GLOSSARY OF SAP BW 7.5 ON HANA

A Quick Reference Guide to SAP Terminologies

Concept/Term	Definition
SAP BW	Business Warehouse platform for data modeling, ETL, and reporting. Provides analytical insights using InfoProviders and Queries.
HANA	High-performance in-memory database by SAP. Accelerates BW data processing with columnar storage and parallel execution.
InfoObject	Building block of BW data models such as characteristics and key figures. Used across all InfoProviders and queries.
InfoProvider	Generic term for objects used to store/report data. Includes ADSO, CompositeProvider, and InfoCube.
Advanced DSO (ADSO)	Primary data storage object in BW on HANA. Supports staging, reporting, and archiving in one structure.

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Concept/Term	Definition
CompositeProvider	Combines multiple InfoProviders for reporting. Supports both union and join operations on datasets.
InfoCube	Multi-dimensional data structure for reporting. Replaced by ADSOs in BW on HANA but still used in legacy models.
DTP (Data Transfer Process)	Loads data between InfoProviders using transformation logic. Key object in BW data flow.
Transformation	Defines how source data is mapped to target fields. Includes routines, rules, and formulas.
DataSource	Object used to extract data from source systems into BW. Can be application-specific or generic.

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Concept/Term	Definition
PSA (Persistent Staging Area)	Temporary layer to store raw extracted data. Used in multi-step ETL before transformations.
Open ODS View	Virtual InfoProvider that consumes external or database tables. No staging required; enables real-time access.
InfoSet	Logical join of multiple InfoProviders for reporting. Commonly used in master data or small datasets.
Aggregates	Pre-calculated summary tables to improve query performance. Mostly obsolete with HANA's real-time processing.
BW Query	Report built using BEx Query Designer. Defines how InfoProvider data is analyzed or displayed.

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Concept/Term	Definition
BEx Query Designer	Tool to create BW queries on top of InfoProviders. Used to define filters, structures, and variables.
BEx Analyzer	Excel-based front-end to run and interact with BW queries. Allows drilldowns and navigation.
Key Figure	Numerical data field in BW used for aggregation. Examples include revenue, quantity, or margin.
Characteristic	Descriptive attribute used for grouping and slicing data. Examples: Region, Product, Customer.
InfoArea	Folder-like structure used to group InfoProviders. Helps organize BW objects logically.

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Concept/Term	Definition
InfoPackage	Loads data from source system to PSA. Used mostly in 3.x data flows before DTP was introduced.
Process Chain	Automation tool for sequencing data loads and jobs. Ensures batch ETL runs without manual intervention.
Start Routine	Custom ABAP logic that runs before transformation rules. Used to initialize data or set global variables.
End Routine	Executes after transformation mapping for final data manipulation. Useful for record-level custom logic.
Field-Based Modeling	Approach in BW on HANA allowing modeling without InfoObjects. Simplifies LSA++ architecture.

Concept/Term	Definition
LSA (Layered Scalable Architecture)	Classic BW architecture separating staging, harmonization, and reporting layers. Promotes data governance.
LSA++	Modern BW on HANA architecture favoring virtual views and fewer layers. Optimized for performance and agility.
InfoProvider Layer	BW architectural level where data is stored or combined. Includes ADSO, InfoCube, and Open ODS View.
MultiProvider	Union-based virtual layer combining InfoProviders. Replaced largely by CompositeProviders in BW 7.5.
Analytical Index	Temporary index on an InfoProvider used for quick modeling. Often used in ad-hoc analysis scenarios.

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SAP BW 7.5 on HANA
Key Concepts

Concept/Term	Definition
Planning Function	Executes data planning or simulations in BW-IP. Used in financial planning or budgeting.
BW-IP	Integrated Planning tool in BW for write-back enabled scenarios. Supports real-time simulations.
HANA-Optimized Cube	InfoCube modified for in-memory processing on HANA. Uses columnar storage and faster data reads.
Transient Provider	Automatically generated provider for real-time analysis. Common in embedded analytics or S/4HANA integration.
VirtualProvider	InfoProvider that doesn't store data physically. Reads data live from external sources or BAPIs.

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SAP BW 7.5 on HANA
Key Concepts

Concept/Term	Definition
RSRT	Transaction to test and debug BW queries. Displays technical information and execution steps.
RSA1	Main transaction for BW modeling and administration. Provides access to InfoObjects, DataSources, and process chains.
RSTT	Transaction for tracing BW query execution at a low level. Used for performance troubleshooting.
RSPC	Transaction to create and manage process chains. Allows scheduling and monitoring of ETL flows.
RSMIGRHANADB	Program to migrate classic BW InfoProviders to HANA-optimized versions. Supports system upgrades.

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Concept/Term	Definition
SLT	Real-time replication tool to move data from SAP/non-SAP to HANA. Useful for Open ODS and external data.
Smart Data Access (SDA)	Allows HANA to read remote data without replication. Used in Open ODS and transient reporting.
BW Bridge	Component to transition from BW to SAP Datasphere. Helps reuse existing models in a cloud data warehouse.
ABAP CDS View	Core Data Service view created in the ABAP layer. Can be consumed by BW for real-time analytics.
SAP Datasphere	SAP's cloud-based data warehouse and successor to BW. Integrates structured and unstructured data sources.

Concept/Term	Definition
Exception Aggregation	Summarizes data using special logic like MAX, MIN, or LAST. Applied over characteristics in BW.
Query Variable	Parameter used in BW queries to filter or personalize output. Can be manual or customer-exit driven.
Query Structure	Defines how key figures and attributes are arranged. Can be reused across multiple queries.
SAP HANA Studio	Eclipse-based IDE for HANA modeling and admin. Used to create views, procedures, and user roles.
CompositeProvider Join	Combines InfoProviders using join condition. Used for scenarios needing relational accuracy.

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