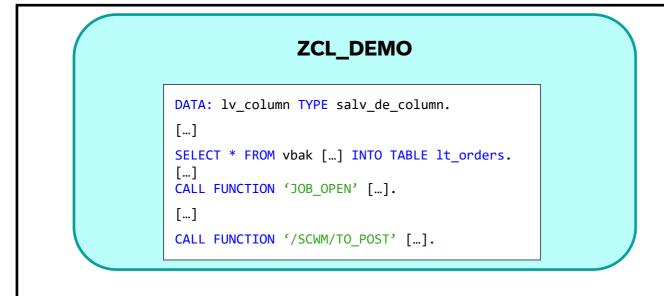
✓ ✓ ABAP Language Version (Syntax) (5 Errors)	
	SELECT
Syntax error in restricted language scope (Open SQL)	
Syntax error in restricted language scope (Open SQL)	UPDATE
Syntax error in restricted language scope (dynpro)	PARAMETERS
Syntax error in restricted language scope (report)	REPORT
Syntax error in restricted language scope (report)	START-OF-SELECTION
✓ ✓ Allowed Object Types in Cloud Development (1 Errors)	
Objects of type PROG are not allowed in ABAP Cloud Development	
✓ Usage of Released APIs (8 Errors)	
Usage of API that will not be released.	BUT000
Usage of API that will not be released.	BUT000
Usage of API that will not be released.	BUT000
Usage of API that will not be released.	BUT000
Usage of not released ABAP Platform APIs.	BU_PARTNER
Usage of not released ABAP Platform APIs.	CL_SALV_TABLE
Usage of not released ABAP Platform APIs.	CL_SALV_TABLE
Usage of not released ABAP Platform APIs.	CX_SALV_MSG

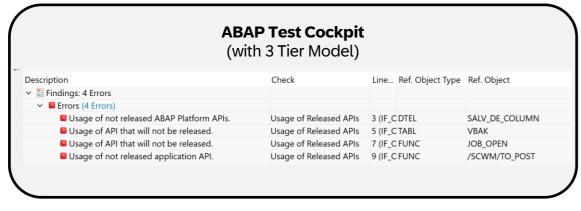
New ATC check Usage of APIs

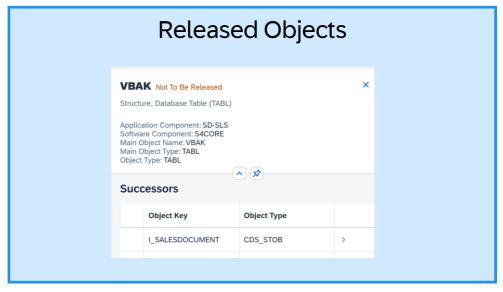
▼ Ei Findings: 1 Errors, 2 Warnings, 2 Infos	
✓ ■ Errors (1 Errors)	
Updating DDIC database tables or DDIC table views is not allowed (successor available)	BUT000
✓ △ Warnings (2 Warnings)	
Reading from DDIC database tables or DDIC table views is not recommended (successor available)	BUT000
△ Usage of internal API	CX_SALV_MSG
✓ Infos (2 Infos)	
◆ Usage of classic API	CL_SALV_TABLE
◆ Usage of classic API	CL_SALV_TABLE

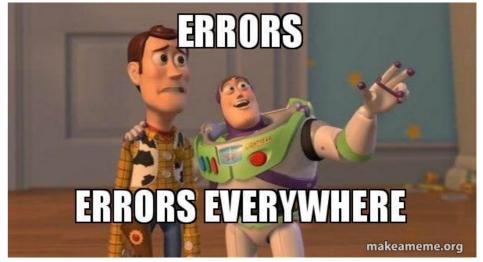
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How to measure clean core with ATC (ABAP_CLOUD_READINESS)

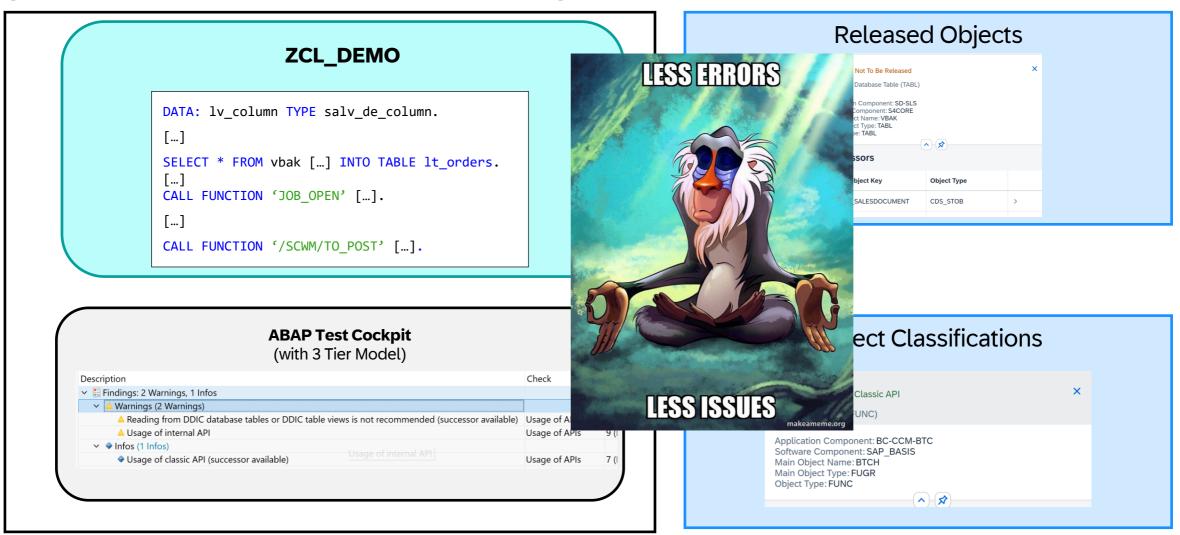








How to measure clean core with ATC (3-Tier Check from SAP Note 3565942)



Measuring Clean Core – the {projectname} way

Governance, Governance!

Identify reasonable KPIs (insightful, actionable) for your project – if needed: Build Dashboards on your own based on your project need (e.g. greenfield vs. brownfield has different needs)

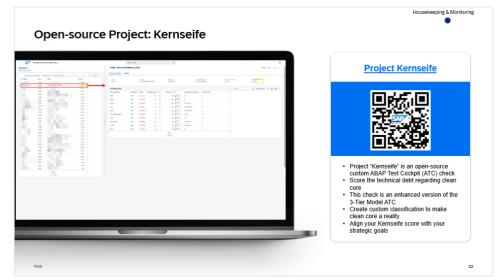
Set (realistic) goals to reduce technical debt!

Manage your requirements in "your" tool (project example: Azure DevOps) with a connection to "clean core" and approvals

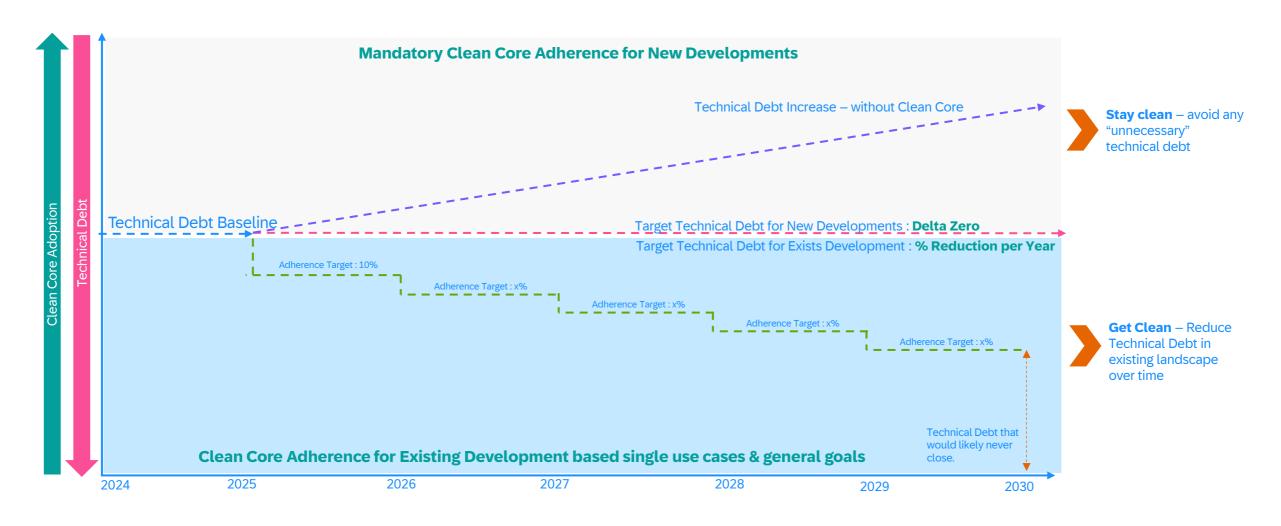
Leverage ATC Checks and measure ATC results regularly

If needed, leverage custom classification based on <u>Project</u> Kernseife.





Clean Core Example sibility Journey (example for Get Clean)





LinkedIn
Posts
about clean core

Talking about actual clean core projects and experiences

Accidental Modifications

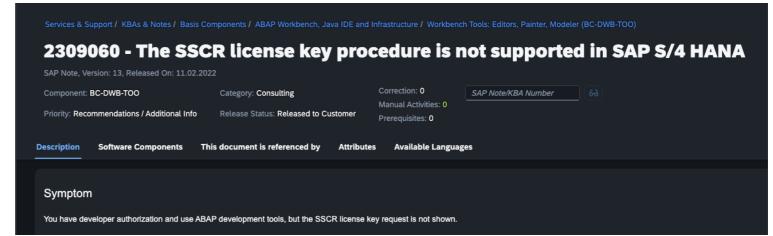




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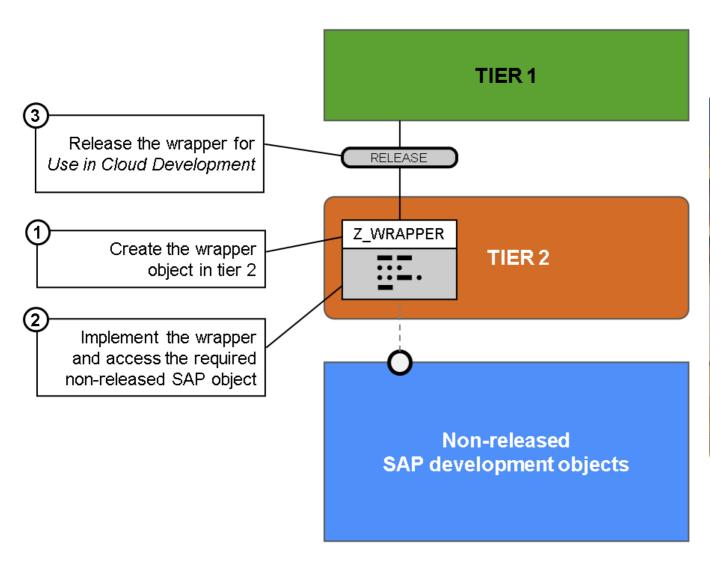
Restrict the "normal" Developer via S_DEVELOP

Example:





How much Stability is enough?





How much Stability is enough?

API Release: Compatibility of Released Objects

"Exemptions for Incompatible Changes

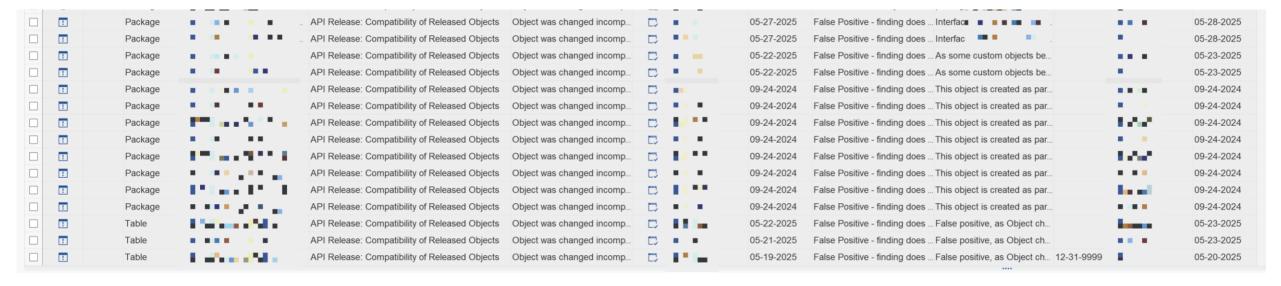
In some cases, incompatible changes can't be avoided, but due to their potential criticality, evaluation by an expert is required."

Options:

Reduce Check Priority

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- Deactivate Check
- API Snapshots



To Wrap or not to Wrap?



```
Method:
                                                                                 active
   14
   15
   16
   17
           CALL FUNCTION 'BAPI OBJCL CHANGE'
   18
             EXPORTING
               objectkey
                                  = objectkey
   19
   20
               objecttable
                              = objecttable
   21
               classnum
                                 = classnum
   22
               classtype
                                 = classtype
                                 = status
               status
   24
               standardclass
                                 = standardclass
   25
                               = changenumber
               changenumber
   26
               keydate
                                 = keydate
   27
               no default values = no default values
               keep same defaults = keep same defaults
   28
   29
               objectkey long
                                 = objectkey long
   30
              IMPORTING
   31
               classif status
                                 = classif status
   32
             TABLES
   33
               allocvaluesnumnew = allocvaluesnumnew
   34
               allocvaluescharnew = allocvaluescharnew
   35
               allocvaluescurrnew = allocvaluescurrnew
   36
               return
                                 = return.
   37
               if sy-subrc <> 0 ##FM SUBRC OK.
   38
               rv subrc = sy-subrc.
   39
               endif.
   40
          ENDMETHOD.
Scope: \METHOD
                                                                                                                              ifunny.ce
```

Use ACO_PROXY



Or do it the Kernseife Way:

CLAS - CL_GUI_ALV_GRID

BC-SRV-ALV

General Information

Application Component: BC-SRV-ALV Rating

Software Component: SAP BASIS

Release Level: Classic API

Successor Classification: None

Score

Rating Code: FW1

Adoption Effort: undefined

Comment: -

This can be achieved with Standard Checks, but with Kernseife you can define what is "classic" and what is not.

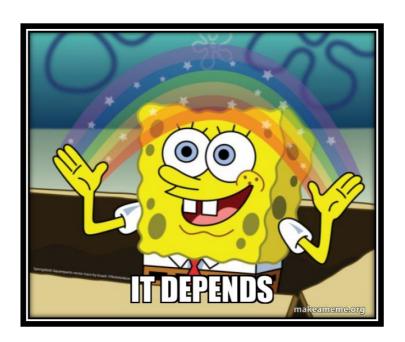
E.g. are you ok with usage of "only" Key-User released Objects?

This also then allows management of usage of objects which are hard to wrap, like interfaces.

Should I use this SAP object?

Is there a successor?

Was this wrapped already?

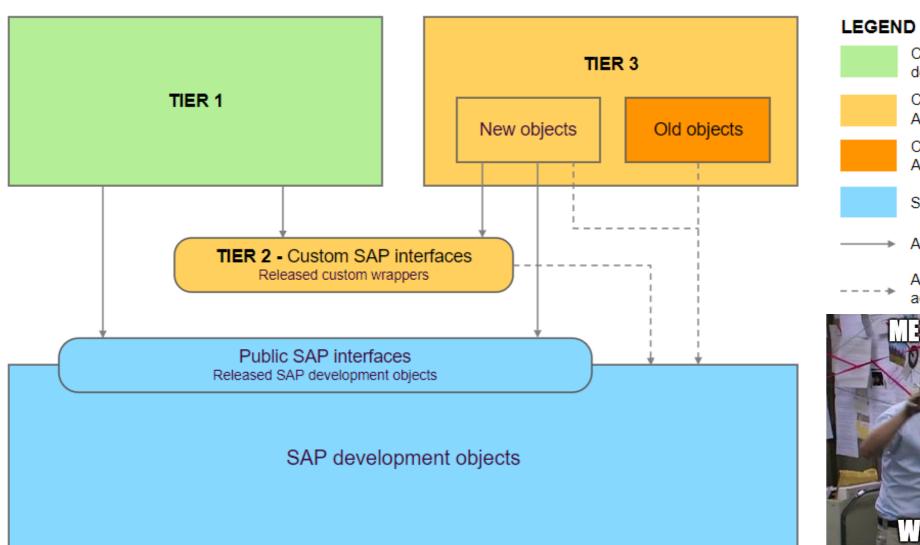


How "bad" is it?

Solution



The reality is messy



Custom objects, ABAP Cloud development model

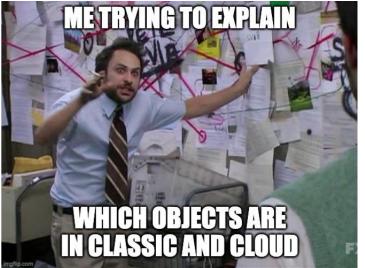
> Custom objects, classic ABAP, ABAP Cloud rules enforced by ATC

Custom objects, classic ABAP, ABAP Cloud rules not enforced by ATC

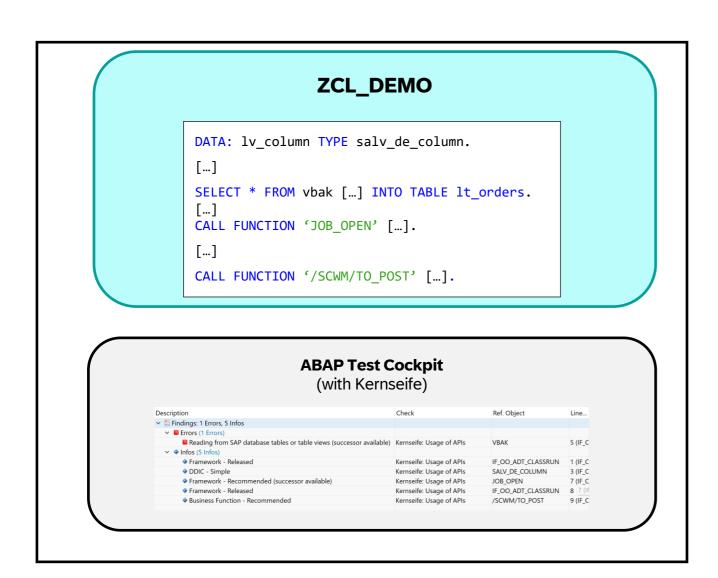
SAP objects

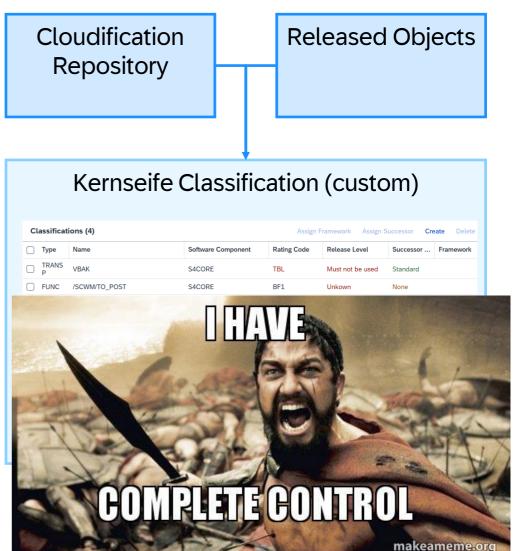
ABAP Cloud conform access

ABAP Cloud non-conform access, controlled by ATC

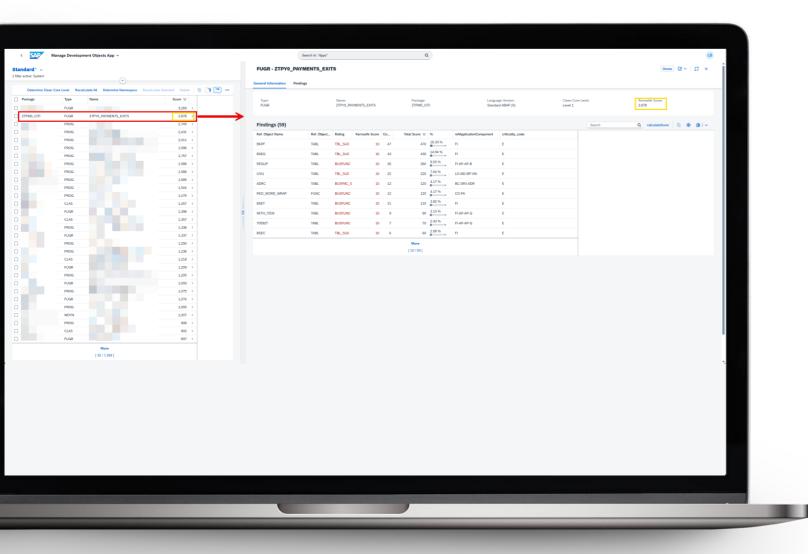


How to measure clean core with ATC (Project Kernseife)





Open-source Project: Kernseife



Project Kernseife



- Project "Kernseife" is an open-source custom ABAP Test Cockpit (ATC) check
- Score the technical debt regarding clean core
- This check is an enhanced version of the 3-Tier Model ATC
- Create custom classification to make clean core a reality
- Align your Kernseife score with your strategic goals

Agenda / Summary

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What is new? What has changed?

- Measuring Clean Core
 Focusing on Governance, outlook on system measurability
- Lessons Learned & Best Practices
 In reality, clean core relies on experts & governance

Thank you.

Contact information:

Lukas Bretschneider & Daniel Huser

<u>lukas.bretschneider@sap.com</u> | <u>daniel.huser@sap.com</u>

