21 April 2017

SAP Solution Manager 7.2 embraces DevOps and Cloud

Digital transformation is becoming a business imperative in a world where frequent releases and iterative feedback rule the software development lifecycle, companies must rethink their software development competency and begin to follow best practices to adopted disruptive innovations. They need to shorten work cycles, increase delivery frequency, and adopt an attitude of continual experimentation, keeping scalability, efficiency and resiliency. Cloud computing, Agile development, and [DevOps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DevOps) are interlocking parts of a strategy for transforming IT into a business adaptability, functionality, operability, and deliverability enabler.

**Cloud computing** will help support **DevOps** methodologies that can help to speed up software delivery cycles, but this is not just a technology play; it is a change in IT culture IT as well; it is not something you build, it is something you do, and its core is the automation of **agile methodology**; the [ALM](http://www.bluepencil.com.au/single-post/2016/10/31/Integrated-ALM-and-SAP-Solution-Manager-72) with the goal of continuous delivery achieved through the discovery, refinement and optimisation of repeatable processes.

Machine generated alternative text:
Releases synchronize project go lives and 
ensure continuous delivery and integration. 
Projectto bundle deliverables. 
Multiple and parallel projects are possible 
Phases ending with Quality Gates 
Shon prepare and scope, incren•ntal build 
Waves ending with Touch and Feel by the business 
8— 12 weeks) 
Sprints with Show and Tell 
sessions to the 
business 2 weeks) 
Agile Releases 
Projects 
Build 
Waves 
Sprints 
De pay 
UAT and 
final integration 
testng 
Key-user 
unit & single 
functional test 

The future of Cloud computing is with DevOps, as is the future of DevOps with the cloud. Even more than product implementation, the combined DevOps/cloud product strategy refreshes opportunities in monitoring software development and release, facilitating IT provision of software as a service (SaaS), enhancing the reputation of sound software delivery, alleviating time delays in software recovery, and better ensuring return on investment.

Accordingly Larry Carvalho, research manager of IDC's worldwide Platform as a Service (PaaS) research practice, the seven key characteristics of modern cloud applications are: agile, cloud-developed, microservices-oriented and API-backed, continuously integrated and delivered (CI/CD), DevOps-enabled, analytics-infused and user experience-centric, and lightweight. Together DevOps and cloud have emerged to foster and empower the development and IT as a result of shifts in social behaviour along with accompanying adjustments to enterprise response. It lets companies conduct digital service relationships with their clients. DevOps and cloud allow companies to strategically transform user interaction with software delivery.

Machine generated alternative text:
Continuous delivery 
and automation 
Program Leve 
Release autom ation 
A utom ated reporting 
Pragmatic documentation 
handling 
A utom ated com pletion 
tracking 
Test planning & 
execution automation 
Jira Integration, 
unit test autom ation, 
transport autom ation 
Team Leve 
Quality Assurance 
Scaled agile 
orchestration 
DEV 
Development 
ops 
Operations 

There are other variances, we can use that "Keep CALMS and do DevOps":

* **Culture**: collaboration and trust, form project- or product-oriented teams, foster cross-functional collaboration, every department and at all levels have open channels of communication, and talk regularly.
* **Automation**: release faster and work smarter , continuous delivery ([automated tests](http://www.bluepencil.com.au/single-post/2017/01/11/Test-Automation-CBTA-on-SAP-Solution-Manager-72), [automated deploys](http://www.bluepencil.com.au/single-post/2016/11/24/Change-and-Transport-System-CTS-and-Enhanced-Change-and-Transport-System-CTS)), configuration as code (infrastructure as modular applications), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) enables greater business agility by making IT infrastructure more pliable.
* **Lean**: accelerate time to resolution, continuous improvement, eliminate low-value activities and moving quickly, and embrace failure (if the product is improved continuously, customers will stick around).
* **Measurement**: start with the basics (time from development to deployment, number of incidents, number of users) then capture metrics around feature usage, customer journeys, and service level agreements (SLAs); data will help the organisation make decisions.
* **Sharing**: better manage unplanned work, share responsibility and success along the way - developers and operators pair with each other in each phase of the application’s lifecycle (rotate roles), and positive feedback and public recognition really motivate anyone.

There are three main reasons DevOps and cloud need each other:

1. T**he move from product to service**: the transition from products to services is impacting software delivery as well. Previously, development companies built software products, and delivered them to customers who took responsibility for operations. With the advent of cloud, the majority of companies that build software also operate it on their customers’ behalf.
2. **From stability to agility**: the 21st-century business environment is forcing companies to shift their focus from stability and efficiency to agility and innovation. The pace of disruption is accelerating. Kodak lasted a hundred years before having to face the erosion of its place in the market. Microsoft, on the other hand, felt the ground shift under its feet after only thirty. Apple has gone from the most valuable company in the world to a question mark in just a couple of years.
3. **Digital integrates with material**: we reached the point where daily activities are becoming impossible without digital technology. Companies depend on IT for their very existence. IT can’t afford to fail at providing a compelling platform for the adaptive business.

The value and the function of DevOps and cloud computing are completely synergistic. If cloud computing is to become effective for enterprises, then it is DevOps that must take us there. You will not get the value of one without doing both. On the operations side, many businesses lack the organization and tools to make DevOps work. SAP Solution Manager helps you centralize and streamline management of end-to-end business processes, from delivery to operations, even in hybrid cloud and on premise landscapes and environments with a high number of installed SAP and non-SAP software systems. Hence, experience SAP Solution Manager for Cloud, with Cloud, and on Cloud:

Machine generated alternative text:
SAP Solution Manager 
for Cloud 
Build, Deploy, and Run for SAP cloud 
products 
Sane level of standards for cloud as 
on-premse 
Solution 
SAP Solution Manager 
with Cloud 
Maintenance Planner 
KPI Catalogue 
Roadmap Viewer 
SAP S/4HANA Readiness Check 
Best Practices 
Manager 
SAP Solution Manager 
on Cloud 
Cloud Appliance Library' 
SAP Solution Manager as a Managed 
Sewice 

### SAP Solution Manager with cloud

You must have used cloud already! SAP Solution Manager works “with cloud” to help you evaluate conversion from on premise operations using such features as the maintenance planner, the road map viewer, and the readiness check for SAP S/4HANA. SAP-supported best practices reduce project time and costs by guiding you safely through your SAP S/4HANA implementation:

* is based on the experience of multiple SAP S/4HANA projects delivered
* provides a best practice project plan, including recommended phases, deliverables, and tasks
* delivers accelerators such as documents and form templates
* is offered as a cloud service, available via roadmap viewer in SAP Solution Manager 7.2. The SAP S/4HANA implementation roadmap reduces project time and costs by guiding you safely through your SAP S/4HANA implementation

### SAP Solution Manager is "for cloud"

We say SAP Solution Manager is “for cloud” because you can use it to improve IT management and support business innovation as you build, deploy, and run any SAP solution in the cloud. And we apply the same high standards of reliability and cost-effectiveness to cloud operations that you’ve come to expect in traditional on premise operations. In hybrid cloud scenarios, SAP Solution Manager enables: solution documentation, project and portfolio management, performance & availability management, interface management, exception management, data consistency management, business process management, maintenance management, custom code management, change management, release management, test management, IT service management, and remote access.

Machine generated alternative text:
On-prem ise 
SAP 
HARA 
SAP Cloud 

### SAP Solution Manager works “on cloud”

In keeping with the industry trend toward software as a service, SAP Solution Manager 7.2 is available in the cloud through the robust [SAP Cloud Appliance Library (CAL)](https://cal.sap.com/) tool, an online repository of latest preconfigured SAP solutions ready to be consumed in the cloud. Clients only need an Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure account to **test drive the new features of SAP Solution Manager 7.2 for a free trial period of 30 days**. You can practice the content activation process to move your existing 7.1 solution documentation to the new SAP Solution Manager 7.2 process management capability, and also review sample SAP S/4HANA Best Practice content provided by SAP Activate.

### SAP Solution Manager as a Managed Service ([SMaaMS](http://www.bluepencil.com.au/smaams))

You do not want to maintain SAP Solution Manager, but only wish to run certain functionalities yourself? With a dedicated user and password you can execute the work career whenever required. And if you do not want to touch the system at all and want us to provide you with the outcomes, you can choose full-service. Blue Pencil Australia is certified in [SMaaMS](http://www.bluepencil.com.au/smaams) (Solution Manager as a Managed Service), making us the **first SAP Partner to certify on SAP Solution Manager 7.2**. Contact us today to help you plan **your roadmap** to SAP Solution Manager 7.2. If you have not embarked on the process yet, it is time to get started.

--

Jacques K. Maeda

[www.linkedin.com/in/jkmaeda](http://www.linkedin.com/in/jkmaeda)