

Standard Software

Customization and Deployment Model-Based Standard Software

SAP standard solutions rarely cover all individual customer requirements in corporate practice. Standard solutions from third parties and customer-specific software developments are often also integrated to modify the SAP standard solution or to extend it using add-ons. The SAP solution manager supports implementation and customization of SAP standard solutions throughout their life cycle (Fig. 1). Innovator complements this with the strengths of a model-based approach and thereby increases management efficiency of customer-specific requirements in a standard software environment.

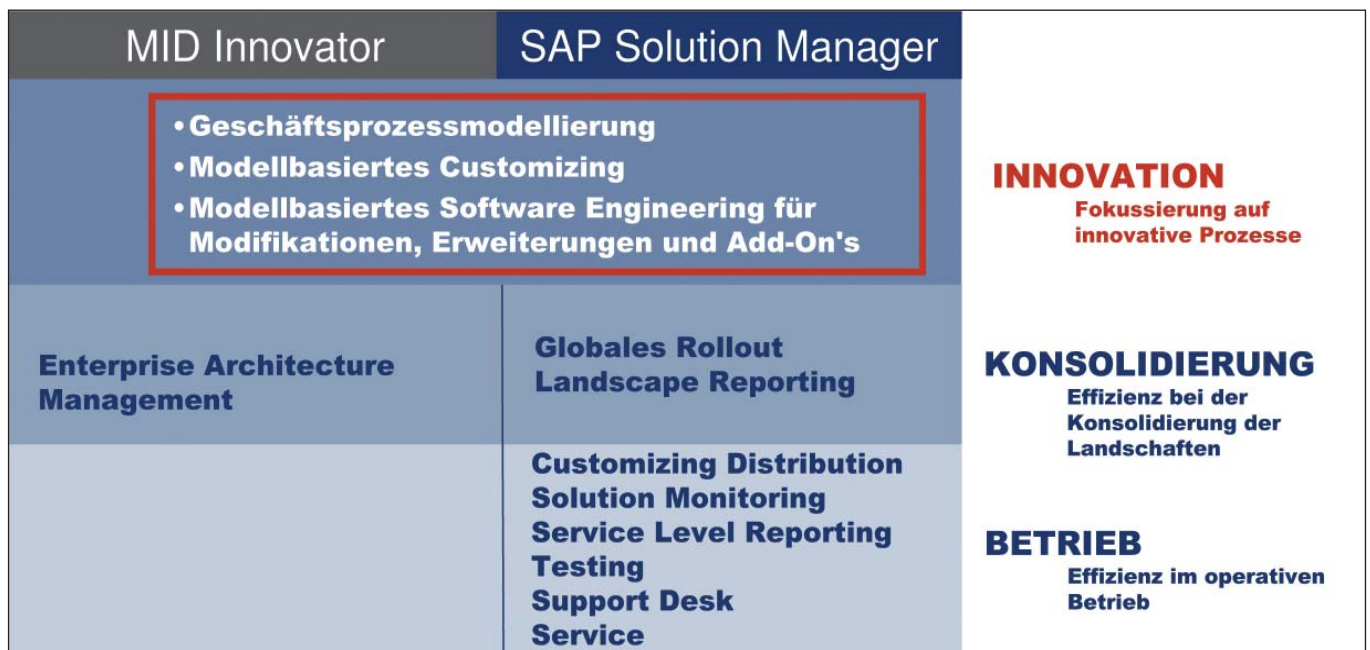


Fig. 1: Innovative Model-Based Implementation: Complete Product Life Cycle Management with MID Innovator and SAP Solution Manager

Fig. 2 shows an example of a model-based implementation and customization in the area of corporate consolidation, which SAP provides a standard solution for. The standard process contains different steps: collecting data material from affiliates, eliminating interwoven corporate data and the final preparing of reports. Model-based customizing efficiently turns these into the standard. A customer-specific process step is also included that adds written external analysis information about the annual statement of accounts to the report data. Extension of the SAP standard function to include this "Find and Attach Analysis Studies" process step is integrated into the standard solution using a consolidation add-on. Modifications and

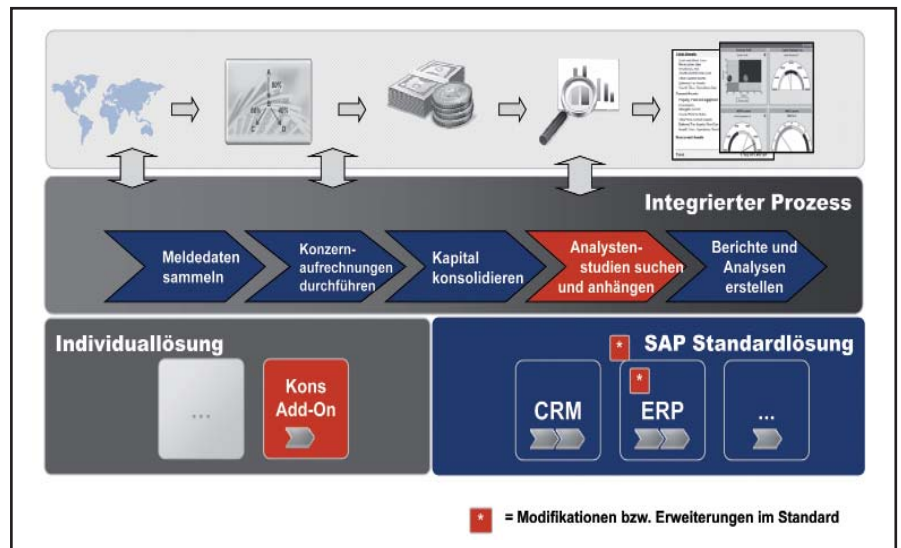


Fig. 2: Example of a Model-Based Customization: Extension of SAP Corporate Consolidation for an Individual Innovative Process

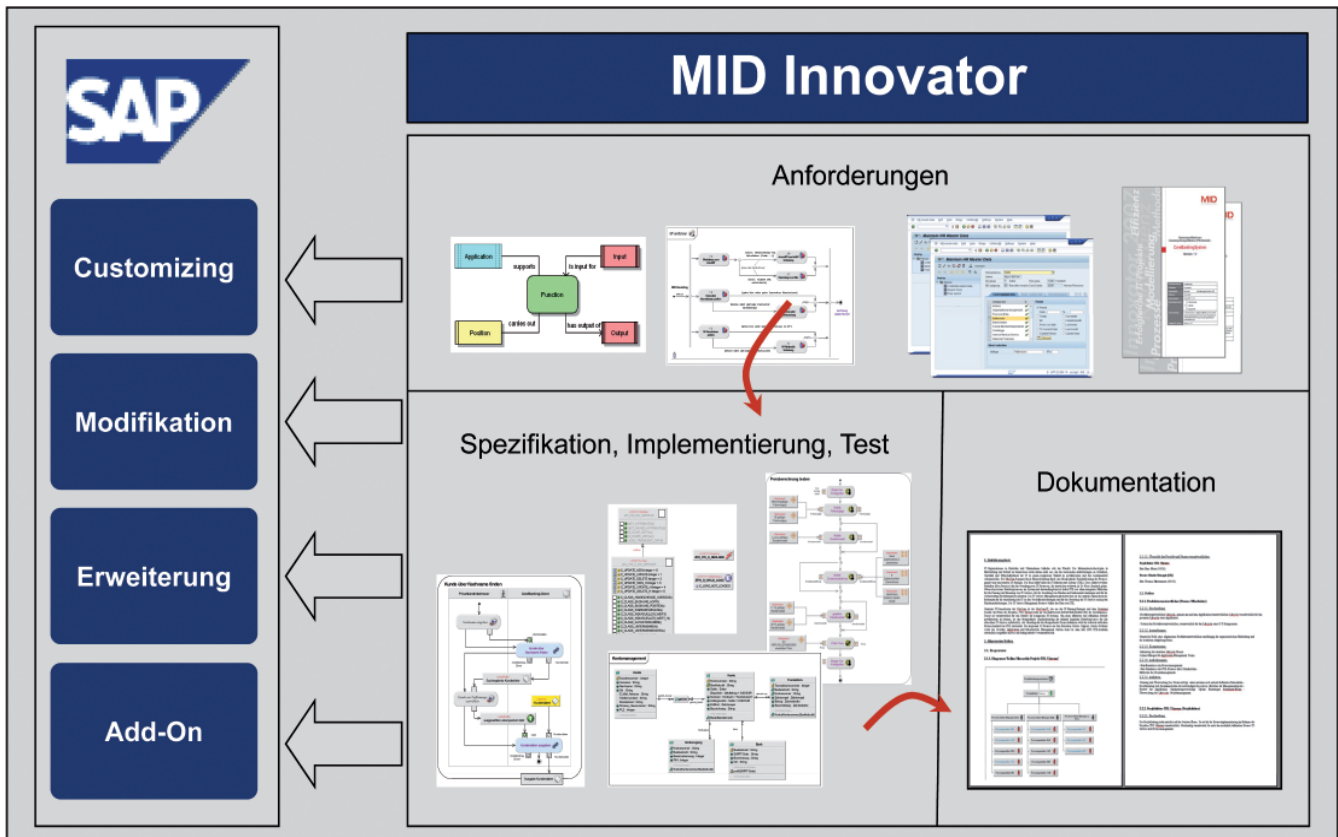


Fig. 3: A Consistent Development Process Will Be Run Through in Innovator; Modifications Will Be Taken From This and Turned into the SAP Standard Environment.

extensions can also be integrated, if required.

Explicit Requirements with Models

Innovator models allow requirements to be described in a form which can be understood by both the operating department and developers. Consistency from requirements right through to implementation is also provided. Implementation details can be established as all respective requirements can always be referred to. Innovator can be used to identify development objects relevant for modifications and for implementing modifications using standardized development methods, processes and notations. This shortens complex implementation projects, keeps the development load to a minimum and ensures maximum reuse of existing information.

All relevant information and relationships are stored in models. This not only facilitates maintenance and each release change, but also reduces dependence on individual people as sources of knowledge: it is easier to

exchange resources, which enables more flexible implementation. These models ensure consistent traceability; this means that effects caused by modifications made in the business process can be seen, measured and planned. Due to its models being linked to each other over every development stage and model levels, Innovator enables traceability of modifications and their effects. This answers questions in the sense of an impact analysis, such as:

- What is affected by modification of a business process?
- What does modification of a business process cost?
- How quickly can you modify a business process?
- How does an SAP standard's upgrade affect our environment?

If the effects of the modifications can be incorporated, planning of an SAP release change is certain and the prerequisite for a complete product lifecycle management is established. Much of the information can be reused and maintenance can be carried out to a high level for innovation, right through to consolidation and operation.

Conclusion

The model-based approach increases efficiency during implementation and customization of SAP standard solutions and brings with it a wide array of advantages: transparency, independence, automation, reusability, maintainability, error prevention and quality. As well as pure business process modeling, Innovator also enables a model-driven customization and modification development.



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