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More than a Process Management tool

The Object Management Group (OMG) has developed a standard Business Process Model And Notation™. [BPMN™ Version 2.0](http://www.omg.org/spec/BPMN/2.0/) was released in 2011. The primary goal of BPMN is to provide a notation that is readily understandable by all business users, from the business analysts that create the initial drafts of the processes, to the technical developers responsible for implementing the technology that will perform those processes, and finally, to the business people who will manage and monitor those processes. Thus, BPMN creates a standardized bridge for the gap between the business process design and process implementation.

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io 
Os 
Collaboration 
BPMN 
Core 
Ser Vices 
Activities 
Figure 8.1 - A representation of the BPMN Core and Layer Structure 

Most of the information available is regarding [content activation](https://wiki.scn.sap.com/wiki/display/SM/SAP+Solution+Manager+7.2+Content+Activation). In other words, customers will upgrade your current system and use solution documentation scenario. However, the focus here is for customers who do not like or use SAP Solution Manager 7.0 and 7.1.

SAP Solution Manager 7.2 comes with a **dramatically** improved [solution documentation](https://youtu.be/ZBPyqbZkh40?list=PLFrwZZeBUtfiJgBrepFlRhZ7PFXayd6Lh) capability:

* Web-based documentation experience
* Content Lifecycle Model
* Integrated BPMN process editor
* Multi-level hierarchies (more than three)
* Processes assembled from re-use libraries
* Processes are validated and optimized continuously based on real usage

Machine generated alternative text:



A lot of desired features are now part of SAP Solution Manager 7.2: re-use and referencing whenever possible is key to avoid redundant documentation.

Processes 
Interface 
Originals 
Process Step Originals 
Executable Originals 
Development Originals 
•O 
•O 
Configuration 
Units 

The architecture has been simplified: you do not need to create and manage several solutions and logical components as before. The integration with [Change Control Management](https://wiki.scn.sap.com/wiki/display/SAPITSM/ITSM+Wiki+-+IT+Service+Management+and+ChaRM+Wiki+Homepage) is much higher: you can have the most updated documentation when the solution is deployed into the production, so it is real solution documentation. There is harmonised combination to setup [Business Process Monitoring and Job Scheduling Management](https://wiki.scn.sap.com/wiki/display/SM/SAP+Solution+Manager+WIKI+-+Business+Process+Operations) is required: the configurations are linked to the process and it is the starting point.

New concepts have been introduced with SAP Solution Manager 7.2:

* A Branch represents a version of the solution documentation containing processes, libraries, and systems.
* The Production Branch represents the productive version of the entire solution documentation.
* The Maintenance Branch represents the editable version of the productive solution documentation. It provides an safe environment for performing changes.
* Further Branches e.g. Development Branch, to deliver the future solution documentation.

System Landscape 
(Customer system tracks) 
Produdion system track 
Logical Component (Group) 
OG 1-1 
061-100 
PG1-100 
Dwelopn»ent systan t'iWk 
Architecture 
Logica Conwonent 
Group 
Logical Component 
Logical Component 
Prodtldion 
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Branches 
(Solution documentation versions) 
Maintenance 
Production 
Developm ent 

If you are evaluating a Business Process Modelling tool, you might consider:

* SAP Solution Manager 7.2 is a free\* tool to model Business Process and [much more than a Process Management tool](https://support.sap.com/solution-manager/processes.html).
* [SAP PowerDesigner](http://go.sap.com/product/data-mgmt/powerdesigner-data-modeling-tools.html) is a powerful tool for data modelling and enterprise architecture.
* If you are looking for a cloud solution, [Signavio](http://www.signavio.com) is the option.
* ARIS (Software AG) is a good option if you have extra money to invest and the company is very mature in BPM to realise its value.
* You may consider other tools, i.e. Pega, Mega, Qualiware, BizAgi, etc. but they are standalone system, with no integration. Why did you implement SAP ERP instead of using single systems? Please, notice some tools, such as Visual-Paradigm and Visio are not considered in this category.

Therefore, step up your company's maturity level and bring them into the digital transformation journey with SAP Solution Manager 7.2. I am looking forward to see SAP Solution Manager 7.2 as leader in the Gartner magic quadrant for BPM suite as well in the near future.

\*no license is required for Enterprise Support and PSLE customers

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