

Sap details first cloud-only innovation



Sap details first cloud-only innovation: rise into the future with sap

SAP recently reaffirmed its dedication to cloud-based ERP solutions during the "Rise into the Future with SAP" event. Central to this commitment is the introduction of cloud-only innovations, particularly in the realm of generative AI. One notable announcement was the unveiling of Joule, a generative AI assistant set to transform daily workflows within the SAP ecosystem.

ECC customers, however, face critical considerations. While SAP ensures its legacy on-premise deployments will receive continued support, the crux lies in the accessibility of cutting-edge innovations. To harness the full potential of SAP's latest advancements, transitioning to cloud-based solutions like RISE with SAP becomes increasingly vital.

This blog post delves into the implications of SAP's cloud ERP focus, including insights and announcements made at "Rise into the Future with SAP" considering their ERP future and expectations for forthcoming AI-related innovations.

New announcements made at "rise into the future with sap"

During its recent "Rise into the Future with SAP", SAP emphasized its commitment to cloud-based ERP solutions. The key points from the event include:

Generative-AI assistant joule:

SAP highlighted the importance of generative AI and stated that it is only achievable in the cloud, specifically in SAP S/4HANA Cloud, private edition, which is available through RISE with SAP. Introduced Joule a generative AI assistant capable of processing natural language and integrating with various SAP cloud offerings. Joule's application in streamlining and prioritizing daily activities was emphasized during the presentation. Joule is engineered to contextualize data from diverse systems and will integrate across SAP's cloud enterprise portfolio. Its initial deployment will be in SAP Success Factors and SAP Start suite, with intentions to extend its presence to other SAP products.

Enhancements and release cycle

SAP announced a new two-year release cycle for SAP S/4HANA Cloud, private edition. New enhancements or feature packages will be released every six months, and the maintenance window for each release will be extended from five to seven years.

Availability of ai and sustainability features

SAP clarified that the announced AI and sustainability features will be available only through RISE with SAP, indicating this is a licensing decision. On-premise customers will not have access to these features.

Sap's ongoing ai innovations and collaborative business ai approach

At “Rise into the Future with SAP” Joule’s demonstration showcased the potential of embedded AI within SAP offerings, marking the initial phase of SAP’s AI-related innovations. Further AI announcements are on the horizon, underscoring SAP’s commitment to advancing AI technology.

In addition to embedded AI, SAP is actively developing standalone AI capabilities that can be seamlessly integrated with the SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP). A notable example of this strategy is SAP’s collaboration with Google Cloud, where they harness Vertex AI in conjunction with SAP Datasphere. The flexible architecture of SAP BTP is purposefully designed to expedite the deployment of these AI innovations, which are often more straightforward to implement compared to tightly embedded AIs like Joule.

SAP’s approach to delivering collaborative business AI involves establishing a business semantic layer between SAP S/4HANA Cloud and the large language models (LLMs) employed. This innovative approach empowers SAP engineers to select the most suitable LLM for specific scenarios, aligning with the goal of providing relevant, reliable, and responsible AI services. Importantly, this approach also segregates the LLMs from the data stored in SAP S/4HANA Cloud, bolstering data privacy and security.



Sap's new AI & sustainability features- who all can avail?

The recently introduced sustainability features are exclusively accessible to customers who have adopted RISE with SAP. Joule and the new sustainability features will remain restricted to RISE with SAP customers, and there are no intentions to extend access to on-premise customers. This decision hinges on the licensing model, and the availability of these features is contingent on RISE with SAP contracts.

It's important to note that the SAP S/4HANA Cloud, private edition, customer data center option, while recognized as cloud revenue by SAP due to its subscription-based nature and management, is not a cloud-based offering in the traditional sense. This option runs on infrastructure provided by Dell APEX, HPE GreenLake for SAP, or Lenovo TruScale, all of which employ cloud-like pricing models while operating within the customer's data center. Despite their cloud-like characteristics, this infrastructure is not hosted in the cloud. This suggests that SAP's decision to offer these features exclusively through RISE with SAP is primarily a licensing choice rather than a technical limitation.





Sap's commitment to cloud-based ERP and the implications for sap ecc customers

SAP's unwavering commitment to cloud-based ERP solutions, particularly SAP S/4HANA Cloud via RISE with SAP, holds significant implications for SAP ECC customers. While SAP has pledged not to abandon any of its existing customers, the introduction of cutting-edge innovations will be primarily accessible through the RISE with SAP platform. This shift underscores SAP's strategic focus on cloud-based solutions. Many SAP ECC customers are yet to embrace SAP S/4HANA for various reasons, such as operational compatibility or cost considerations.

SAP's continued support for on-premise deployments will persist, but it's essential for businesses to recognize that to leverage SAP's latest innovations, a transition to cloud-based solutions like RISE with SAP may be the most viable path forward. As SAP's cloud-centric approach unfolds, organizations must prepare for these transformational conversations and the consequential decisions that lie ahead.

In conclusion: the future of sap's cloud-only innovations

SAP's determined commitment to cloud-based ERP solutions is paving the way for a transformative era in enterprise technology. SAP with cloud-only innovations promised to reshape the landscape of enterprise AI and sustainability. The real key to unlocking SAP's latest innovations lies in transitioning to cloud-based solutions, particularly through RISE with SAP.

Cloud ERP is here to stay, and informed decision-making is the key to harnessing the full potential of SAP's latest innovations and preparing for the wave of forthcoming AI-related announcements.

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