

**Business Content** - Business Content is a collection of preconfigured objects which has been delivered by SAP and which is based on the industry standards that SAP has developed over many years of experience with its ERP implementations. The Business Content information model includes integral roles; workbooks; queries; InfoSources; InfoCubes; ODS objects; key figures; characteristics; and, update rules and extractors for SAP R/3, mySAP.com Business Applications, and for other selected applications.

**Business Explorer** - The Business Explorer is the SAP Business Information Warehouse component that provides flexible reporting and analysis tools for strategic analyses and decision-making support within a company. These tools include query, reporting and OLAP functions.

**Characteristic** - The **characteristics** of an InfoObject are reference objects (keys) with interrelated dimensions (for example, 'region' and 'land' are the geographic dimensions of 'customer'). **Time characteristics** are characteristics that are assigned to the dimension of time.

**Data Targets** - A data target is an object into which data is loaded. Data targets are the physical objects that are relevant during data modeling and when loading the data.

**InfoCube** – InfoCubes are InfoProviders but are not necessarily data targets (InfoCubes are data targets if data is physically stored in them). From a reporting point of view, an InfoCube describes a self-contained dataset of subject-oriented area, which can be evaluated in a BEx query. An InfoCube is a set of relational tables arranged according to the star schema: a large fact table in the middle (containing key figure InfoObjects – also known as measurable data) surrounded by several dimension tables (containing characteristic InfoObjects – also known as attribute data).

**InfoObject** - Business evaluation objects (customers, sales revenues,...) are known in BW as InfoObjects. They are divided into characteristics, key figures, units, time characteristics and technical characteristics (for example, request number).

**InfoObject Catalog** - An InfoObject catalog is a collection of InfoObjects grouped according to application-specific criteria. There are two types of InfoObject catalogs: **Characteristic** and **Key figure**. An InfoObject catalog is assigned to an InfoArea.

**InfoProvider** - An InfoProvider is an object that provides information for which queries can be created or executed in the Business Explorer Analyzer (also known as Bex).

**InfoSet** – Infosets allow defining joins of multiple ODS objects and master data tables using the InfoSet Builder.

**InfoSource** - An InfoSource describes the quantity of all the data available for a business transaction or a type of business transaction (e.g., cost center accounting). An InfoSource is a set of information that logically belongs together, summarized into a single unit. InfoSources contain either transaction data or master data (attributes, texts and hierarchies).. The structure in which Infosource data are stored is called a communication structure.

**ODS (Operational Data Store)** – The Operational Data Store has characteristics of both a data (or Business) warehouse and operational systems. A distinction should be made between the concept of an ODS and an ODS Object. The term ODS Object is a SAP-created term that refers to the specific ODS-type of database object that is used to house granular-level data used for operational reporting, whereas the term ODS refers to the type of architectural layer in a data (or Business) warehousing framework.

**ODS Object (Operational Data Store Object)** - An ODS Object acts as a storage location for consolidated and cleaned-up transaction data (transaction data or master data, for example) on transaction (or granular) level. An ODS Object contains key fields (e.g., document number/item) and data fields that can also contain character fields (e.g., order status, customer) as key figures. The data from an ODS object can be updated with a delta update into InfoCubes and/or other ODS objects or master data tables (attributes or texts) in the same system or across different systems.

**Source System** - All systems that provide the SAP Business Information Warehouse with data are described as source systems. These can be:

- SAP systems;
- SAP Business Information Warehouse systems;
- Flat files, through which metadata is manually maintained, and transferred into BW by using a file interface;
- A database management system into which data is loaded from a database supported by SAP, using DB Connect and not an external extraction program; or
- External systems, in which data and metadata is transferred using staging BAPIs.

**PSA- Persistent Staging Area** - The Persistent Staging Area (PSA) is the input store for raw data, including transaction data, master data attributes, and texts from various types of source systems.

**Update Rules** - Update rules specify how the data (key figures, time characteristics, characteristics) is updated into the InfoProvider from the communication structure of an InfoSource.