Release Readiness for SAP Business Network
Frequently Asked Questions

Contents

RELEASE GENERAL INFORMATION

Q: What is Release Readiness?
Release Readiness is a program at SAP that facilitates delivery of release information to our customers prior to a releases General Availability (GA). The goal is to promote awareness of an upcoming release, provide relevant information and resources to aide in preparation, and gain insight into the value to be achieved with adoption. Key benefits include:

- Customers have timely information on upcoming releases
- Customers have relevant resources to understand release content and adopt new features
- Change management can be assessed for any potential impact to ensure minimal disruption

Q: Where can I find the planned release dates?
The calendar of planned release dates can always be found on the Release Readiness Portal page.

Q: Do all Business Network release take place on the same day?
Business Network releases happen over the same weekend, but generally begin on different days. For specific timing please refer to the advance release communications. During a release weekend, solutions follow the schedule below.
- Fridays: SAP Business Network for Procurement & SAP Business Network for Supply Chain
- Saturday: SAP Business Network for Logistics
- Sunday: SAP Business Network for Asset Collaboration

Q: When are the SAP Business Network Quarterly Releases?
Quarterly Releases will be delivered in **February, May, August, and November**.
(see the Quarterly Release Activities section for additional info)

Q: Does SAP Business Network provide release updates more frequently than once a quarter?
Yes, months not coinciding with a quarterly release will have Service Pack releases.
(see Monthly Release Activities section for more detail)

Q: What is the difference between a quarterly release and a monthly release?
The primary difference between quarterly and monthly releases is the type of content to be delivered.
- Quarterly releases include features where there is the potential of day one impact to your users or processes. It also includes features that would require adoption at a future date or when you need time to educate/prepare your users.

- Monthly releases are "no impact. Monthly release updates are used to deliver defect fixes and and/or minor enhancements. You should not need to prepare for, nor take any action for anything delivered monthly.

Q: What differences exist between Asset Collaboration, Logistics, and Procurement & Supply Chain Releases?
SAP Business Network for Asset Collaboration will release features, with and without impact, on a monthly cadence.

Q: How are SAP Business Network releases named?
SAP Business Network uses a 2-digit year and 2-digit month (YYMM) label to identify releases. For example:
- Quarterly feature release: SAP Business Network 2102 (February 2021), SAP Business Network 2111 (November 2021)
- Monthly service pack deployment: SAP Business Network 2103 (March 2021), SAP Business Network 2110 (October 2021)

Q: Will there be any downtime with quarterly releases?
Quarterly releases are planned to include no scheduled downtime. While there is no anticipated downtime associated with a release, momentary performance degradations may occur throughout the duration of the deployment and feature activation activities.

Q: Will features be available for exploration in my Test site before the release date?
Features available before GA in your test site depend on the specific SAP Business Network solutions.
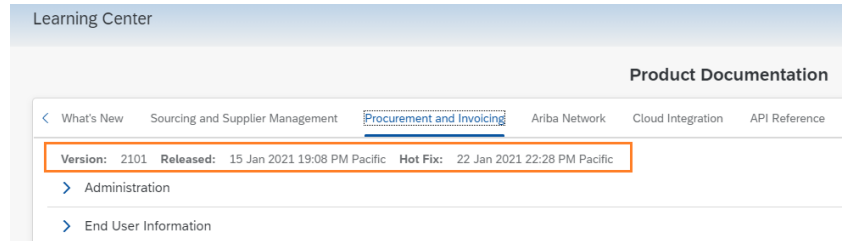
- SAP Business Network for Procurement and SAP Business Network for Supply Chain – this is not currently supported. Features are delivered to both production and test sites at the time of GA. For features that are customer configured, you can enable them in your test sites before applying them to your production sites.

- Business Network for Logistics and SAP Business Network for Asset Collaboration – For those customers that have elected to preview new features in their Test tenant before General Availability, features will continue to be available in to allow you to prepare for adoption.

Q: How can I tell when a deployment has completed?

Releases typically require 6-8 hours to implement. We do, at times, experience extended deployments that span through the weekend.

For SAP Business Network for Procurement and SAP Business Network for Supply Chain solutions, when the release is completely rolled out, the "Version," "Released" or "Hot Fix" dates in the "Documentation & Learning" page of SAP Ariba Connect will update. The date will be highlighted for 48 hours after it changes.
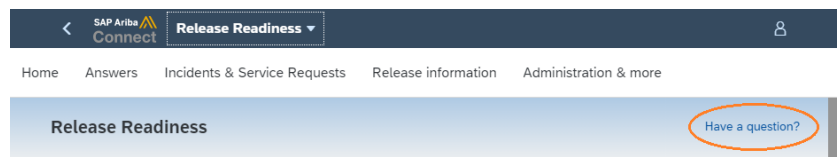
Q: How can I learn more about upcoming releases?

You can always access the information on the next feature release on the **Release Readiness** Portal page.

Q: What do I do if I have questions?

If you have questions about Release Readiness, the release process, or a feature planned for a coming release, you can submit a question by clicking the *Have a question?* link on the upper right of the Release Readiness page of SAP Ariba Connect or submit to releasereadiness@sap.com

Q: When are SAP Integration Suite, managed gateway for spend management and SAP Business Network features released?

Features, for the SAP Cloud Integration, managed gateway are delivered with the quarterly releases in February, May, August, and November. The SAP Integration Suite, managed gateway add-on (the installable add-on component for SAP S/4HANA & SAP ERP systems) is released twice a year in May and November.

RELEASE COMMUNICATION

Q: How/When will I learn about the features Included in a quarterly feature release?

Features planned for inclusion in a quarterly release will be communicated three weeks prior to the release for Buyers and two weeks prior for Suppliers. Email notification (aka Advance Release Notice) will be distributed that includes links to the following resources:
- Feature list
- Feature Overview documents
- What's new in SAP Business Network guide
- Registration to quarterly release feature overview webcasts

Q: Will there be monthly deployment announcements?

Solutions for SAP Business Network for Procurement and SAP Business Network for Supply Chain will receive a monthly deployment notice two weeks prior to the deployment date for those months that do not coincide with a quarterly release.

QUARTERLY RELEASE ACTIVITIES

Q: What type of content is included in the quarterly releases?
A quarterly feature release is the vehicle SAP Business Network will use to make impactful new features and innovation available to all customers. A quarterly release will be composed of new features and/or innovation and may include defect fixes and/or minor enhancements. Quarterly releases can include innovation relevant to Business Network, and SAP Integration Suite, managed gateway for spend management and SAP Business Network.

Q: What benefits do quarterly releases bring?
A quarterly cadence provides time between feature releases which will allow for the following:
- Higher quality knowledge transfer content
- More time for you to learn about and evaluate features
- Increased time for "hands on" feature exploration and adoption between releases

Q: How/When will I learn about the features Included in a quarterly feature release?
Features planned for inclusion in a quarterly release will be communicated three weeks prior to the release. An email notification (aka Advance Release Notice) will be distributed to customers that includes links to the Release Readiness page containing the following resources:
- Feature list
- Feature Overview Decks
- Release Guides

Q: I hear features referred to as mandatory or optional. What is the difference?
There are two types of feature adoption; those features where adoption is optional (Customer Configured) and will be at the customer's discretion to consume, and those features that are mandatory (Automatically On), requiring all customers to adopt.

Q: What are Mandatory with Opt-In features?
Mandatory with Opt-In features are those where SAP Business Network sets the deadline for all customers to adopt the feature in production. At the time of their release these features are optional but will become mandatory (Automatically On) with a future release. These features likely require the customer to perform change management activities prior to introduction to their users in their production site.

Q: How will I know which features will be turned on automatically?
The feature list for each release and What's New guide, will clearly indicate how each feature is enabled. In general, there are three ways in which a feature is enabled:

Depending on feature complexity and change impact there are three types of feature enablement methods utilized.

- **Automatically On:** Feature is available at GA and is ready for immediate use
- **Customer Configured:** Feature is available at GA but requires customer action before use
- **Commercial Request:** Features requires SAP Business Network action to enable (e.g., contacting your SAP CEX) before use.

Q: How will I have enough time to prepare for features with significant change impact?
Where a feature has significant impact, the feature will be released as "optional" so you can decide when to adopt.

Q: I missed a Feature Overview webcast, are they recorded?
Yes, recordings of these webcast going back several releases are available from one easy to access location. You can access the Release Readiness webcast archive page directly or find it on the Release Readiness page on SAP Ariba Connect.

MONTHLY RELEASE ACTIVITIES

Q: What type of content is included in the monthly Service Packs?
For SAP Business Network for Procurement and SAP Business Network for Supply Chain, monthly Service Pack updates will be used to deliver defect fixes and other non-impactful code changes only.

Q: Will there be monthly deployment announcements?

Solutions for SAP Business Network for Procurement and SAP Business Network for Supply Chain will receive a monthly deployment notice, for those months that do not coincide with a quarterly release, two weeks prior to the deployment date.