

openSAP Invites, Episode 19

LEARN ABOUT BUILDING APPLICATIONS WITH SAP BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM AND MICROSOFT SERVICES

Transcript

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:00:09] Welcome to openSAP Invites. In this episode, we talk about the long-standing partnership between SAP and Microsoft and how they're working together to simplify and streamline the customer journey to the cloud. We'll be focusing on the free, openSAP course, "Building Applications on SAP Business Technology Platform with Microsoft Services", where you can learn all you need to know to start building your own integrated apps. I'm your host today, Elisabeth Riemann, and we're in conversation with two of the instructors, Max Streifeneder from SAP, and Holger Bruchelt from Microsoft. Max Streifeneder is a solution expert for SAP Business Technology Platform in the Platform Adoption & Advisory team at SAP. He's responsible for employee and customer enablement, solution positioning, and implementation of reference architectures for SAP Business Technology Platform. Max has enjoyed many different roles, both in and outside the SAP technical world, meaning he has a broad perspective and understanding of the challenges that developers and architects face today. Holger Bruchelt is a program manager on the SAP Architecture team at Microsoft, located at the SAP HQ campus in Walldorf, Germany. Before Holger joined Microsoft four years ago, he spent over 10 years with SAP, working in the SAP and Microsoft integration area. Holger was a product manager for Duet Enterprise, SAP Gateway, and SAP Cloud Platform, and he's passionate about showing the value-add of using and combining different tools and technologies. He loves working with customers and partners to bridge the worlds of SAP and Microsoft. Let's say hello. Hello, Max.

Max Streifeneder: [00:02:00] Hi, Lizzie.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:02:02] And hello, Holger.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:02:03] Hey, Lizzie, hi.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:02:04] Welcome both of you to openSAP Invites. This is exciting because today we're here to talk about your brand new openSAP course,

"Building Applications on SAP Business Technology Platform with Microsoft Services". It starts on November 10 and will run for four weeks. Before we start chatting, would you like to tell us in a couple of very simple introductory sentences what this free course is all about and who it's aimed at? I think it's probably best if our listeners hear it from you firsthand rather than me reading out the course description.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:02:38] So, the course is all about integrating SAP and Microsoft technologies. I think when we talk to customers, there's always this question and the course basically shows in an easy, introductory way what you can do if you have the Business Technology Platform, if you have Microsoft Azure, how you can integrate different topics and there we cover throughout the weeks, but I think we'll go there some really nice, really cool integration scenarios.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:03:03] So to our Microsoft and SAP themed warm-up questions, Holger, do you have a favorite fun fact about Microsoft that you maybe like to share with us? To kick us off?

Holger Bruchelt: [00:03:14] So there's one thing that that still stands out to me, so when I joined Microsoft a little over four years ago, literally in my very first customer presentation, which I didn't do, a colleague of mine did this then. He was talking about the Azure infrastructure, so all the different regions across the globe and stuff like that. And in this presentation, he was basically saying, look, Microsoft is investing \$1 billion in the Azure infrastructure. One billion dollars just for the infrastructure was a huge amount, and then he was continuing, per month. And that simply just blew me away. It immediately got very clear to me; this combination of SAP makes so much sense. I mean, SAP is really fantastic when it comes to ERP solutions. I mean, that's, that's the core business of SAP. That's where SAP really shines. And with Microsoft really providing the infrastructure, providing this global scale, providing these services on top of the infrastructure, that's where immediately it was very clear for me that this is a perfect combination really using the best of both worlds. That's exactly obviously then what we also try to show in the course, to show that Microsoft is investing a lot in the infrastructure, security, and all these different things, and that combining with the huge expertise SAP brings with the business ERP platforms, that was just, for me, an amazing moment at that time, just when I when I joined Microsoft.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:04:39] Truly amazing and really big numbers that are quoted there, too as well. Billion per month.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:04:44] Yes.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:04:44] Wow. And Max to you, SAP. What's your favorite SAP fun fact?

Max Streifeneder: [00:04:50] Yes, speaking of numbers. Usually when I talk to my friends what I'm working at or what I do for a living, a lot of friends don't really know SAP, surprisingly, and then they ask me what SAP is doing and usually I win their attention with saying, "Did you know that like 70 percent of the breweries over the world (I hope it's 70 percent or not more in the meantime or less) are SAP customers?" And that's something really impressive for me.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:05:15] It's a great icebreaker.

Max Streifeneder: [00:05:16] And almost the same number as chocolate producers. Or, yeah, a lot of companies in this world are SAP customers.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:05:23] Yeah, the chocolate impresses me.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:05:25] When I introduce SAP to colleagues at Microsoft or when we talk to others and exactly like you, Max, not everyone knows SAP. I usually lead with the chocolate numbers because this is really amazing. If you think of this, this is just amazing how involved SAP is in all these different processes. So, it's really just amazing.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:05:45] So in early 2021, Christian Klein and Satya Nadella announced that SAP and Microsoft will work closely together to integrate Microsoft Teams with SAP's intelligent suite of solutions and that they'll be extending their partnership to adopt the acceleration of SAP S/4HANA on Microsoft Azure. And I think it was a very significant announcement. So, I wanted to ask, can you tell us more about this strategic partnership today, so including the vision and the key benefits for our customers?

Holger Bruchelt: [00:06:13] This partnership announcement was really, really special. SAP had this SAP RISE event, where SAP was really talking about the new offering from SAP, which I think was a huge milestone also for SAP. Christian Klein had Satya Nadella on stage there, talking about their partnership, that we have been working for over 25 years together. And I think if you look at the industry, that is something really, really special. I was just watching some videos on YouTube where a little younger Hasso Plattner was talking about strategic collaborations with Microsoft. And I think it is really fascinating to see that through all these years, we are still very, very strong partners. If you look at other partnerships in the industry, they break up very often because they are competition or there are some changes in directions. But if you look at the partnership between SAP and Microsoft, this has been going on for a very, very long time. And yes, there were highs and lows, something that I find really, really fascinating that customers, they are using Microsoft products, they are using SAP products, as we just learned from Max for chocolate production or beer production or whatever. So that's a fact. Customers are using both our technologies. If we look at the different solutions that we have jointly worked on. If we're talking about the Windows Server, SQL server or something like that, then obviously when HANA was introduced, well, Microsoft probably was not so happy about that that all of a sudden SQL server is not that important anymore for S/4HANA, for example. But then we find other areas where we're working extremely well together. So now obviously, it's all about running your SAP systems in Azure, really making sure that customers can leverage the scale of the different Azure regions in the cloud in particular. But it's not only it's infrastructure, it's also the user interface. So many customers are using Teams now. And obviously when you are now in a chat, when you are in a video conference or something like that, you obviously also want to access data from your SAP systems. Maybe you need to check a sales order. Maybe it's a simple thing as creating a leave request to just give an outlook to the openSAP course, one of the exercises here. It's really sometimes these very simple things that bring a huge value for customers, and that's really where I see that this partnership, where we have been mainly focusing obviously on the infrastructure services, the server components. But then really going forward now with the Teams integration with the integration, SAP Fiori with the Microsoft Graph, where we have some beautiful scenarios. So, there are endless possibilities. And again, the beautiful thing that I see is that Microsoft and SAP, we have stuck to this for a very long time, and we are continuing to work very well together on this.

Max Streifeneder: [00:09:01] So, it's just so funny I had to love when I started the story about telling the partnership, Holger and I know each other for like four years and usually we went to conferences, to meetings or to other events. Usually, I'm like more the technical guy. But what the partnership also means to me or what I just like see immediately when Holger started to talk, that we know each other that well and we know where the strengths of both companies are, and Holger is brilliant in connecting me into the Microsoft world. And if Holger needs to have any contacts into SAP, I mean, Holger was an SAP employee for quite some time, so he knows the world there also pretty well. But that's also the partnership to me that we work together pretty well. And in most of the areas for sure, we are partners on the one hand, but also competitors on the other hand, which is also clear to both of the companies, I would say. But still, the partnership is that strong that we, for example, in the openSAP course worked for over a couple of months or years already together to bring out examples to hopefully a huge group of users out there.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:10:07] And I think it's amazing, and it's really great to hear from the both of you as well the different sides of this partnership as well, and the equal value that it brings to you and the appreciation that you have for each other's expertise as well. So, that's brilliant. Max, can I ask you to really put the partnership we've spoken about now between Microsoft and SAP and maybe fit this into the context of the Intelligent Enterprise and RISE with SAP? Can you set the scene for us here a little bit more, please?

Max Streifeneder: [00:10:32] Well, first of all, I think pretty good advertisement at this point in time, there's an openSAP course about RISE with SAP, so that's probably a good idea to have a look there, just to place an advertisement. But so, the Intelligent Enterprise. SAP Business Technology Platform is the key enabler for the Intelligent Enterprise. The Business Technology Platform or, in short, BTP, offers a set of suite qualities to make single sign-on, master data integration, event integration, and UX harmonization, etc. etc. A unified experience for all SAP business applications ranging from SAP S/4HANA to SAP Ariba, SAP Concur, etc. Our partnership with Microsoft somehow expands the scope beyond these fundamental three qualities for the Intelligent Enterprise. There's a lot of co-innovation taking place in the background, such as making security integration with Azure Active Directory and the SAP Identity

Authentication service more tangible and smoother to use. Event integration between SAP Event Mesh and Azure Event Grid to send business events from both worlds together and enhance the application consumption experience seamless across SAP and Microsoft. And as Holger already told, there's lots of scenarios where SAP data is necessary, and Microsoft and we use that as well. One of the first examples that we came up together was that Microsoft data could also be a big benefit in the SAP world. For example, if you imagine you have your Fiori launchpad in front of you in the morning and do get an impression of what events do I have today or calendar items, or if I get in context, where is a sales order or something very, very simple and can connect that immediately, automatically with Microsoft Office data. So, coming back to RISE, so RISE with SAP is a transformation initiative that accelerates the cloud migration journey with S/4HANA business processes, intelligent migration tools, and SAP business network solutions. Again, BTP plays a fundamental role as an enabler, be it code migration or integration to a business process extensibility. So, once customers have made the decision to run their SAP S/4HANA on Azure, for example, they can leverage BTP and Azure partnership engineering work to enhance their business processes. For example, RISE customers can not only build extensibility scenarios on BTP, but can also, for example, plant their data with SAP and Microsoft data in BTP. And that's, I think, one of the things we want to show in this openSAP course, "Building Applications on SAP BTP with Microsoft Services", how to get an idea of that and get inspiration and probably get started. And yeah, I think that's the key point of all of that.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:13:14] I think the key point, as you said, it is really getting started because people really want to build their own apps, and I think it's great when you have a course that really is showing people how to how to implement it themselves with lots of exercises and not just the theory, but really understanding and having that opportunity to test it yourself as well. So Max, we talk a lot about Business Technology Platform, which is, of course, SAP's technological foundation for intelligent integration and extension scenarios. Can you maybe tell us a little bit more about how SAP and Microsoft are working together and making it even easier for customers to extend and integrate their applications? So, we're talking about SAP, non-SAP solutions. How are you making it easier and more seamless?

Max Streifeneder: [00:13:52] Sure. Well, first of all, I think SAP and Microsoft have both their sweet spots and pretty good products and services in place, but oftentimes,

frankly speaking, they don't work seamlessly together. So, if you get your hands dirty and Holger and I experienced that once we built the tutorials or demos or whatever, that stuff usually probably doesn't work as good as expected. And that's where the partnership often kicks in that we recognize these fields and try to make it simpler. I think one of the best examples that every customer eventually faces is security integration, where most of the customers do have their Azure Active Directory and an SAP system in place, and they want to connect both of these worlds together, where right now it's quite a lot of manual steps, and both of the teams in SAP and Microsoft are working to make that even smoother, and I'm not entirely sure if I'm allowed to say that. But that's where the teams are heading to. Or if we take, for example, eventing, that SAP does have quite a lot of events coming from their business systems, from an S/4HANA system, from SuccessFactors systems. Imagine if a new employee joins the company and is created in SuccessFactors. A lot of other systems and applications are most likely interested in getting notified when a new employee is there or the other way around, when something, if you make it very simple, is uploaded to SharePoint, or if you get an attachment to an Outlook inbox or whatever, that these eventing capabilities do work together smoothly. And I think if I remember right, Holger has also a dedicated session for eventing in week two of the openSAP course. Yeah, and that's I think the point of the partnership that we solve these problems together and make it easier for customers across different technologies. And yeah, as I said, leveraging the sweet spots of both companies where Microsoft and SAP are best at.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:15:48] I think it's really refreshing to hear you say as well, Max, that it's not as perfect as it could be right now, and as soon as you get your hands dirty, you maybe see where certain aspects can be improved. But that's why I really respect kind of the approach to your course, as well, and this animated conversation that you really say, we're making progress and we're heading in the right direction. We have achieved a lot so far as well. So, Holger, related to that point, can you maybe talk us through some of the important milestones that we've achieved so far?

Holger Bruchelt: [00:16:13] If we really start from the very beginning, it's all about putting your SAP system on a Windows server, then embracing SQL Server and stuff like that, I think these were really the very first steps where we set a lot of the foundational work that we are doing. I mean, even today, if you're running an SAP system on Azure, for example, or look at the RISE with SAP, if a customer chooses

Azure as the foundation for RISE with SAP, for example, if a customer creates a ticket because something is not working and it turns out this is an issue on the Azure side, then we have the engineers from Azure really sitting in Walldorf or together with SAP St. Leon-Rot and across the globe. So, the foundation for this whole support collaboration was done in the very, very early days. So similar like Max and I know us for some time now, there are Microsoft engineers that have been working out with SAP for tens of years already, so they know the ins and outs of the SAP system. They know the colleagues; they go together for lunch and whatever. So, this is really something that I think sets a beautiful foundation. Then obviously the next step was that we became customers of each other. So, Microsoft is a huge customer of SAP. I think we are in the top 10 or something like that. So, each and every Microsoft employee is using SAP system. I think one thing that became very clear early was most of the Microsoft employees are not using the SAP GUI. They are using other integration technologies. So, Microsoft was building .NET applications to hide the SAP GUI, but still connecting to an SAP system. So again, coming back to this whole integration that we're talking about. At that time, it was fairly complicated to do this, but we started to evolve and now look where we are with the openSAP course. Actually, if you look at the next milestone that we had Duet, Duet Enterprise, that was something really fun, actually. The integration of Outlook in Excel and so on in SharePoint, that is something that is still top of mind for a lot of customers. So, the story is still 100 percent there, I would say. It resonates extremely well, but at the time, Duet and Duet Server, the technology was not where it was supposed to be, I would say. In the meantime, we've evolved, and so this is for me the next evolution of where we are. So, this announcement from Satya and Christian, when they talk about the Teams integrations, that's really just for me, the next step of Duet or Duet Enterprise. But now, with new technologies whereas in the Duet times, we needed to use a Java stack to send events or to have SOAP services that would connect an SAP and a Microsoft system, where we needed to figure out how to do single sign-on using SPNEGO and some Kerberos based authentication stuff like that. That was a pain. So, both on the SAP and the Microsoft side, we needed to develop a lot of things. There was a lot of issues, actually when rolling out stuff to Outlook clients. I was involved in customer projects where we rolled DUET out to 10,000 customers. If one client failed, then you needed to troubleshoot manually. Now, with the new technology, with RISE with SAP, we have a SaaS offering from SAP. With Office 365, we have a SaaS offering. We have Azure Active Directory, also a service that you can just subscribe to. We have OData as a very easy protocol that both our

companies are using. So, the Teams integration that we are now talking about is basically the same thing that we talked about with Duet and Duet Enterprise, but now it's possible. You will see this also in the course in week three that you can do on your own. And it doesn't take a lot of time. You just connect the existing system. You don't even need to install anything. I think everything that we are doing runs in a browser. So, and this is again something completely new. This was not the case with Duet, and this really shows how great this integration is from my point of view. This is just a starting point. We have integrations with ByDesign, with Qualtrics, with Workzone, SAP Sales Cloud was just released also in the Teams store. SuccessFactors is something that is top of mind for a lot of customers with a lot of customers are asking us and actually behind the scenes, we are working very much on this to bring really SuccessFactors learning into Teams so that customers can use this. I think these are just the milestones or the things that that an end user sees, actually behind the scenes. We are also working on a lot of things, so we just published or released the SAP Private Link (Beta) Service on the Business Technology Platform. So, for customers that are running an SAP system on Azure and that are using the Business Technology Platform on Azure, they now have a secure way to connect their Business Technology Platform to their SAP system so they can build a nice SAP Fiori application and connect to their SAP system without a need to open any firewall ports on the SAP system. Max talked about single sign-on. So, there are really a lot of things that are happening behind the scenes that will come, going forward to the customers.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:21:13] So I think it's a really exciting time for customers and also for employees working on the topics too. There's a lot happening, and a lot of breakthroughs being made.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:21:20] Absolutely, absolutely. It really shows, again, I mean, if I look again at Microsoft, how complicated it was to build these .NET applications to connect to an SAP system, now it's really something that can be done within a few clicks, I would say. So, it's very easy to integrate. And actually, we see the same on the SAP side just to show that. So, it's not only about Microsoft running SAP and doing all this integration. I mean, similarly, when I look at SAP, the IT Department of SAP is also fully using Azure to run their SAP systems on Hyperscalers. And obviously you are also SAP is using Teams in a very big way. And we also have all these integration benefits that we are currently working on from an engineering point of view, not only Microsoft

employees and Microsoft and SAP employees can benefit from, but then also really all our customers can also leverage that.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:22:12] And it's amazing, I think, because I've only dreamed about it a few years ago.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:22:15] Yes, yeah, absolutely. I mean, remember when we met in the (SAP) Gateway times and when it was all about opening up the SAP system, exposing OData services and stuff like that, and look where we are now.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:22:28] I remember it well, yeah. Good few years ago now, but it was great to work on SAP Gateway and OData service and everything together as well, and to think how far we've all come, right? I mean it's amazing.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:22:38] Absolutely.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:22:39] So we've talked now a lot about different technologies and some of the products as well. Can we look at other learning assets that you can recommend, maybe to learn the bigger picture and the different technologies that we've mentioned?

Max Streifeneder: [00:22:50] First of all, when we started to create a course, it was kind of difficult for us where we start, where we stop telling the story because like it should be consumable for the majority of the folks that are interested in SAP and Microsoft. But it's hard because there are so many moving targets in it, and for me, it's hard to imagine what the outside world already knows or doesn't know. So, we actually started relatively early in telling the story the basics about SAP BTP and Microsoft Azure. But like I know, there's a lot of folks out there that are looking at these courses and probably need to start earlier because they don't really know what SAP is. They don't really know where they can leverage both technologies. So, for example, if you have a look at the more business-oriented courses I found, it's at least some suitable ones. The "SAP's Integrated Intelligence Suite", quite a hard one to pronounce, "Building Tomorrow's ERP with S/4HANA", or the one I've already mentioned, with openSAP. I think that sets the ground for getting an idea of what we are actually talking about because it's mainly technical driven, I would say, and that's very close to my

heart. We try to implement or try to create a course in a way that everybody can leverage, because there's some architects that only want to have a look at the demos and slides and only want to listen to us, probably. But there's also developers. They do want to have more tangible stuff like having the exercises handy and get their hands dirty and their feet wet to, yeah, try that out in their own system. So that's the step before to get a little bit of idea of what the business process is behind all of that. Diving deeper, if you want to get an idea of probably what SAP BTP is used for there's this so-called SAP Discovery Center, where we have not only the services of the Business Technology Platform and available what they cost, what they can offer, but also there's use cases, where to use them and how probably other potential customers have already used them, and also tutorials and exercises how you can replicate them in your own systems. If you want to know what the basic stuff of a BTP in detail, there's the SAP Developer Center with tutorials on developers.sap.com, for example, but also similarly on the other side, Holger, for example, has a podcast which is not actually a podcast, which is really surprising to me because there's video involved, so it's not any more a podcast. It's called "SAP on Azure", but also on the Azure side, there's lots of knowledge material with, Holger help me out, how is your TV called Microsoft

Holger Bruchelt: [00:25:23] Microsoft,

Max Streifeneder: [00:25:24] Learn,

Holger Bruchelt: [00:25:24] Learn.

Max Streifeneder: [00:25:24] For example. So, there's lots of knowledge material on YouTube as well. For example, what I totally forgot about is the SAP developer's YouTube channel or SAP Technologies. So, when I think back when I started to develop SAP, ABAP was completely different and I had to like, read through books, and now it's a little a little bit more convenient to consume the stuff, I would say, a little bit more enjoyable.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:25:48] Absolutely, and Max, we will go through and we'll collect the links of all the different courses and resources that you mentioned there and put those into the show notes for all our listeners then as well too. And just a plug for Holger's video podcast. I think it's fantastic. I always have a listen in as well. How many

episodes have you done in the meanwhile? Holger, do them every week I think virtually?

Holger Bruchelt: [00:26:05] Yeah, over 60 in the meantime. It's interesting how it grew, I mean, we started with just a small discussion between some friends, I would say, and in the meantime, we have a lot of really cool content. Obviously, I mean, I learned myself a lot in these podcasts, so we typically invite a special guest that talks about, I don't know how Azure backup for SAP works or how we can monitor an SAP system on Azure. Or how do we do high availability for an SAP system on Azure and stuff like that. And I learn a lot, so it's really great format.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:26:41] Yeah, that's what I love too, I learn so much from these interviews too in our conversations, which is fantastic. And I was having a look around at the different episodes that you have on your video podcast, and I saw episode sixty one, so pretty new, "The one with first examples of our partnership". So, in this episode, you also talk about your brand new openSAP course, too. So, if we may, I'd like to put the link to that podcast episode into our show notes as well. So, anyone who's listened to this episode also tune into Holger talking further details as well.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:27:09] Thank you.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:27:10] So now looking specifically at your openSAP course that starts November 10th, "Building Applications on SAP's Business Technology Platform with Microsoft Services." What can we expect week by week? Can you talk us through a little bit about what's to come?

Max Streifeneder: [00:27:23] So, the first week, set the stage for the following week, so Holger and Anirban, my manager and Head of Platform Adoption and Advisory, explains the basic principles behind the Business Technology Platform behind Holger explains Azure. Both explain both worlds and how they come together and how they grow together, and then we already have a sneak preview of what's coming in the coming weeks.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:27:48] Just one additional point there about how to deploy in SAP system on Azure. So, one of literally really my one of my favorite tools that SAP is

providing is the SAP Cloud Appliance Library, the SAP CAL, which really with a click of a button you can deploy an S/4HANA fully configured system even with demo content. And that is again, I think Max, you just mentioned that. If you look back 10 years or something like that or five years ago, how complicated it was to really get your hands on to an SAP system and do some development, that was always very complicated. I mean, yes, I could install it by myself on my server at home or something like that by getting a DVD or something like that. But now if we would have a demo in the afternoon, where I'm supposed to show my business the latest features of S/4HANA, well, then I can go to the Cloud Appliance Library, cal.sap.com. I would obviously select Azure as the Hyperscaler, and I would then deploy the system and within a few hours or minutes, depending on the system. I have a fully configured environment available and that is something that I find really just amazing, how easy that is. And actually, I mean, we're not talking about this in the course, but we are working with SAP right now to also have this as a production-ready solution, so that you can also deploy a production-ready S/4HANA system via this method. So maybe it doesn't fit completely in the in the whole openSAP story then when we talk about the integration, but I think it's still, as a foundation, how do you get an SAP system? That's what I really love. And again, I'm a huge fan of the Cloud Appliance Library, so I needed to do some advertising there for SAP's solution here. But then going to the next week, the second week there, we talk about integration scenarios, and I think that's obviously if you look at the Business Technology Platform and the whole Integration Suite is something that I think brings a lot of value to customers. It's a beautiful service. It comes with all these integration flows that are all also document on the SAP API Business Hub. So, I think that's for me one of the most important services on the Business Technology Platform. And in in the second week, we talk about two scenarios actually or even a little more. But yeah, sorry. Max will provide additional insights there. But for example, we talk about one scenario where we integrate documents into SharePoint. So, where we're using the Business Technology Platform to have this connection between data in your SAP system with SharePoint. Another thing that we are talking about is high availability. So, you have the Integration Suite, maybe in one region running on Azure, on the Business Technology Platform, and then how can we use other Azure services, for example, to scale to load balance these scenarios? It's another interesting thing. And the third one, Max, it's the eventing, right?

Max Streifeneder: [00:30:45] The eventing story, yeah.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:30:47] Thank you. Yeah, exactly. I, it's too much. I've been concentrating on week three right now. So, the third topic is all about eventing, and I think that's also something that is getting more and more interesting. So, in the past, a lot of communication was point to point was, look, I pull some information, but if we see more and more customers really looking at this event-driven architecture, where are we saying, look, you have an event bus, an event service and SAP has this SAP Event Mesh functionality that combines all these different service events basically where you can connect your S/4 system to where you can connect SuccessFactors, and so on. So, you have this one central point where you have your events on the SAP side. Similarly, if you switch sides on the Microsoft side, we've also a lot of eventing-related services, Event Grid, Service Bus, and some others there. Now the question is, can we bring this together somehow? Actually, I've written a blog post about this sometime back already, how we do this connection. But obviously SAP and Microsoft, we're also working on that to enhance the functionality. There are some open standards that both of us are very much involved in, that we are driving together, and there's a lot of things happening there. And again, in week two, we're talking about these topics as well. Then Max, what about week three?

Max Streifeneder: [00:32:04] I always feel so guilty because you describe everything so in detail that I'm like running out of words. You need to add something then. So, week 3, extension scenarios as you've already described it while we were talking about Microsoft Teams. We do have a scenario that, imagine if an employee on a Microsoft employee, but also SAP employee wants to request a leave or wants to go to vacation and wants to do that via Teams, because Teams like oftentimes the primary tool to work in on a daily basis. So, we do have a chat bot using SAP Conversational AI and Microsoft Teams, where you can request a leave that sent to the SAP BTP Workflow service. And the most exciting scenario for me is then using the Microsoft Graph API to, once the leave request is accepted, then you directly get a blocker into your Outlook calendar. There's two ways to approve this request. Usually, you can do that using your My Inbox in Fiori Launchpad, but also there's a pretty cool way that we have experience, or which is relatively prominent or getting more prominent is so-called adaptive cards where you can directly accept something in Microsoft Outlook, for example, that you don't have to go over to your Fiori Launchpad or something like that so you can directly approve it in Microsoft Outlook. That's, I think, week three.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:33:29] Which actually is my favorite week, to be honest.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:33:34] And I have to say I love that week too. I've looked at the content as well because I used to work in that area as well. I get very excited about event-driven architectures and yeah, I think it's fantastic to see the progress that's been made there. And I think the examples and the demos that you show, I think they're brilliant, they're just so tangible. Leave requests. I mean, who doesn't like leave requests and get notifications sent directly to Outlook. Yeah, I think really good examples. Really tangible, really great, really motivating. Great choices, guys.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:34:03] We do have one more week, and that's all about data. There, we picked one scenario where we're using the Azure Data Explorer. So, one way to collect the different data, combining data from different data silos, basically. And then we have an integration scenario that then exposes or allows the SAP Analytics Cloud to connect to Azure Data Explorer and then to visualize the data in SAP Analytics Cloud. This is one example how the data integration can look like, but I think it shows how the different technologies, both from SAP and from the Microsoft side can work together to, in the end, provide the end user access to data, access to really work with the data so they can make some meaningful decisions out of that.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:34:43] I was very excited about your course before, but just feeling the energy and hearing you both talk about it today. Yeah, it makes me very enthusiastic as well. So, I think it's a real treat in store for our learners there. And so, what are you most proud of?

Holger Bruchelt: [00:34:56] The professionalism of the whole openSAP course behind the scenes, the people that you don't see. I mean, we are working now with Katrin, and she's just amazing how much she pushes us, how much she makes sure that we are on track, how she really follows up and she's just one person. There are so many other persons when you when you record the videos and when you have all the checks and when you do this and that, and quality checks of the slides. And I mean, there's so much work that is happening behind the scenes. It was a fantastic and amazing experience.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:35:30] We have the project manager, Kathrin, in our recording right now. Katrin, would you like to say hello to us, and to our listeners?

Katrin Elk: [00:35:37] I have to unmute myself, sorry. So, hello to everyone and thank you, Holger, and as we say in German, thank you for the flowers. And it's I have to say, it's really great to work with this team. They have so much passion and also a sense for quality that I don't have to do so much.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:35:56] Oh, you have to do a lot.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:36:00] Thanks, Katrin.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:36:02] That is really, really amazing and I mean, the other thing that I really also enjoyed was now only Max is here in the podcast, and obviously I love working with Max, but then also the other colleagues Harut, Anirban, Siva that is that is really, I think we were really, really good team working on that. And that is that is something that I'm also super happy about. When it comes to content, as mentioned, I really love week three. That is for me because if you get your hands on the exercises, it's really, really easy and it's surprisingly easy from my point of view, how fast you can get a scenario that looks fairly complicated. I mean, and that is really a real-life scenario. Everyone needs to do a leave request, and we show hopefully how easy it is to do that. My hope is really that this is an inspiration for a lot of other customers, partners to build on that. Typically, when you talk to customers, there are so many people that have fantastic ideas, and my hope is really that this openSAP course shows them that it's not so complicated that they can actually also do this, that they get some inspiration. Oh, if someone can create a leave request, then I can also create some other cool scenarios that I've thought about in the past. And I have Microsoft Teams, I have the Business Technology Platform, I have an S/4HANA system. We have all the components now. And unlike in the past, where you needed to install this and install that and do this, and that is, where it was really complicated to get started. Now you go into Teams, maybe there is already the tools that are available there. You go to the Business Technology Platform, there's a free trial available or a free tier available on the Business Technology Platform. So again, also really addressing the Microsoft audience here. So again, I hope that we'll have a lot of colleagues from Microsoft joining the openSAP course that maybe get in touch with SAP for the very first time. That they also

see signing up to the Business Technology Platform. It's very easy. You can get started, there are some fantastic boosters available to quickly get started and to have a first set of sample data and stuff like that, and then to show them, well, integrating. There's not so much magic behind. I have to say, obviously, when it comes to then really making sure you have all the single sign on in place and you have all the security that takes a little longer. But as Max outlined as well, we are working on that. We are trying to simplify this process as well. And typically, if you get started, if you have the idea, if you have the integration, then the other things can also be solved.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:38:32] If I go to you, Max, what I really like about what you've both done with this course and the team as well because the whole teams involved there with the experts you mentioned is how easy you've made it for us as learners to really try out the different technologies, bring it together, and have that first sense of success, right? When you've created your leave requests and you see that everything is up and running and then I guess, you know, you're not held back by anything, then you have your own ideas and then you can implement new scenarios as well. And I think that's such a big motivating factor. And I think that's where you've brought a lot of magic into the course as well. So, congratulations for doing that and I can't wait to see the feedback from our learners too. And max to you, what's closest to your heart? What are you most proud of with the course?

Max Streifeneder: [00:39:10] You already took my point. It's the exercises, because like with my developer background or being a developer advocate for the last three years, I always know how hard it is for folks out there to get started or to understand actually the nuts and bolts of the technologies behind them that's always coming down or boiling down to get your get your hands dirty. And I have to be honest, when we started setting up the course, it was quite difficult, and we spend quite a lot of time in structuring the content. And I was just blown away by how much effort it is to structure the content in a way that it's not too challenging, not too boring, doable for everybody. Most likely for free. And all the folks in the background are OK with the content, strategy wise etc. etc. And that's not only from the quality of the content challenging, but also bringing all the folks together is, in the beginning, challenging but fantastic when it all comes together, I'm really looking forward. We are right now in testing the exercises and we are just a little sweating if all is working out because we do want to enable

everybody who is interested to do the exercises and to avoid that somebody gets stuck at a certain point in time.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:40:25] Excellent. And I think it's really fantastic that you outline everything that we need. It's just so easy to sign up for the free trials, get everything set up, to get access to the data. There's no reason why anyone should really shy away from the exercises in this case. I think you've done fantastic work. And so, yeah, I guess all that remains now to be said is sign up for the course and look forward to it starting then on November 10th to meet the both of you and also the other course instructors as well there. But to conclude today's episode, I'd like to ask you both to summarize three key takeaways that we should remember from our conversation with you today.

Max Streifeneder: [00:40:59] Three Holger, keep it short.

Holger Bruchelt: [00:41:02] So I would start with the partnership and the friendship that we have between SAP and Microsoft, I think that is certainly one very, very important thing. I would also highlight the fact that we are customers of each other, so we are really eating our own dog food or drinking our own champagne or whatever you might call it. That also really, really helps and in the end leads to the next step, which is all about security and trust. I mean, that's the important thing for customers. Obviously, when they work with SAP, they work with Microsoft. They need to be sure, especially now in the cloud area, obviously, that their data is secure and there's trust, and I hope that it's really something that we can really show customers that it's on multiple levels. Be it certification regulations, but then also interaction with each other. And then finally looking really at this course, as Max said, I think we really tried to show the fundamentals. So, this is not a course that will go into all the very detailed things, and it's a very specialized. But what we are really trying to do is allow everyone to get started and have some, some success in integrating SAP and Microsoft and help them to get started. And I would say, really get inspired to do their own stuff. That would be my three, or, let's say, three and a half takeaways.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:42:22] Max, do you have anything you'd like to add?

Max Streifeneder: [00:42:24] Well, I think that the last point is the most important point, because I think, I think back showing my first Microsoft and SAP example as well, I

guess, is that really cool to somebody out there? I imagined this time when we've shown how to show Outlook data or was it mails in the Fiori UI? That was, for me, just super basic. But that was back in the time we went to the first conference. Folks were queuing up at the end of the session and asking, "Can I do that myself at home?" And they were just so inspired by showing the simplest example you can imagine. And that's what I hope that folks attending the course do take with them, that this is just like the starting point. And think about it, if you can take something away that helps probably your employees or your coworkers or your company or your customers.

Elisabeth Riemann: [00:43:15] Thank you both so much for speaking to us here today. I've loved our conversation. I love the energy that you both have and talking about the partnership and also the friendship as well. And I really liked the fact that you emphasized that in the closing words. And to our listeners, I hope that we've awakened your curiosity and your desire to learn more about building applications with SAP's Business Technology Platform and Microsoft Services. If you haven't already, let's go and enroll now. Thank you for listening to openSAP Invites. If you enjoyed this episode, please share, and leave a review. And don't miss your next invite. Subscribe now!

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