

Business process integration

Business, Strategic Management



SAP is a software integration company based in Germany. The initials stand for Systemanalyse und Programmentwicklung in German and while translated to English, it stands for System Analysis and Program Development (Governor 2007). The firm was founded in 1972 by five Software Engineers who formerly worked for IBM. This paper will briefly discuss the structure of this company, its products and services, and the relative benefits of various business sizes or scales.

Products and Services

SAP mainly deals with software development for industry applications. The firm combines both mainframe software and client-server software architectures. Its first product was the SDS/SAPE software created in 1972, and later followed by the SAR/ R1 solution launched in 1973. SAP R/2 and R3 were developed in 1981 and 1992 respectively. The development of the Internet platform named mySAP. com allowed users to experience business processes integration, making SAP a global leader in business integration software. Its major competitors are giant software companies like, for instance, Oracle, to which SAP lost an intellectual property suit in 2010 (Verespej 1999).

SAP is also involved in the popular computing platform named cloud computing, integrating its software products with the newest emerging technologies to give it a competitive edge. The largest global business software company, SAP, has presence in all six continents and is mainly focused on six sectors that are: process industries, consumer industries, discrete industries, financial services, service industries, and public services.

The company has 25 industry solutions applications for large companies and over 550 for mid-sized and small companies. The most famous product from SAP is the SAP ERP or Enterprise Resource Planning. This particular software integrates business resources using the web and mainly focuses on customer relationship management (CRM), supplier relationship management (SRM), supply chain management (SCM), and product lifecycle management (PLM),

Benefits of Scale

SAP derives the advantage of capturing the small and medium-sized companies into its customer base, chiefly due to their large number (currently above 550), as well as to their potential for growth. The company also draws huge benefits from large enterprise solutions due to the high profit returns and the client's opportunities for growth.

Article Review

This review is for the article titled Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). The article is about the application of business software to consolidate resources into a web-based platform and enhance efficiency, customer experience, and ease of access. It looks into the IT effects on a business, including the informational, sequential, geographical, automation, and transactional effects. It also redefines business engineering as the process of enhancing speed, efficiency, and quality of the output through the use of I. T. This transformation is mainly geared towards adapting to the current rapidly changing world. Most ERP processes are built around client-server platform. It also deals with the evolution of ERP as a product of need through the 90s.

Further, it briefly discusses ERP verticals, the general model of ERP, as well as its management.

As regards ERP structure, the article discusses both the computer network and the inter-network structures such as user groups. It guides the reader on how to select a suitable ERP based on business needs such as sale volumes and nature of transactions among other factors. This also guides on the time when an enterprise needs an ERP solution as well as the necessary adjustments, such as staff training, resource allocation, and centralization. The article lastly looks into different ERP packages as offered by different companies such as SAP. It compares the vendors in terms of general products description, market experience, and products diversity. In conclusion, the article re-evaluates the importance of enterprises in business processes integration with the core tool being information technology (Governor 2007).