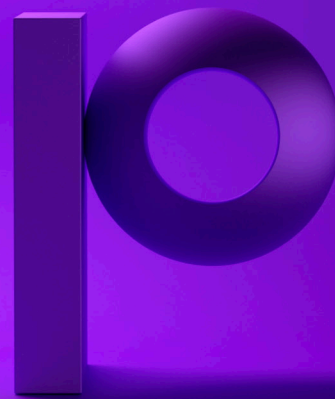




Automate SAP Finance



precisely

Better SAP Finance Automation

Discover the power of Precisely Automate Evolve's flexible, scalable automation platform

Who is this for?

If you manage a finance transformation initiative, automation team, or are responsible for improving SAP finance operations in your organization; this solution description is for you. In it, we will examine why today, more than ever, it's imperative to find the right automation platform for your SAP finance automation efforts. You will discover the power of Automate Evolve's flexible, scalable automation platform and see examples of how some of our customers are using the Precisely Automate platform to automate their finance processes successfully.

Introduction

Finance automation initiatives are becoming ubiquitous for enterprises in today's connected, digital world. For many SAP finance organizations, however, the challenge is finding an automation platform that can quickly and efficiently deliver flexible automation solutions that address multiple use cases. Fundamentally, most finance automation initiatives focus on three key areas:



Solving finance's biggest challenges



In this solution description, we'll examine the relationship between your SAP finance data and the processes you use to manage it, why effective automation is so challenging, and how choosing the right finance automation platform can mean the difference between success and failure. By the time you finish this paper, you should understand the value of Automate Evolve's automation platform and how it brings all these elements together to deliver unparalleled SAP finance efficiency and performance.

Why automation is imperative for SAP finance and accounting organizations today

Accounting, as we know it today, has been around for hundreds of years. Over time, we've applied computer technology, made it more complicated to keep up with ever-growing amounts of data, and embraced computer spreadsheets as our tool of choice for managing our financial data. Yet after all this time and all this technology, we still have nearly 90% of our teams working overtime during the financial close. You'd think, after so long, that we'd find a better way to make accounting more efficient. Right?

87%

of finance and accounting teams work overtime during close

Journal of Accountability

Many finance and accounting departments still rely on problematic manual data entry processes, email routing for spreadsheets, and ungoverned processes to manage their most valuable financial data. And these problems seem nearly impossible to solve.

The latest business imperatives are high-profile finance automation initiatives that are becoming ubiquitous in today's connected, digital world. However, when your organization runs on SAP, you quickly discover that automating your finance and accounting processes is not nearly as easy as it should be. SAP is complex, requires specific knowledge, and doesn't always play well with other systems. And if you try applying a general-purpose RPA tool to the problem, you often end up with a system that requires constant IT support and engagement, if it works at all.

Once you realize the difficulties of automating SAP processes, you start to gain a better appreciation for why many automation teams save their SAP projects for last. Most automation tools are either SAP point-solutions that only do one thing, such as reconciliation, or they are general-purpose and lack the deep SAP integration capabilities needed to automate SAP successfully.

67%

of global CEOs agree with this statement:

"Acting with agility is the new currency of business; if we are to slow, we will be bankrupt."

KPMG's 2019 CEO Outlook

With business agility an imperative for most enterprises, automation technology that swaps one problem for another is counterproductive. The challenge is finding an automation platform designed for SAP that can flex to handle multiple use cases and needs.

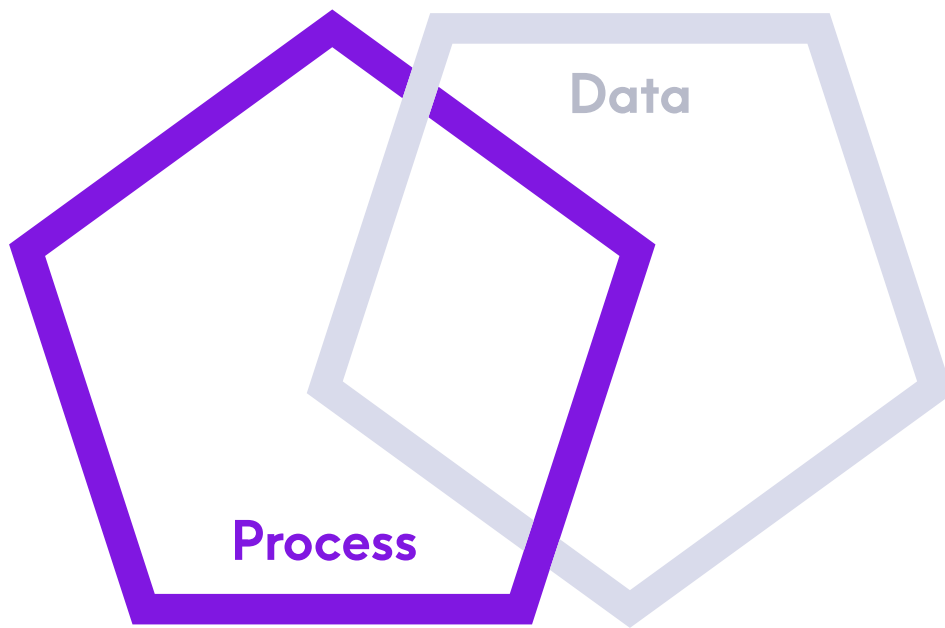
Precisely Automate offers this platform and thousands of customers around the globe use our automation technology to accelerate SAP processes across their organization, while simultaneously improving data quality, governance, and compliance. With over 18 years of SAP automation experience and focused on empowering business teams to make a greater impact, Automate Evolve is the right platform for your finance automation needs.



The interdependence of data and processes

As you develop your SAP finance automation strategy, it is critical to understand the relationship between your data and the processes that create and manage it.

For effective automation, you must address the interdependence of data and processes. To make an impact, you cannot merely replace the actions of human beings; you need to re-engineer processes for effective data management. Without tackling both data and processes together, you will create more bad data.



A prime example of where data and process meet is the financial close. According to a recent study, almost nine in ten accounting teams work overtime during the closing period. The financial close is a process that has changed little since the dawn of accounting. Despite new technologies and computer-based accounting systems, the process is still tedious, manual, and slow.

While the closing process is often viewed through the lens of the administrative tasks, the timeline for finishing the process is frequently driven by the volume of data and the number of corrections. Improving the speed and data quality of the underlying transactions can significantly improve closing efficiency. For example, one Precisely customer saw a 30-50% improvement in closing efficiency by using our platform to automate the transactional tasks. This led to a faster close.

Automate Evolve delivers a finance automation platform for SAP that has been developed from the beginning to simultaneously address the interdependence of processes and the data they manage.

“The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency.”

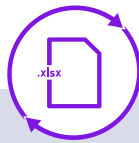
Bill Gates

The Precisely Automate platform delivers a flexible, scalable finance automation platform that allows your team to quickly build and implement solutions with minimal programming or IT engagement—empowering your business teams to drive finance automation initiatives at scale.

- Desktop automation
- Process automation



Exchange data with SAP quickly
and easily using Excel



Automate and accelerate SAP
business processes through excel
file management workflows



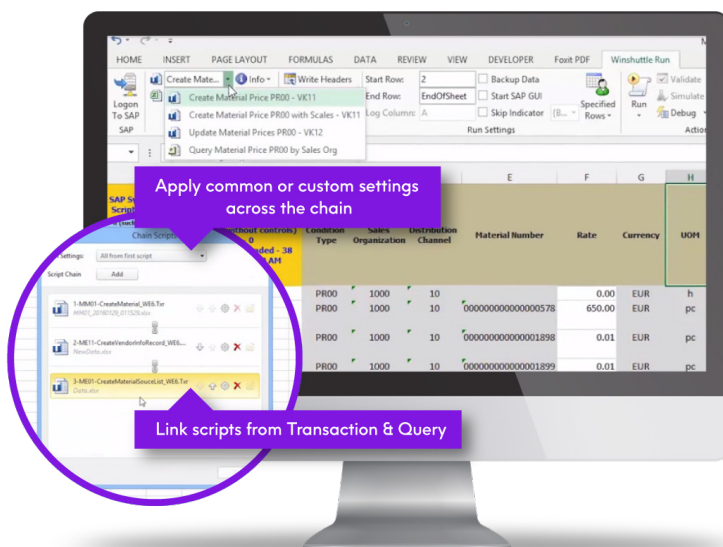
Automate and accelerate SAP
business with integrated
forms and workflows

Automate Evolve + Automate Studio

Automate Studio automates slow and error-prone manual SAP data entry processes. With Automate Studio, your business teams use SAP-enabled Excel workbooks with built-in data guardrails to get work done faster and improve data quality. Throughout the process, activities are governed and adhere to SAP permissions for each user.

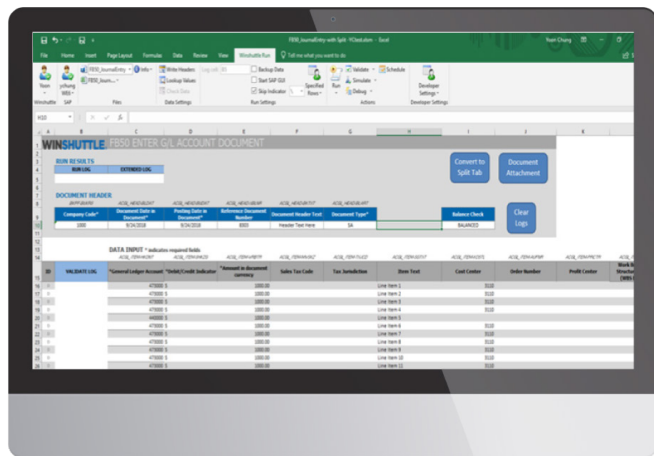
- Simple journal entries
- Account migration
- Mass updates and changes in asset accounting
- Invoice entry
- Customer and Vendor account management
- Ad hoc reporting

Desktop automation enables you to create linked automations that extract, manipulate, and upload data to SAP in what Precisely calls a “round-trip.” You can also schedule postings or run them as a background process.



Accelerate finance processes

Desktop automation using Excel allows you to validate data against SAP, in realtime, before posting. You can also automatically split journal entries to avoid the 999-line limit of the BSEG table, as well as attach supporting documents and data to help with audits.



Streamline customer/vendor onboarding and maintenance

For activities that typically require mass data updates or changes, such as customer and vendor master data, desktop automation enables you to maintain governance and compliance while accelerating the pace at which you manage the data.

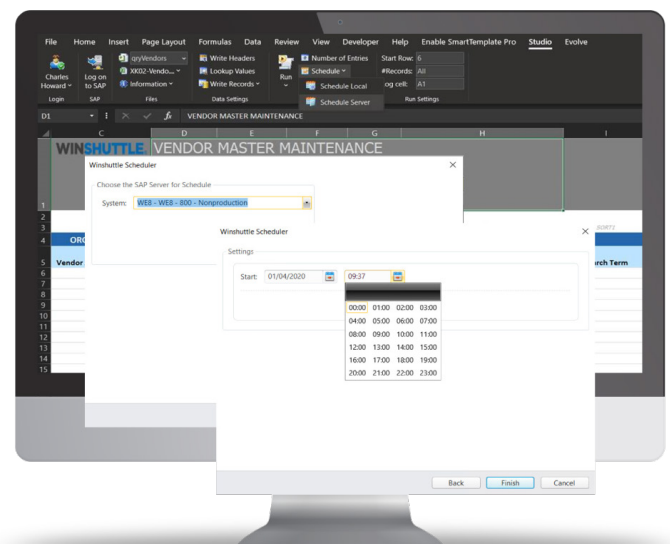
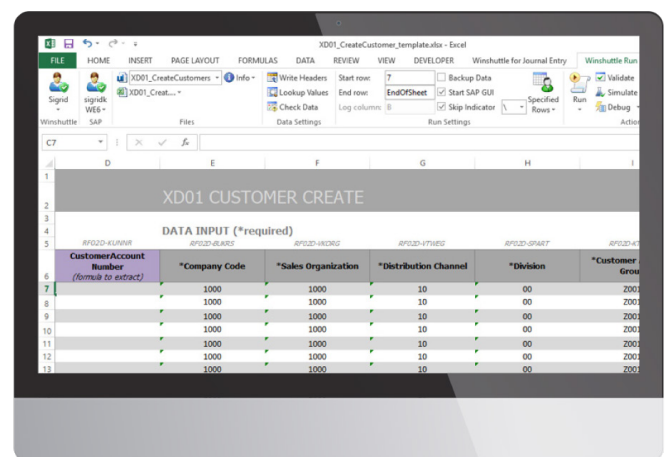
With our desktop automation capabilities, transactions can be processed either on the users' computer or uploaded to a server for processing at a more convenient time. Server-side execution frees up the user to continue working on other tasks and has less impact on VPN gateway traffic—even more of a benefit if when teams work from home.

Server-side job execution: Run jobs anytime without tying up local PCs

Schedule server-side data extractions and postings from Excel, allowing you to execute jobs faster than with remote connections through a VPN. Server-side execution also helps increase the productivity of distributed employees and enables new ways for your finance teams to work. And you can monitor the jobs through Automate Studio Manager to check status.

Eliminating concerns with using Excel

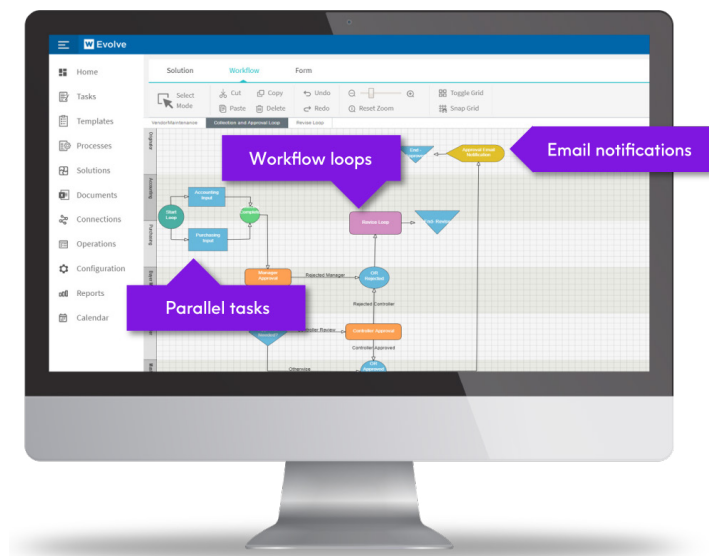
In many finance organizations, Excel is both a blessing and a curse. It is often the primary tool that you use to manage and analyze strategic data, yet these processes are frequently ungoverned. This lack of governance has led many CFOs to look in vain for an alternative. With the Precisely Automate platform, you gain the ability to manage and govern Excel files while achieving greater process efficiencies and lowering the risk of audit failures. You can keep using established processes and increase compliance without the disruptions of new tools or inflexible IT solutions.



Process Automation

Automate Evolve is a business process and data management platform tailored for SAP and designed to manage all aspects of an end-to-end SAP process, from initiation, through data collection and management, reviews, and approvals to posting the final data. You can use Automate Evolve to automate any SAP process, from capital expense requests to complex master data processes that span multiple departments and data objects.

Depending on the task at hand, your business teams either work in SAP-enabled Excel files or use intuitive web forms to contribute, change, or approve data.



Reduce cycle times: Smart, tailored, role-based forms

Branded, web-based, easy to use forms leverage role-based views, integrated SAP data validation, and smart form logic to drive form and workflow behavior.

When you invest in the Automate Evolve platform, you can start with a single process, knowing that you have the flexibility to use any of these capabilities for other SAP processes. You can apply whichever type of automation you decide is best for a specific process and works the way your business does.

Common finance process automation use cases:

Excel workflow

- Journal entries requiring tiered review and approval
- Assets under construction
- Budgeting

Common finance process automation use cases:

Form and workflow

- General ledger account creation
- Electronic funds transfers
- Customer and vendor account creation
- Closing task list manager

Reduce cycle-times and improve compliance

Enterprise-grade workflow automation capabilities allow you to create parallel or sequential tasks and workflow loops as well as collect supporting documents. You can easily set-up notifications and email reminders and utilize bulk task reassignment and out-of-office capabilities.

The screenshot shows a web form titled 'GL Account Creation'. The form is divided into several sections: 'Process Help Documentation' with a link to detailed documentation, 'Request Metadata' with fields for Requester (Martin Munka), Requester Email (Martin.Munka@evolve.com), Date of Request (2023-01-02 11:29:01), and Unique Request ID (GL.Account.Create.00010). Below this is a 'Look up Data in SAP for Copy-Crete' section. The main part of the form is 'GL Account Data Capture', which includes fields for 'GL Account Number', 'Company Code', and 'GL Account Group', each with a 'Select' button. The form is displayed on a computer monitor.

Success Story:

Showing good form automating Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)

The Challenge

One of our customers, a large insurance company based in Europe, was struggling with a highly manual process for their electronic funds transfer (EFT) process. The process relied on paper, fax machines, and physically routing hand-written forms for review and approval.

Before automation, a field agent completed a paper form, which required specific information about things such as bank account numbers, case ID, and the policyholder name. This form was then scanned and sent to a shared services center (SSC) as an email attachment or via a fax machine. Once at the SSC, the form was reviewed manually to determine routing before being physically routed through the review and approval process.

Upon approval, the form was sent to a data entry team for processing in SAP, as well as emailing a PDF back to the field office for filing. If there were a problem at any point in the process, the entire transaction would be rejected, and the field office would have to make corrections and start over again.

The process was not only highly manual and slow, but was difficult to audit and utterly opaque to the field agents.

The Solution

The solution was to completely automate the process using the web-form and workflow capabilities of the Automate Evolve platform. Applying a form solution eliminated the hand-written paper forms and email attachments, as well as providing field agents drop-down menus for information such as accounts and routing.

Agents now access the form online, type in the needed information, and use drop-down menus for many of the items that previously led to rejected applications. Once completed, submitting the form is as simple as pressing a button.

For the SSC, the process is now completely automated, including routing, reviews, and automatically processing the SAP transaction upon final approval.

The Results

Adopting the web-based form solution has had many benefits for the company. In addition to making it faster, re-engineering the process for automation meant that the company was able to reassign two full-time employees to other tasks while saving money on paper and physical storage costs. Customer satisfaction was also significantly improved by better transparency in the process. Now field agents can provide almost instant status reports to clients, which had been impossible in the old manual system.

The solution also helps reduce the risks associated with the old process. Eliminating the manual data input at the end of the process increased data quality, duplicate transactions were removed, and the process is now governed and tracked from end-to-end, improving audit compliance.

The image shows a computer monitor displaying a web-based form titled "Electronic Funds Transfer Process Completed View". The form includes fields for Unique Reference (6513589863213), Date and Time Request Submitted (2019-04-10 10:55:08), and a Submitted status. Below this, there are sections for Employee Details (Employee Name: Jane Doe, Employee Number: 1517979, Email Address: jane.doe@insurance.com, Business Area: Finance, Contact Number: 7742254) and Payee and Request Details (Payment Type: Claims Payment, Payment Source: SYSTEM, How Many Payments: 1). A red error message "Value must be Numeric" is shown next to the "One Thousand" input field. A purple callout box labeled "Pop-up menus" points to a dropdown menu. Another purple callout box labeled "Data values reminders" points to a yellow reminder box that says "Please provide 811408 of an Account Number or IBAN number, applicable for the country. Example: Account Number: 9123456789 (8 digits), IBAN Number: GB940400330123456789 (28 digits), Account Number, IBAN OR Fedwire".

Focus on automation success

Ultimately finance automation success is measured by business results. Are you prepared to meet the challenges of today's everchanging business environment? Are your automation and transformation initiatives agile enough to adapt to disruptions, as we've seen recently?

Adopting Automate Evolve's flexible, scalable finance automation platform will significantly improve your finance and accounting operations and give you the agility to meet today's business challenges. With our platform, you can achieve success in meeting the top challenges in SAP finance automation. With our platform, you can:

- Increase the speed of your business processes
- Improve data quality
- Maintain strict compliance and governance requirements

There are many other advantages that you can derive from our platform, including:

- Managing the interdependence of data and process in SAP finance
- Offering the flexibility to meet your business needs through
 - Desktop automation
 - Process automation with Excel workflow
 - Process automation with web-forms
- Delivering easier audits
- Developing an effective automation ecosystem
- Expanding automation across end-to-end SAP processes

Flexibility across SAP finance

