



Immerse yourself in the latest developments of the SAP Business Technology Platform. Event location: SAP Headquarters with joint David Garrett concert visit! SAP Analysis for Office, is a downloadable add-in that connects to various SAP sources. The purpose of this blog is to explore how this tool connects specifically to SAP Analytics Cloud. The package includes: Analysis Plug-inEnterprise Performance Management (EPM) Plug-inSAP provides two separate downloads for Analysis: Analysis for Office and the Analysis for Office Edition for SAC. The SAC edition can only connect to SAC whereas the primary Analysis version is able to connect to SAC in addition to other SAP systems. The choice between the two should be made depending on your organizations SAP landscape and focus, however for extended functionality beyond SAC, it is better to use the full Analysis for Office. The SAP Analytics Cloud Add-InThe SAP Analytics Cloud Add-In for Microsoft Office, simply known as SAC Add-in, is a newly released add-in as of Spring 2020. The SAC Add-in allows users to connect to SAC from Excel workbooks directly to add tables, save / change data, and more. an IT administrator. Similarities and Differences: How do you choose SAC Add-in vs Analysis for Office? Since the SAC Add-in is still a new tool as of Spring 2020, and Analysis for Office? Since the New functionality of a new product. SAC connectivity with Analysis for Office has only been available since late 2018. Here we will review a few of the basic requirements of both products, and then dive into functionality differences to best match SAC users needs.1. Technical Requirements of both products are used in the since late 2018. available in production (2020.8.9 at time of writing). When downloading Analysis for Office, be sure to download 32bit or 64bit according to the version of Microsoft Office on the computer. While both can be installed simultaneously, be sure to check the requirements to find the better fit.2. The SAC Add-In InterfaceWhen looking at the same model in SAC, the SAC Add-In has a much cleaner and more updated UI interface than Analysis for Office. While the SAC Add-in borrows some design principles from SAP Analytics Cloud and Fiori UI5, Analysis for Office continues to retain its classic interface. This does lead to some differences in functionality. We will be using TruCharm, a demo cosmetics company with a SAC model. Here are side-by-side looks of the same table in SAP Analytics Cloud, SAC Add-in, and Analysis for Office:Picture: TruCharm Net Income in SAP Analytics CloudPicture: TruCharm Net Incom biggest difference in both look and functionality is in the builder. While there are many minor differences among the three, they all serve the same functionality principles come from a tool primarily for BPC, BW, and HANA, while SAC Add-in resembles SAC closely.Picture: SAP Analytics Cloud on Left and SAC Add-in on RightBelow is Analysis for Office users. The tabs at the bottom also consolidate functionality from SAP Analytics Cloud such as Version Management, while also preserving existing Analysis for Office capabilities. With visualizations, both the SAC Add-in and Analysis for Office do not have the visualization capabilities found in SAC. The Excel visualizations are still available, and can be built off of tables in either the SAC Add-in or Analysis for Office. 3. SAC InteractionsBoth the SAC Add-in and Analysis for Office can analyze and plan on data from SAP Analytics Cloud, however some differences exist between the functionalities of the two products. Examples include version management, multiple models, and Excel macros.3.1 Acquired Data Models and Live ConnectionsThe biggest differences exist between the functionalities of the usage of live connections and models built from live connections. The SAC Add-in at this time cannot interact with live connections however Analysis for Office, showing SAC, BPC11, and BPC 10.1.3.2 Version ManagementOne very powerful feature of SAP Analytics Cloud is Version Management. Users have the ability to create private versions (copies) for what-if scenarios, and other public versions for planning and forecasting. Analysis for Office has the same capabilities in this regard, however the SAC Add-in does not. Below youll find an example of how to create a new private version in Analysis for Office on our TruCharm model: Picture: Version Management for our TruCharm model in SAP Analytics Cloud3.3 Connecting Multiple SAC ModelsAnalysis for Office can connect to multiple models in separate tenants in the same workbook. However, this comes with a caveat. Analysis for Office only has the ability to have one Planning Model in a workbook, however one may add multiple different models. After the SAC tenant is chosen in the workbook and saved, it can no longer be changed. Picture: Logging into SAC from the SAC Add-in4. MacrosExcel workbooks almost always have macros to automate user tasks, and good VBA can only make a process more efficient. Analysis for Office brings macros to the next level as there are many Excel VBA functions that come with Analysis that extend SAC and Excels functionality. Some of these examples include changing filters, saving, and configuring change mode.Picture: Analysis Plug-in User Guide found on SAP Support portal. Includes a list of all macros, functionality, and usage.The SAC Add-in does not have extended VBA functionality that can work with SAP Analytics Cloud. This doesn't mean that Excel macros are disabled when using the SAC Add-in however, more-so that there are no macros that engage directly with SAP Analytics Cloud, such as changing a filter or saving. Users can have macros that engage directly with SAP Analytics Cloud, such as changing a filter or saving. PerformanceAt first impression and usage with a simple table, the SAC Add-in has the best speed for performance times may vary across machines dependent on processing power and computer memory. When testing larger tables above 3,000 rows, as many Excel users are familiar with, the SAC Add-in begins to have some stability problems. Loading the table takes longer, saving sometimes freezes up, or opening more hierarchies may stop working. For users familiar with SAC tables, creating tables larger than 500 rows and 60 columns will require changing the default Drill Limitation.Picture: Drill Limitation warning in a SAC tableIn Analysis for Office, it is possible to create tables much larger than 3,000 rows. I have tested upwards of 10,000 rows with stable results, however this result was sometimes not reproducible on different computers. The biggest problem with these performance tests is that there are many functions unique to the different tools that cannot be compared, such as: Data Actions only in SACSAC-Interacting Macros only in SACClosing Notes and RecommendationsAn investment in SAP Analytics Cloud will provide businesses with streamlined processes and the benefit of freeing up time for users to work on more valuable tasks. The addition of an add-on such as the SAC Add-in or Analysis for Office can dramatically enhance SAP Analytics Cloud adoption rates by keeping the familiarity of Excel, while helping users understand SAP Analytics Cloud better and faster. It takes significant time and resources to fully train someone on a new product and new process, but by integrating as many familiar processes as possible, the new process is easier to adopt and faster to train on.\*Performance will vary among computers. Also does not include tests for important functionality such as Data Actions, Macros, and Version Management. Between the SAC Add-in and Analysis for Office, Analysis for Office may be the better choice for those looking to preserve or even integrate workbook and macro functionality into their SAP Analytics Cloud models. However, its important to remember that most if-not-all SAC Add-ins capabilities are all possible in Analysis for Office .System InformationAll photos sourced from TruQua Internal Systems unless otherwise specifiedSAP BusinessObjects Analysis for Microsoft Office 2020.0.833SAP Note 2649756: Only one Planning Model is allowed in a single Analysis for Office workbook SAC Add-in Troubleshooting and FAQAnalysis Plug-in User Guide 2.8 SP03About the AuthorAndrew Xue is an SAP Senior Consultant and Software Developer at TruQua whospecializes in cutting-edge cloud analytic and services technologies. Most recently, Andrew has been building and implementing cloud applications for financial planning, global budgeting, and executive reporting. He has expertise in an array of SAP enterprise collaborative planning technologies including SAP Analytics Cloud, is an essential... SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office, edition for SAP Analytics Cloud, is a pure Microsoft Excel add-in. Analysis is a Microsoft Office add-in that allows multidimensional analysis of data sources in Microsoft Office add-in that allows multidimensional analysis of data sources from SAP BW, SAP BW/4HANA, SAP HANA and SAP Analytics Cloud . It is available for the following Microsoft Office versions: Office 365 (Excel) Microsoft Office 2019 (Excel) In Microsoft Office 2016 (Excel) In Microsoft Excel, Analysis and Analysis Design. With Analysis, you can use SAP BW data sources from the BI platform or a BW system, SAP HANA data sources and SAP Analytics Cloud classic account models. The data is displayed in the workbook will be used by different users, you can also add info fields with information on the data source and filter status. Using the design panel, you can analyze the data and change the view on the displayed data. You can add and remove dimensions and measures to be displayed easily with drag and drop. To avoid single refreshes after each step, you can pause the refresh to build a crosstab. After ending the pause, all changes are applied at once. You can refine your analysis using conditional formatting, filter, prompting, calculations and display hierarchies. You can also add charts to your analysis. For more sophisticated workbook design, Analysis contains a dedicated set of functions in Microsoft Excel to access data and meta data of connected systems. There are several API functions available that you can use with the Visual Basic Editor, to filter data and set values for variables. You can enter the planning data manually and enter planning data automatically using planning functions and planning sequences of SAP BW Integrated Planning. Analysis must be installed on your local machine. You can connect directly to a system or you can use the following platforms to store and share workbooks: SAP BW/4HANA. The add-in is available in the SAP Software Download Center. To get more information about the installation and the update cycles, please check its Product Availability Matrix. You can find more information about the Analysis full version that is available for Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint. Please note that the full version is not included in the SAP Analytics Cloud licence. You can find more information about that version on the SAP Help Portal at SAP Analysis for Microsoft Office.

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