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SAP Deployments Get Boost from Visualization

by Jeff Moad

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Manufacturers extending or consolidating SAP enterprise application implementations have a new option for streamlining these projects, thanks to a set of pre-configured user interface visualization tools introduced today by iRise Corp.

The new version of iRise's Definition Center includes a set of pre-packaged visualization templates that can be used to configure the user interface and behavior of SAP ERP, CRM, or financial applications that use Version 6 or Version 7 of SAP's NetWeaver platform. The templates can be used to produce working simulations of SAP deployments around which business users, software developers, and business analysts can collaborate by producing "test drives" and recording comments before coding the changes into the SAP software. iRise officials estimate that the use of such visualization tools can shorten typical SAP deployments by several months.

The SAP-specific templates will cut design and implementation time further, says Mitch Bishop, iRise's chief marketing officer. "Before, customers would have to manually pull in information from their SAP implementations and wire them up for behavior. Now we've done all of that for you," Bishop said in an interview with *Managing Automation*.

The pre-defined visualization templates for SAP applications represent iRise's first major push into the enterprise applications space. The company, which was a [Managing Automation Company to Watch in 2008](#), has focused primarily on helping companies design and deploy Web-based applications. The company also recently released similar visualization templates for IBM's Lotus Connections social networking software for businesses. iRise customers include General Motors, Eli Lilly, and Xerox.

iRise is likely to produce visualization templates for other packaged enterprise application environments, Bishop said. "You can extrapolate that if SAP is a big opportunity for us, other packaged applications will be as well," he said.

Enterprise applications represent an attractive market for iRise, Bishop said, particularly in the current recession. "SAP deployments are mission-critical, so they're not getting cut," he said. "But many companies are rationalizing deployments down to one or two instances, and that's where we can help."

The visualization templates for SAP applications are licensed separately from iRise's Definition Center and other products, Bishop said.

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