

**SAP Solution Brief**

SAP Solutions for Enterprise Information  
Management  
SAP Information Steward

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Objectives

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Solution

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Benefits

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Quick Facts



**Understand, Analyze, and  
Quantify the Impact of Data  
on Your Business**



The Best-Run Businesses Run SAP®

**Tackle the data quality challenge**

# Tackle the data quality challenge

Has your company invested in mission-critical business initiatives – such as procurement, supply chain management, human resource, or analytics and business intelligence software deployments – but failed to realize expected benefits? In most cases, the root cause is poor data quality. But **with the right tools and process support, you can tackle data quality issues.**

An enterprise information management solution can help you proactively manage data quality problems and reduce the risk of propagating bad data down the road. To be effective, the solution needs to be easy to use by data stewards and business users.

SAP® Information Steward software can help to improve collaboration among data analysts, data stewards, and IT staff. Equip them to understand, analyze, and quantify the impact of data – and data quality – on enterprise processes.

With SAP Information Steward, you can:

- Continuously assess the trustworthiness of information and determine whether it's fit to use based on its quality
- Analyze how data quality affects enterprise processes and performance by discovering, defining, and monitoring data quality levels from a business perspective
- Identify where you can save money by minimizing the need for downstream data cleanup



# Continuously monitor and share data quality metrics

## Continuously monitor and share data quality metrics

Discover the benefits of investing in data quality

Define business rules for effective information governance

SAP Information Steward features a role-based user interface that enables your business users and data stewards to monitor data quality in real time and see how your data measures up to current information governance rules and standards.

For example, you can view data quality reports in aggregate using dashboards and scorecards and narrow the profiling results to a specific data set or data field, to better understand business impacts of poor data. At the same time, you can proactively share data quality metrics with IT and business colleagues and involve them in resolving data problems.

As a result, your business users across the enterprise can use data with confidence. At the same time:

- Members of information governance teams can work together without having to share reports through spreadsheets or import data across applications.
- Executives, managers, and IT experts can view and share information about governance and data quality metrics and track progress toward quality goals.
- Data issues can be addressed proactively to prevent bad data from entering business processes or applications, and alerts go out when data quality falls below a set standard.
- Business users gain continuous insight about data quality so they can determine whether data is fit to use for different purposes.



# Discover the benefits of investing in data quality

Continuously monitor and share data quality metrics

## **Discover the benefits of investing in data quality**

Define business rules for effective information governance

SAP Information Steward provides key metrics to help your stakeholders understand the quality of data. For example, using a simple, visual overview of data benchmarks such as integrity, uniqueness, conformity, completeness, and accuracy, business users and IT staff can better understand how data quality levels impact day-to-day business operations. In addition, using the business-value analysis feature within SAP Information Steward, you can perform what-if analyses for various data quality levels.

The software also helps you determine business costs based on impact per failure and quantify return on investment from data quality initiatives. For example, you can forecast the financial benefit of boosting data quality by 20% – savings you can achieve by reducing data cleanup costs downstream.

In this way, SAP Information Steward clarifies the root causes of data problems so you know where to focus data quality efforts. And using drill-down functionality, you can identify and expose the causes of poor data quality, making subsequent remedial efforts more focused and efficient.



Run what-if analyses to identify potential savings and lower data-related downstream cleanup costs.



# Define business rules for effective information governance

Continuously monitor and share data quality metrics

Discover the benefits of investing in data quality

## **Define business rules for effective information governance**

Good information governance depends on the creation of business rules and policies about how data is entered or accepted into an organization. SAP Information Steward supports sound governance processes that help you define data ownership in accordance with your organization's needs, roles, and accountability principles.

Data profiling tools help pinpoint error hot spots that indicate where governance controls must be refined or adjusted. The role-based user interface fosters collaboration among data analysts, data stewards, and IT experts for effective, ongoing data quality. As a result, you can promote information governance excellence across the enterprise.

Business users can define rules and standards that are most appropriate for their data and processes, as well as maintain them over time. Once rules are created, SAP Information Steward enforces them automatically and alerts the appropriate data steward when they fall out of compliance.

For example, a requirement may specify populating a field according to predefined rules such as valid values or a certain structure that supports a business process, reporting, or legal or compliance requirement. If the field is populated with anything that violates the business rule, the software can reject or accept the input and send an alert to the designated data steward.



# Realizing the benefits

## Realizing the benefits

With accurate insights about your data, you can rely on its quality and take targeted actions that will improve operational, analytical, and information governance initiatives. For example, you can:

- **Improve collaboration for information governance excellence** – Fuller cooperation among data analysts, data stewards, and IT experts can substantially impact information management initiatives and overall data quality. The software gives you a better grasp of how data quality affects enterprise processes and performance so you can take steps to improve efficiency and profitability.
- **Gain visibility into data quality metrics** – Your company gains comprehensive visibility into data quality at all levels of the information management landscape. Impact analysis tools help you assess the merits of changes in data structures and sources for reduced risk and improved data quality. With better insight into data origins and lineage, your information is more accurate and more trustworthy.
- **Identify data-related cost savings** – Now you can forecast the savings you can achieve by improving data quality, which helps you secure funding and support for data quality initiatives faster. You can also substantially lower the cost of downstream data cleanup by identifying and addressing upstream causes of data issues.





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**Summary**

Data is the lifeline of business today – so it's critical that you proactively manage data quality problems and reduce the risk of propagating bad data down the road. SAP® Information Steward software can help empower your IT and business users to collaborate, assess, analyze, and improve the trustworthiness of enterprise information, as well as identify opportunities to save money by minimizing the need for data cleanup downstream.

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**Objectives**

- Continuously assess the trustworthiness of information
- Analyze how data quality affects enterprise processes and performance
- Identify opportunities to save money on data cleanup

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**Solution**

- Reporting tools to continuously assess the trustworthiness of data
- Prebuilt key metrics to measure business impacts of poor data and discover where to focus data quality efforts
- Analytics for running what-if scenarios on proposed data quality initiatives
- Tools to define business rules and manage data governance

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**Benefits**

- Improve collaboration to drive data governance excellence
- Gain full data quality transparency for confidence in data accuracy and trustworthiness
- Identify and quantify savings opportunities to secure funding for data quality initiatives

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**Learn more**

To find out more, call your SAP representative today or visit us online at [www.sap.com/eim](http://www.sap.com/eim).



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