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Where SAP® MDG and Automate Evolve Fit into an SAP Data Management and Automation Portfolio
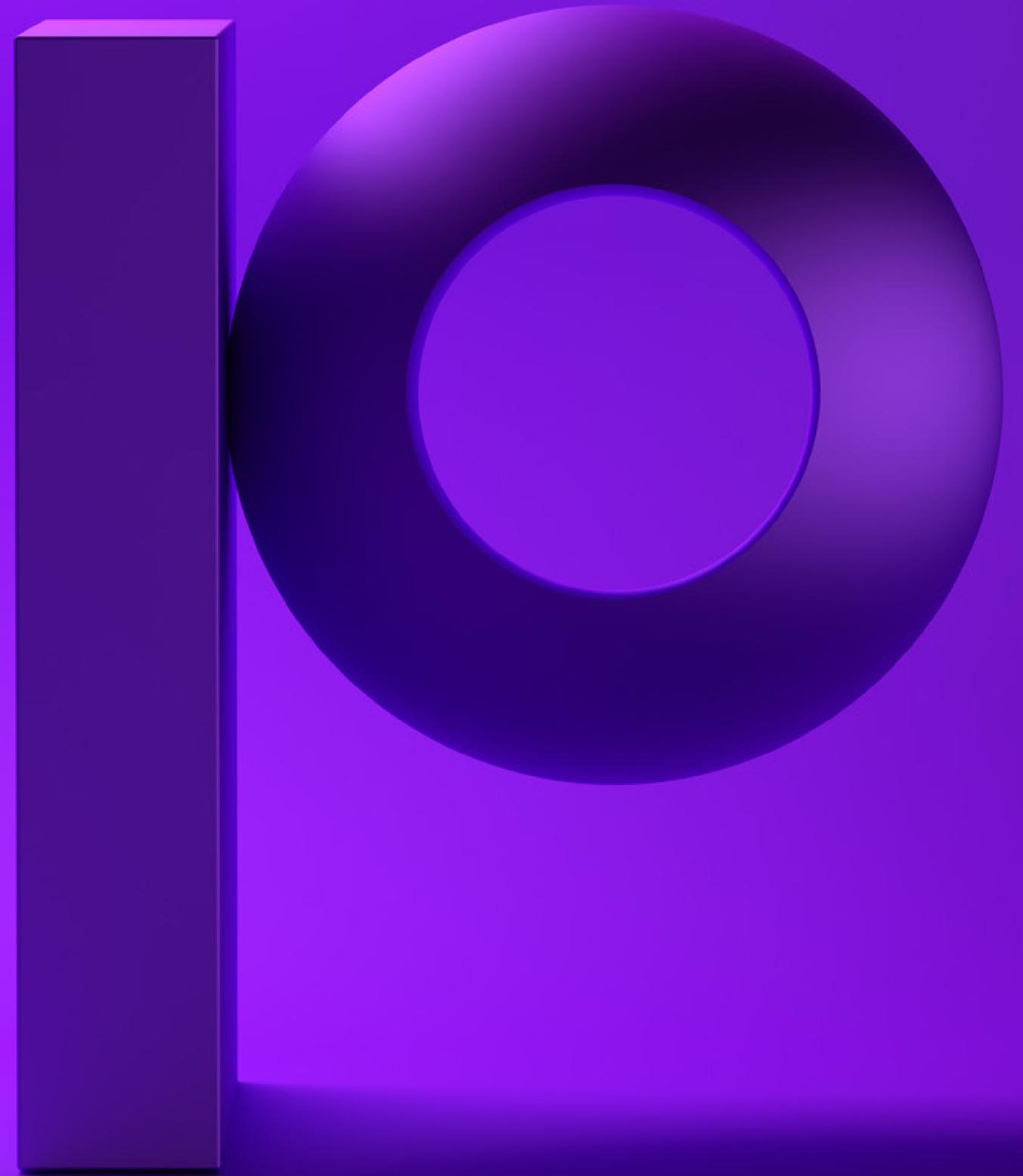
Introduction

Teams across the business are under pressure to move faster, reduce errors and risk, and be more efficient. If you're responsible for helping the business meet these goals and getting the most value from your SAP ERP investment, this eBook is for you.

We'll discuss how to make the most of your limited SAP IT resources and budget by choosing the right solution for the task at hand and discuss where SAP's MDG product and Automate Evolve may best fit into your SAP data management and automation portfolio.

Chart the right course

It's hard to overstate the importance of getting your SAP master data right. Both SAP MDG and Automate Evolve are great solutions for improving data quality with some overlap in capabilities and can be used side by side. There are, however, important differences between the two solutions.

The table on this page is not meant to be an exhaustive feature comparison between the two solutions, but rather a quick read on where each solution might best fit into your software portfolio so you can chart the right course for your specific business needs.

|	SAP MDG	AUTOMATE EVOLVE
Primary functions	SAP master data governance	SAP data management and business process automation
Typical fields governed	Core data fields controlled through governance programs	Core data fields controlled through governance programs plus line-of-business/regional fields.
Business rules management	Centralized with ERP through BRF+	Distributed (embedded within forms)
Centralized hub functionality and data syndication	Yes	No
Workflow capabilities	SAP standard workflow	Includes flexible workflow capabilities. Does not require programming skills.
SAP skills required to build and modify solution	ABAP, BRF+, WebDynPro (FPM), SAP MDG	None
Business user front end	Web forms	Web form or Microsoft Excel

Common deployment journeys

Over the years we've seen customers deploy both SAP MDG and Automate Evolve side by side or independently based on their specific use case, requirements, budget, and go-live timeline.

SAP MDG	Use SAP MDG to manage core fields on top four domains.
SAP MDG + Automate Evolve	Use SAP MDG to manage core fields on top four domains, and Automate Evolve to manage other MDG fields on those domains and any fields on any other master data object.
Automate Evolve	Use Automate Evolve to streamline data collection and improve data quality for any data across the SAP landscape.

Pay attention to hidden data objects

When most people think of SAP master data, the top four domains—materials, vendors, customers, and finance spring to mind. But these domains are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to your master data—there's much more below the waterline that needs your attention if you're to avoid costly downstream errors and help the business move faster. SAP MDG includes "ready-to-run, domain-specific solutions"[1] for materials,

retail article, customers, vendors, and technical assets. While the solution is extensible to other areas, it may be cost prohibitive to manage other master data objects with SAP MDG.

Automate Evolve is an SAP-specific data management and process automation platform that enables you to improve data quality and streamline processes across all your master data. You can also use Precisely Automate to streamline transactional data processes like sales orders, journal entries, invoicing, and maintenance notifications and work orders.

[1] Information from SAP MDG solution brief

MATERIALS   VENDORS   CUSTOMERS   FINANCE
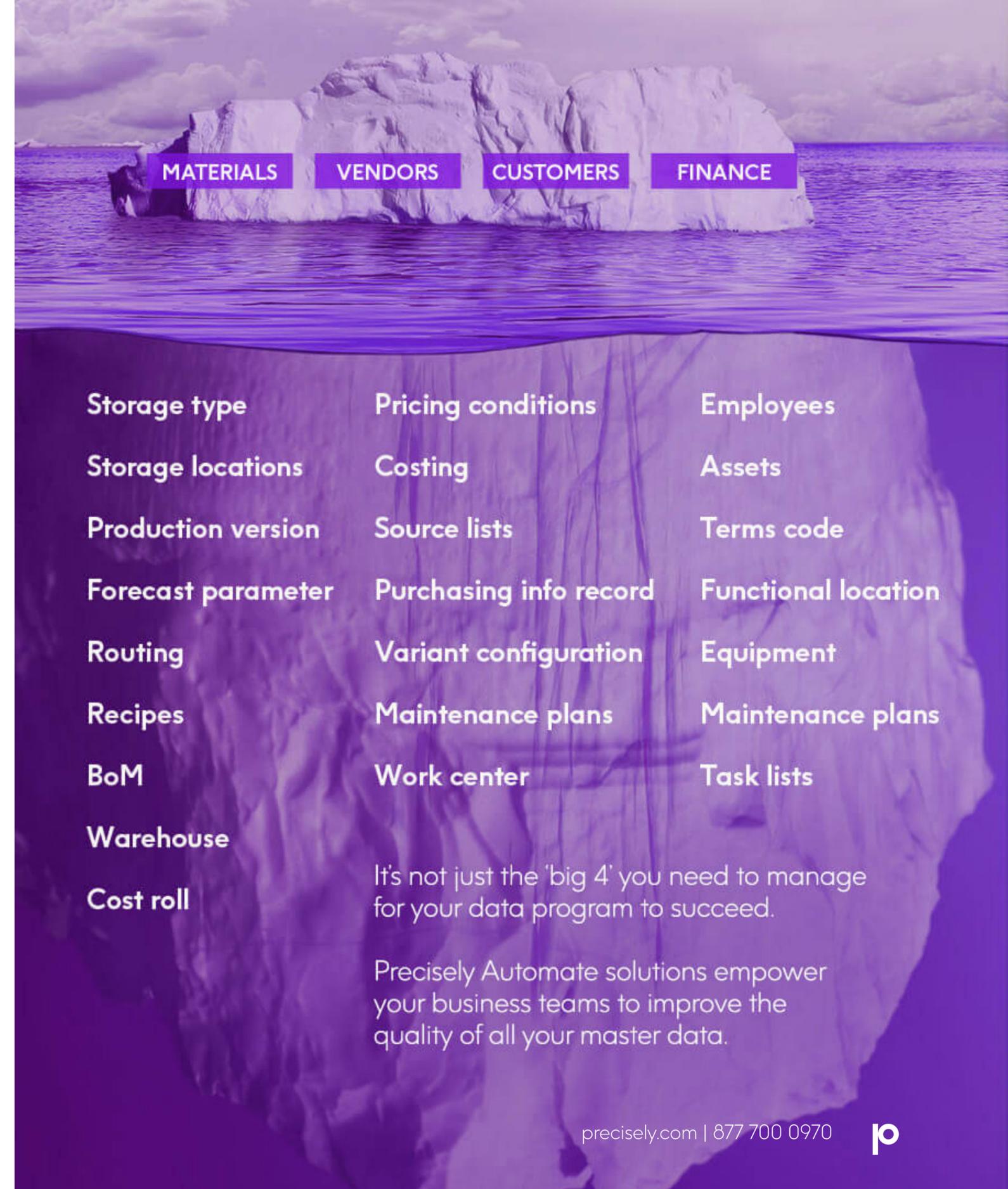
Storage type	Pricing conditions	Employees
Storage locations	Costing	Assets
Production version	Source lists	Terms code
Forecast parameter	Purchasing info record	Functional location
Routing	Variant configuration	Equipment
Recipes	Maintenance plans	Maintenance plans
BoM	Work center	Task lists
Warehouse		
Cost roll		

It's not just the 'big 4' you need to manage for your data program to succeed.

Precisely Automate solutions empower your business teams to improve the quality of all your master data.

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"We save around $1.9 Million per year in avoided programming, reduced data entry workload costs and SLA costs with Precisely Automate. Most importantly, we have given our users a tool that enhances their productivity and the accuracy of the data in our systems."

Business Process Manager
SAP Center of Excellence, Canada Post

Don't let the details sink your efforts

SAP MDG is designed to help you lock down and centrally store the core data fields—fields that are often shared between systems of record, like customer name and address. These fields are a fraction of the total fields on any given data object. Small mistakes in these other fields such as storage location or unit of measure on materials can have costly downstream consequences.

While you can manage any field with SAP MDG, it may be cost prohibitive to govern all the data that's important to the business with that solution. This is especially true when it comes to governing plant, company, or region-specific data where different business rules and procedures apply.

Automate Evolve enables you to manage any master data field on any object and build flexible solutions that can handle the differing needs of your business.

☐ Examples of core master data fields

☐ Other master data fields you may want to proactively manage, many are at the plant, company code, sales org or purchase org level

Materials	Customers	Vendors/Suppliers
Basic Data Material number Description Material group Product hierarchy Unit of Measure EAN/UPC Etc.	**General Data** Name Address Account group Industry Contact person Etc	**General Data** Name Address Account group Industry Contact person Etc
Plant/Sales Org/Storage Warehouse MRP Costings Routings/recipes Classifications Forecast params. Etc.	**Sales Area/ Company Code** Accounting info Tax info Payment terms Bank details Info records Pricing Shipping conditions Etc.	**Purchase Org/ Company Code** Accounting info Tax info Payment terms Purchasing data Info records Etc.

What's your final destination?

SAP MDG does a great job of centrally managing the creation and maintenance of core fields for the big four master data domains, but that's just one step on your journey to better business outcomes. Typical business processes touch multiple data objects and involve many steps.

Let's look at an example.

EXAMPLE

Automated promotional packaging launch

Launching a product in SAP involves collecting data across many objects from many different departments—materials are one piece of the puzzle. Let's see how you could use Precisely Automate's New Product Introduction (NPI) solution, built on our Automate Evolve platform and SAP MDG to automate one type of product launch—a promotional packaging change.

What type of product launch is it?

Promotional packaging change

Net new product
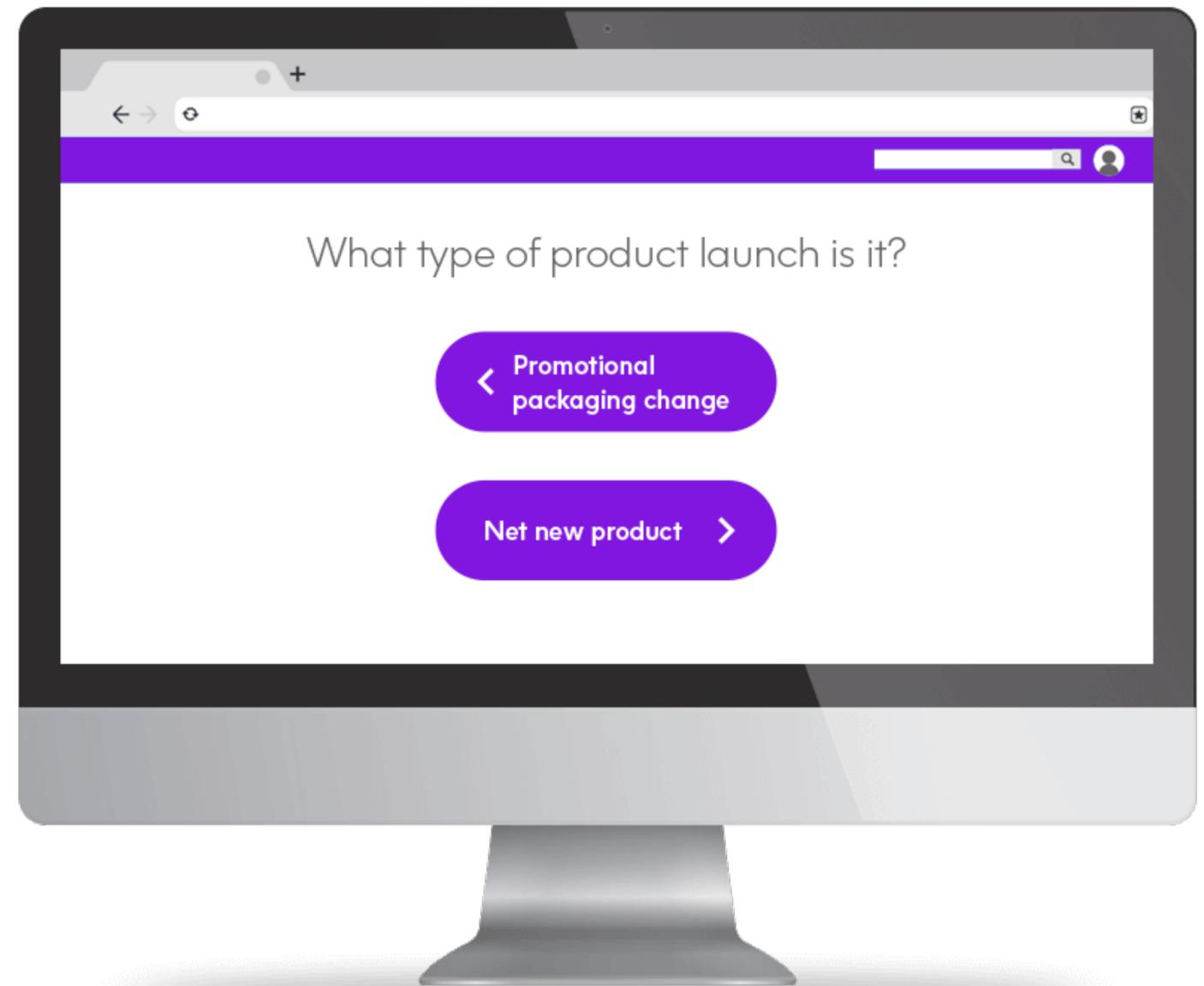
Precisely Automate's NPI Solution

Each puzzle piece in this NPI solution is a complete workflow

solution designed to collect the right data from the right team. A project manager chooses the type of launch they want to execute, and our NPI solution dynamically links the puzzle piece solutions needed to complete the launch—typically reducing launch cycles by 50% or more.

Each solution can be used independently, and because the platform is modular, you can add more pieces to your launch process over time, like routings for example.

We work with you to determine which 'puzzle pieces' you need to accelerate your processes and build a custom solution that embeds your business rules and follows your procedures.

Finished products materials (FERT)

Bill of materials (BOM)

Material status update

Packaging materials (VERP)

Purchase info record (PIR)

Source list
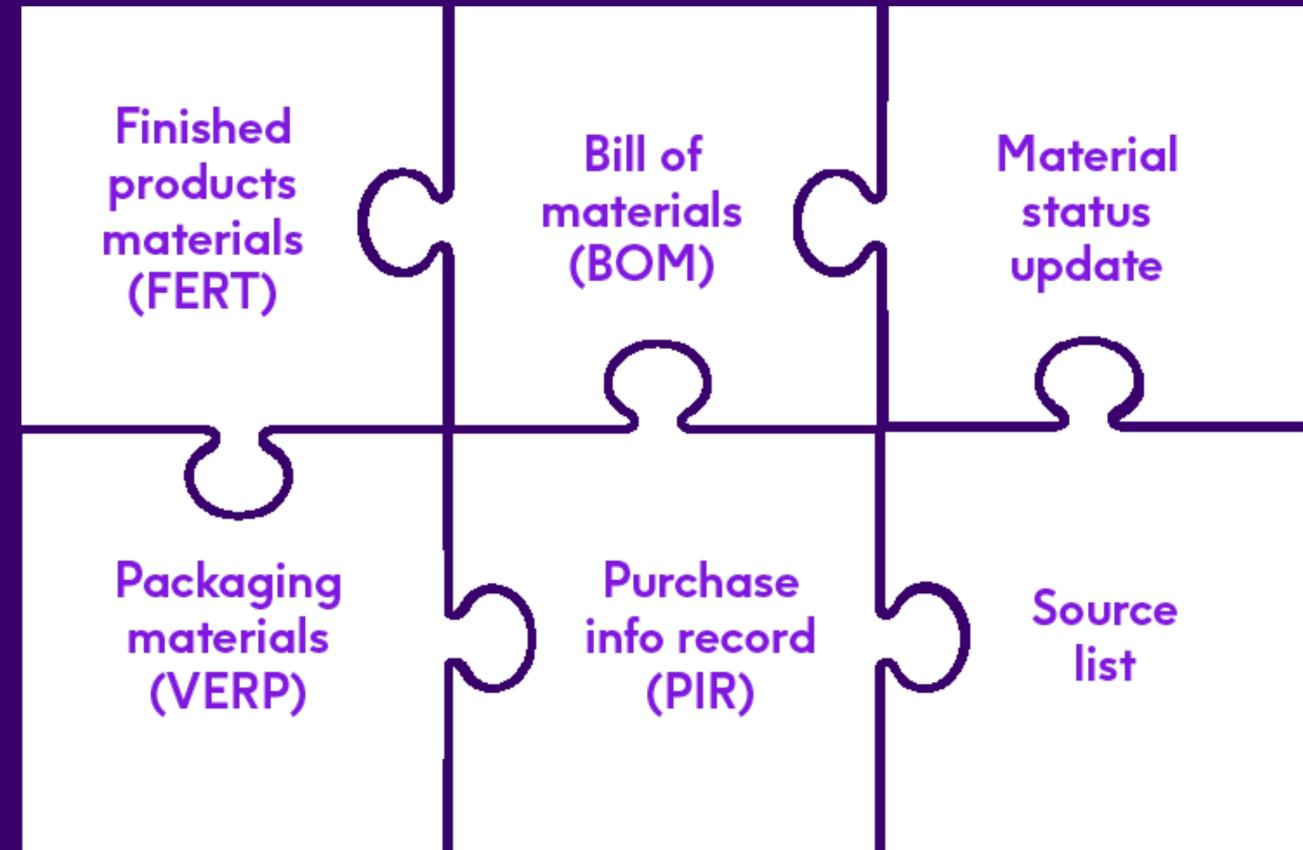
SAP MDG

Let's see where SAP MDG-M might fit into the promotional packaging launch. SAP MDG-M is designed to manage the core fields in material master. It is not a business process automation platform and therefore is not designed to dynamically link the different workflows required to complete an entire product launch.

Although the SAP MDG-M platform is extensible to data objects beyond material master—it can be time-consuming and expensive to use the platform for this purpose and requires advanced skill sets that may not be available in house.

Why agility is key

Most organizations are surprised by how long it takes to determine all process flows and data rules fully, and how often these change over time. To that end, it's important to follow an agile development methodology and build solutions that are easy to modify, as is the case with Automate Evolve.

SAP MDG is best suited to scenarios where the requirements are fully established, validated, and not likely to change frequently.
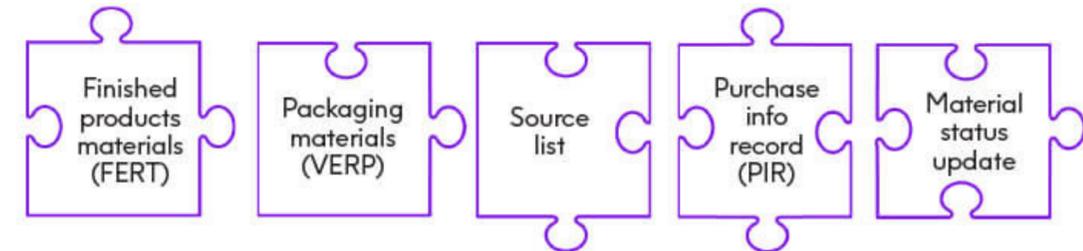
Once you use SAP MDG-M to create the shell materials, you would need to collect the other fields in the material master records manually then enter that data manually via the SAP GUI—a laborious, time-consuming, and errorprone process. Someone would then need to manually update the PIR, source list, and material status.

You could also use an automation platform like Automate Evolve alongside SAP MDG-M to digitize the manual processes to accelerate the launch and improve data quality.

The essential equipment for process automation voyages

With Automate Evolve, accelerating processes doesn't mean sacrificing data quality and compliance. Automate Evolve offers an extensive range of proactive data stewardship capabilities and sophisticated workflow capabilities to ensure your business rules and procedures are always followed.

The solution requires no specialized SAP programming skills and is designed for people like tech-savvy business analysts. This means you can get more projects done and typically in a shorter timeframe and for less cost than an SAP MDG implementation.

"Automate Evolve allows you so much flexibility to build in data governance, and route correctly to your business users. It provides business ownership capabilities that make the process very simple and allows users to easily get the work done on time."

**Data Integrity Manager
Kellogg**

KEY DATA STEWARDSHIP CAPABILITIES	KEY WORKFLOW AND AUTOMATION CAPABILITIES
Search for duplicates	Parallel and sequential task assignments
Smart form logic	Task reassignments and out-of-office functionality
CRole-based views	Conditional workflow logic
Field standardization	Automated email notifications and reminders
Easy required fields	Drag-and-drop workflow design
Copy from reference records	Drag-and-drop form design with pre-built SAP functions
Live SAP validation	Workflow loops
Modifiable field drop down values	Support for attachments
SAP F4 lookups	Bulk creation and updates for any data object
Data pre-population	Full audit trails
SAP permissions fully respected	SLA tracking

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Making mass data maintenance smooth sailing

Automate Evolve enables you to create or maintain data en masse via our Excel workflow solution, but if you don't need multi-step approvals, you can use Automate Studio. This desktop software enables people like SAP business analysts, super users, IT, or master data professionals to create scripts that get embedded into Excel workbooks. And these solutions can be built and deployed in a matter of hours.

Anyone that knows how to use Excel and has the necessary SAP permissions can use these workbooks to create, update, block or flag for deletion hundreds or thousands of records—eliminating manual data entry via the SAP GUI.

Your SAP IT team can control who can do what and when with Precisely Automate and has full audit capabilities.
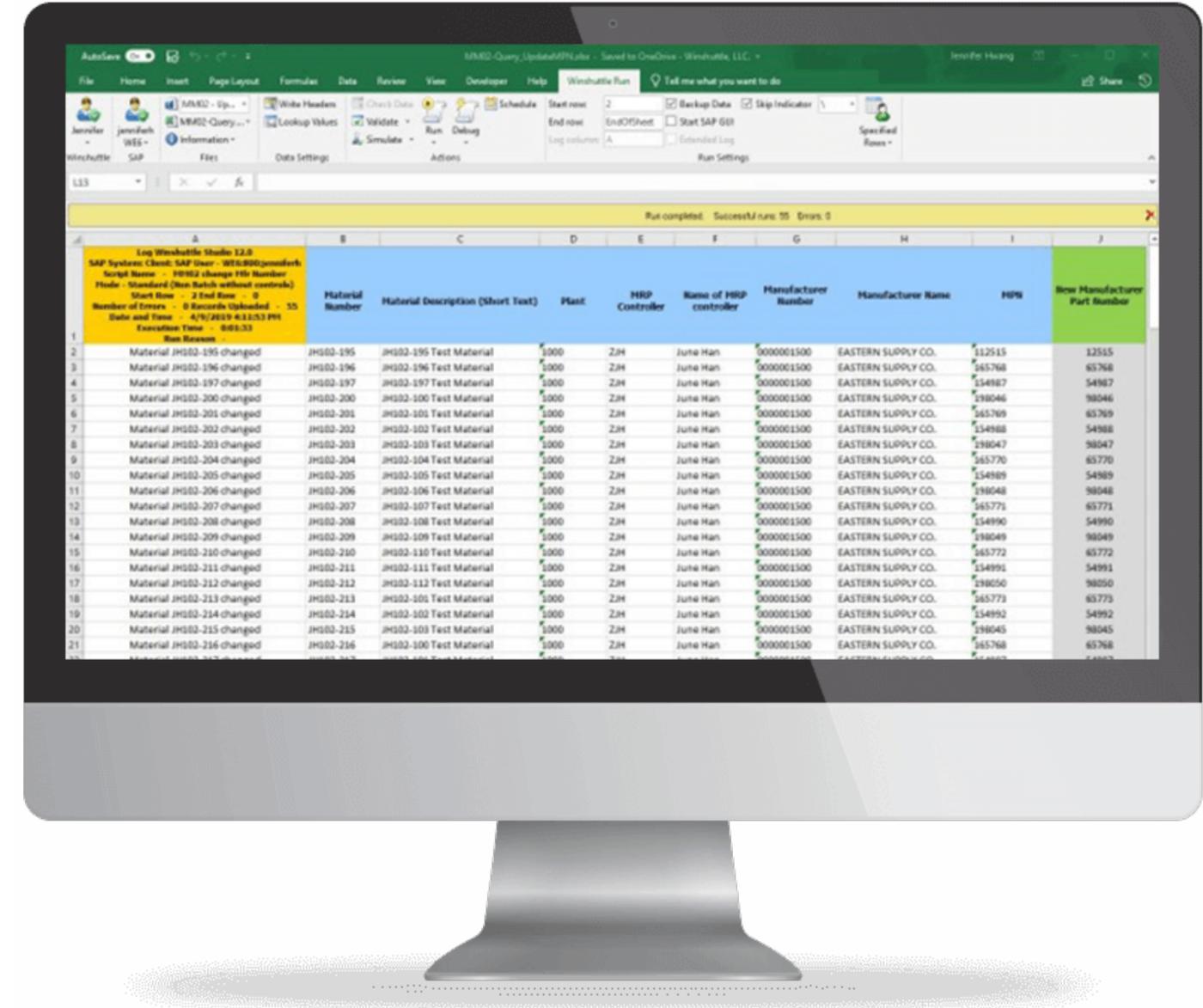
Simplify SAP master data management using Excel

"We've realized substantial savings from Precisely Automate solutions, and with no application performance issues. We've actually seen increased usage in SAP which means higher ROI on our ERP investment."

SAP Architect
Maersk

Streamline any SAP process journey

Business teams can use Precisely Automate software to streamline business processes and improve data quality across your organization for both master and transactional data use cases. Also, IT teams use Precisely Automate to speed up system conversions and data migration projects.

"We've seen much more than a return on our Precisely Automate investment. In the first ten months, we have seen a return many, many times over."

**Director, Master Data Organization
Reynolds Leveraged Services**
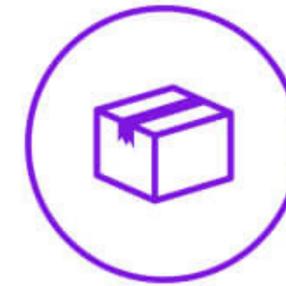
Materials & product data mgmt/ product launches

Technical asset & planning data creation and management

Maintenance work orders & notifications

Sales order processing

Financial accounting - journal entries and invoicing

Personnel creation & management

Customer onboarding & maintenance

Vendor onboarding & maintenance

Data migration

Pricing changes

Start your journey today

We hope this eBook has given you insight into how you can use both SAP MDG and Automate Evolve in your organization to improve your master data quality and accelerate your business processes at scale.

We welcome the opportunity to learn more about your goals and help you select the right solution for the job at hand.

Get started

precisely

About Precisely

Precisely is the global leader in data integrity, providing accuracy and consistency in data for 12,000 customers in more than 100 countries, including 99 of the Fortune 100. Precisely's data integration, data quality, data governance, location intelligence, and data enrichment products power better business decisions to create better outcomes.
Learn more at www.precisely.com.

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