SAP-Embedded Financial Close Automation

Modern finance organizations are moving to process standardization and finance automation to make the best use of resources and be more strategic.

By combining the latest in Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and financial close intelligence, BlackLine Smart Close for SAP provides a streamlined and automated financial close, embedded directly within SAP.

With Smart Close, accounting organizations can drive global standardization while maintaining a degree of local flexibility. They can upgrade shared service centers to improve orchestration between entities and corporate, and centralize and assign tasks between accounting centers.

Accounting teams get a greater level of detail in accounting activities and are able to manage close tasks by exception. And your organization gains the confidence of improved balance sheet integrity and automated, audited processes that improve productivity and controls.

Advancing Your Financial Close in SAP

COMPLETE SAP COMPATIBILITY
Smart Close works across your current and future SAP landscape, integrating with SAP ERP 4.7, SAP ECC 5.0, SAP ECC 6.0, SAP BS 7.0, and SAP S/4HANA. For accounting and finance, this means an end to IT bottlenecks, fractured integrations, and service disruptions, even in the midst of ERP upgrades and growing business complexity.

ALWAYS UP-TO-DATE
Embedded in your SAP platform, Smart Close uses your SAP data to provide one complete view into the status of your close—across entities. And you have the assurance that any last-minute postings and reviews of account changes are performed on the most current information.

SINGLE AUTHORIZATION
BlackLine Smart Close uses existing SAP user roles and authorizations. This eliminates the need to maintain separate security definitions, streamlines user management, and ensures appropriate segregation of duties.

ONE USER EXPERIENCE
With Smart Close, accounting and finance teams gain direct access from a standard SAP interface to all detail in SAP, including historical data. And because Smart Close mirrors your SAP user experience, there's minimal effort onboarding new users.

STREAMLINE CLOSE PROCESSES
Ensure an accurate and on-time close. With a built-in automation engine, Smart Close automates task and job scheduling, execution, and monitoring of close tasks, as well as outcome verification and escalation to put time-consuming activities on autopilot.

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Features & Capabilities

Smart Close has an SAP-embedded foundation and delivers enhanced reporting for real-time overviews of your close status across systems, countries, and entities. BlackLine RPA is specifically designed for finance to enable Continuous Accounting.

Robotic Close Automation

Our Process Design Studio combines RPA features with Business Process Management (BPM) features. Robotic Close Automation Smart Close offers powerful job scheduling that works with your organization's own internal scheduling tools. Built-in scheduling process templates for tasks like suspense account monitoring and open item analysis help finance organizations automate the most tedious close activities. Smart Close can also automatically verify the correctness of closing transactions and take next steps like raising alerts, making corrections, or immediately pushing the closing process forward.

Standardize the Close Process

Empower accounting to manage a single process across legal entities, countries, and different systems, reducing administration costs and monitoring time. Flexibility enables accounting organizations to choose which tasks and reports are run at each location and which are sent to corporate. Automatically run only the tasks and reports that are needed.

Easily Incorporate & Manage Internal Controls

It's simple to define periodic pre-close activities, closing tasks, internal controls, report analysis, process flows, manual processes, milestones, notifications, and more. By importing your business controls framework, BlackLine Smart Close helps automate risk management and enables straightforward customization of internal controls monitoring for the right level of management visibility and control.

Real-Time Financial Close Visibility

Customizable overviews of the close process and financial data make it simple for accountants to see issues and roadblocks in the close, in real time. A live overview into the status of each aspect of your close period process, with traffic light indicators showing completion levels, removes any completion or delay uncertainty.

Success Built Into SAP

With BlackLine Smart Close, organizations have achieved:

50%	30%	86%	75%	83%
increases in accounting productivity	reductions in processing time	accounting automation	improvement in shared service center efficiency	time savings

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