

CLOUDCOMPUTING

Cloud computing can be defined in simple terms as the delivery of a software product to a user via the Internet. The user typically accesses the cloud product through a Web browser or a lightweight (meaning small and simple) application for a computer or mobile device. Cloud computing is not a completely new concept, rather it simply represents the latest stage of the development of computing and the Internet. To better understand how cloud computing will impact ERP system development; it is useful to review the development of SAP's ERP systems with the advent of the Internet.

5.7.1 SAP and the Internet:

In 1996, SAP introduced its joint Internet strategy with Microsoft. The core of SAP's first effort to integrate the Internet with its products was the Internet Transaction Server (ITS) a server- based software system that enabled efficient communication between an SAP ERP system and the Internet. To provide some context for the state of the Internet at this time—in 1996, Amazon.com was only one year old, and the online travel agencies Expedia and Travelocity were both just being founded. Many other Internet services we take for granted today did not exist at thistime.

In May 1999, SAP announced mySAP.com, a new strategy designed to completely realign the company and its product portfolio. The goal of this initiative was to combine e-commerce solutions with SAP's existing ERP applications, using cutting-edge Web technology. In 2000,

SAP began building on the mySAP.com vision by adding the capability for electronic marketplaces and corporate portals.

What is OLAP?

OLAP or On-Line Analytical Processing is a decision support software that allows the user to quickly analyze information that has been summarized into multidimensional views and hierarchies.

What is supply chain?

A supply chain is a network of facilities and distribution options, that performs the functions of procurement of materials, transformation of these materials into intermediate and finished products, and the distribution of these finished products to customers.

What is SCM?

SCM or Supply Chain Management is a generic term that encompasses the coordination of order generation, order taking and offer fulfillment/distribution of products, services or information.

How ERP used in CRM?

Customer relationship management (CRM) systems build on the organizational value ERP provides; specifically, they increase the flexibility of the company's common database regarding customer service. Various kinds of CRM software are available, some from ERP vendors (including SAP) and some from third-party software companies. CRM software can lead to operational savings, but most companies buy it because they believe that creating better customer relationships will

result in higher revenue. Uses of CRM have evolved since the software was initially launched; what began as a customer contact repository has extended its capabilities to include sophisticated business intelligence. CRM can be installed in-house or on-demand.

Define business analytics.

Business analytics is a term used to describe a range of different applications and technologies used to extract and analyze large amounts of data to aid in decision making.

What do you mean by Cloud Computing?

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How the ERP systems enabled with internet?

E-commerce needs are driving companies to connect their business applications, such as ERP systems, both internally and externally through the Internet. Software designed with an SOA can be quickly deployed and reconfigured as business conditions require changes to the applications, databases, and other infrastructure hosted in data centers owned by a company. The combination of software tools that enables an organization's various systems and applications to communicate with other applications is called Web services.

What do you mean by open source ERP?

Open source ERP provides the users with free versions of software programs without license, other rules and regulations. Open source ERP platforms the user is able to access the source code and know how the applications work and can change the code as per the business needs. This has been commented as one of the main reasons for small and medium sized organisations to select open source ERP platform rather than outsourcing the developing applications that suit the business requirements.

What are the advantages of business analytics?

Strategic workforce
performance
information
Evaluates
supplier and
customer
performance
Accelerate activities
of human resources
Achieves greater
visibility

Receives daily activities.

Controls and monitors maintenance process