

## Gain more value from your SAP implementation with IBM Lotus Forms software.



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### Highlights

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- ***Accelerates data integration and speeds creation of new solutions***
- ***Helps cut costs by reducing data entry errors and leveraging existing systems***
- ***Speeds form completion to help improve customer satisfaction and reduce transaction cycle times***
- ***Helps address compliance pressures and manage risk by encapsulating business data and digital signatures in a single document***
- ***Drives more return from SAP investments***

Most likely, you've invested time and money in your SAP software implementation. Your business may be seeing improvements, but you know there has to be a way to gain even more value from your SAP deployment. It's time to consider further automating your business processes by integrating a dynamic electronic forms solution. With the right forms solution in place, you can reduce costs, leverage existing systems and more easily manage your integrated business processes. Electronic forms can also help your organization gain a competitive edge by customizing your SAP implementation to meet the needs of your customers and business partners.

IBM Lotus® Forms software seamlessly integrates with your SAP implementation, enabling you to incorporate data throughout your enterprise and beyond the firewall.

Built on XForms (the Web-based forms standard developed by the World Wide Web Consortium [W3C]), Lotus Forms software helps speed the development and deployment of dynamic, open standards-based electronic forms, which can be delivered via a browser or via a rich client for mobile or disconnected users. Lotus Forms software can help organizations reduce costs and inefficiencies associated with paper-based processes while improving the manageability of information. By providing a security-rich, flexible and intelligent front end to service-oriented architectures (SOAs), Lotus Forms software can help protect and leverage existing investments while improving organizational agility.

The Lotus Forms family consists of three software products, each designed to extend your forms-related SAP initiatives today and well into the future.

- **IBM Lotus Forms Designer software**— offers an easy-to-use, Eclipse technology-based design environment that reduces form development time by enabling reuse of business components across forms.
- **IBM Lotus Forms Viewer software**— delivers a desktop application that helps users view, fill, sign, submit and route forms more easily, with fewer errors and greater speed. Provides offline processing capability, as well as features such as role-based wizards, drag-and-drop tools and “smart-fill” form fields.
- **IBM Lotus Forms Server software**— enables zero-footprint delivery of electronic forms directly to users through a browser-based Web 2.0 interface. Lotus Forms Server software includes the Forms Services Platform component to help accelerate the integration of forms with diverse back-end resources. Leveraging IBM WebSphere® Transformation Extender technology,\* the Forms Services Platform provides point-and-click integration with SAP systems and adds value to your SAP deployment by integrating SAP and non-SAP data systems within the same user interface.

### **Accelerate data integration to speed creation of new solutions**

Businesses that can react quickly to marketplace changes and customer demands stand to gain a competitive edge. When opportunities arise, new solutions need to be deployed quickly and, ideally, without excessive costs. With Lotus Forms Server software, which includes the Forms Services Platform, you can speed the development of service-oriented solutions and streamline the integration of forms with a wide range of IT resources. Lotus Forms Server software leverages WebSphere Transformation Extender software to accelerate the integration of services with a wide range of IBM software, including IBM WebSphere Portal, IBM DB2® Content Manager, IBM Lotus Notes® and Lotus Domino®, and IBM Lotus Expeditor software, and IBM WebSphere Process Server software. Lotus Forms software speeds integration with business applications from SAP, as well as with a wide variety of applications from other independent software vendor systems such as Siebel and PeopleSoft.

A key component of Lotus Forms Server software, the Forms Services Platform provides a library of prebuilt components that enable electronic forms to interoperate with back-end systems to help reduce the amount

of custom code your developers need to write. Instead, developers can easily mix, match and reuse the prepackaged code—even if they don’t have extensive knowledge of the application. Once assembled, the components can perform many activities within a form, such as obtaining customer IDs from a database or driving integration of data across an SAP application. As a result, you can cut development time and deploy electronic forms and their related applications in less time. By providing tight integration with your existing enterprise applications along with faster, easier development tools, Lotus Forms software can enable your company to respond to changing business needs and deploy new, integrated solutions more quickly.

### **Help cut costs by reducing data reentry and leveraging existing systems**

The need to reenter data can be the result of faulty or incomplete information or the result of combining disparate systems. Either way, data correction and reentry can cost your organization time and money—and significantly hinder the speed and efficiency of business processes.

Using Lotus Forms software, you're able to quickly develop and deploy dynamic, browser based electronic forms without expensive and time-consuming programming. Plus, you can create forms with dynamic functionality such as wizards, pre-populated fields, templates, validation rules and integrated help functions. Lotus Forms software provides an easy-to-use front end to process automation that helps reduce data entry errors and the amount of human interaction needed to complete a form. Based on open standards, Lotus Forms software makes it easier to connect forms with various IT systems and process touch points, helping to optimize existing infrastructures and reduce operation costs.

**Help improve customer satisfaction by simplifying forms and reducing cycle times**

Today's marketplace is competitive, which means organizations need to take advantage of every opportunity to enhance customer service and satisfaction. One way to improve external relationships with customers and partners is to make it easy for them to dynamically enter data and process information electronically. By integrating forms data with information that exists in your current systems—such as SAP applications—you can help reduce transaction cycle times while gaining operational efficiencies.

With Lotus Forms software, you can make it easier for customers, partners and suppliers to do business with your company. Flexible deployment options, provided by the Web Forms Server component of Lotus Forms Server software, enable you to extend forms and applications through browser-based, zero-footprint deployment that does not require you do download additional software. In addition, Lotus Forms software acts as an intelligent front end to your business processes, making it easier for users to quickly access, complete, submit and process electronic forms online. By leveraging Web 2.0 technologies, you can help improve customer satisfaction, speed form completion and reduce cycle time by deploying forms with functionality that includes:

- *Real-time validation of form fields and formats.*
- *Real-time color and value calculation (for example, updating totals, counts, conditional logic, context-sensitive help text).*
- *Dynamic detection of new data and page refresh capabilities.*

**How Lotus Forms and WebSphere Transformation Extender software integrate with SAP systems**

*Lotus Forms software, together with the universal transformation capabilities of WebSphere Transformation Extender software, makes communications with and from other business applications appear as if they are with another SAP R/3 system. Connectivity to the SAP R/3 environment is provided for both inbound and outbound data and is supported on the major SAP platforms.*

*With Lotus Forms software and IBM WebSphere Transformation Extender Pack for SAP R/3 software, you can accelerate the integration and reuse of SAP business applications with other e-commerce, customer resource management, supply chain, enterprise resource planning, custom and legacy applications.*

*WebSphere Transformation Extender Pack for SAP R/3 software also supports a range of interfaces and technologies that include the automatic generation of mapping interfaces such as:*

- *Intermediate Documents (IDOCs).*
- *Application Link Enabling (ALE).*
- *Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).*
- *Data Transfer Object (DXOB)/ Data Migration Interface (DMI).*
- *Business Application Programming Interface (BAPI).*

## Address compliance regulations and manage risk more effectively

Government and industry regulations require organizations to adhere to strict standards for the capture, management and reporting of customer and business data—but complying with these requirements can be difficult and costly. Lotus Forms software helps strengthen compliance efforts by delivering a comprehensive transaction record—embedding data, attachments, business rules and signatures—within one security-rich, open standards-based document.

## Support for digital signatures

Lotus Forms software enables users to add multiple digital signatures to a document to provide a security-rich form that acts as an exact replica of the paper-based version—helping organizations to meet specific industry standards.

## Support for industry standards

Lotus Forms software helps address compliance and interoperability concerns by embracing industry standards in many sectors including government, insurance, banking and financial services, healthcare and consumer products/manufacturing. With Lotus Forms software, you can embed industry standard data models (schema) within a form to provide compatibility and compliance with a wide variety of industry standards, such as Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), ACORD, RosettaNet and Health Level Seven (HL7).

## Derive more value from your SAP systems

Lotus Forms software is designed to help you make the most of your SAP investment. Based on open standards, it enables you to seamlessly connect data across your existing applications, databases and IT assets—including your SAP system. The powerful features of Lotus Forms software can cut development time and help you create security-rich electronic forms that serve as a dynamic front end to SOA-based processes. Lotus Forms software is a proven solution that can help streamline business processes, lower costs and reduce inefficiencies, while providing the scalability needed to power your electronic forms projects, leverage your SAP investment and position you for success—today and tomorrow.

## For more information

To learn more about IBM Lotus Forms software for SAP integration, contact your local IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

[ibm.com/software/forms](http://ibm.com/software/forms)



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\* The Forms Services Platform comes with a single license entitlement to the base version of IBM WebSphere Transformation Extender software, which must be installed for the integration to function.