



## **Redwood Process Optimization Solutions for SAP®** **Local Financial Close Automation: SAP Financial Closing cockpit**

CEOs and CFOs all want their organizations to work smarter—increasing business agility and organizational alignment while absolutely controlling costs. They expect every department to own the company's success. As the owner of the financial processes, you have a clear stake in expanding their value. As a corporate leader, you must reduce risk, streamline operations and keep the company agile, financially sound and moving in the right fiscal direction. Redwood's Business Process Automation solutions help you simplify processes across your entire value chain without reinventing the wheel.



## SAP Financial Closing cockpit: A Single Control for the Financial Close

A fully optimized and automated financial close can prove an organization’s operational strength and real business savvy. Nevertheless, for many businesses the financial close process remains a manual, inexact and labor-intensive ordeal. The sheer number of manual tasks your team may have to perform to get the job done can make the process expensive and risky. Manual closes increase costs in additional personnel while also increasing the probability of human error. Automation and centralization of these tasks can solve all of these issues while also making the entire process easier to track, audit, and manage. It’s time to join the automation revolution—with SAP Financial Closing cockpit.

SAP Financial Closing cockpit provides an integration framework for the finance group, adding to the substantial automation power of SAP Central Process Scheduling (SAP CPS) by Redwood. Imagine: transparency throughout each and every automated business process from a financial standpoint, providing up-to-the-minute details on critical financial processes, as well as the ability to dig deep into your enterprise – as needed – to substantiate or correct close issues. Solve problems and get answers in minutes – not days. That’s what you get with SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit.

## SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit: What this Means to You

SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit together are a business’ most powerful solution for the financial close. They give IT the power to automate financial tasks and business the power to align with IT. In short, business process automation is within your grasp—adaptable to your specific needs.

For the financial close, there are specific benefits to automation with SAP Financial Closing cockpit powered by SAP CPS.

**Automation links** closing processes into manageable groups. Closing processes like reconciliations, currency valuations, cost center allocations, and accruals can be grouped together to eliminate errors caused by manual intervention. This also means that you can automate the entire process—from pre-close to post-close, building a better close process on solid, accurate data.

**Automated alerts** notify users for error remediation and escalation. The right people are immediately and automatically notified if there is a problem. You can even automate restarts after the problem has been solved.

**Dependency-based event chains** support faster processes. Events can be automated so that one process can be started immediately after the successful completion of the prior process without reliance on rigid “calendar based” rules, which can cause delays.

**Logs and spool files of critical close data** from multiple systems are kept for long periods of time for audits and reporting. This benefit from SAP CPS automation gives you one, single source for internal and external audit, while providing reliable historical close data that can be compared and analyzed across entities, periods, and tasks to develop benchmarks and statistics for continuous improvement.

The screenshot displays the SAP Financial Closing cockpit interface. On the left, a table lists various job definitions with columns for Application, Type of Job Definition, Job Definition, and Description. On the right, a configuration panel for a task is shown, including fields for Description, Responsible, Processing, Role, Type of Task, Variant, and Task Time.

Applicatn	Type of a Job Definiti...	Job Definition	Description
GLOBAL.MassActivity	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_MA_ResumeMassActivity	Resume processing of an interrupted SAP mass
GLOBAL.MassActivity	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_MA_ShowMassActivity	Show SAP mass activity definition
GLOBAL.MassActivity	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_MA_StopMassActivity	Stop an SAP mass activity run
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	Mail	FCC.FCC_Mail_WithAttachment	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	Mail	FCC.FCC_Mail_WithoutAttachment	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.CheckLDAP_Connectivity	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_AbapMonitor	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_Dependency_Clear	Generic template - Dependency clear
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_Dependency_Raise	Generic template - Dependency raise
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_Dependency_Wait	Generic template - Dependency wait
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_SAP_ExecuteAbap	Generic template for executing SAP Job
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_SAP_MonitorAbap	Generic template for monitoring SAP job
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_SendMailToUser	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	RedwoodScript	FCC.FCC_UserListOverview	
GLOBAL.Pathfinder	SAPR3	FCC.FCC_AbapRun	
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_AbapRun	Run an ABAP Report
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_AbapRunPrint	Run an ABAP report with print parameters
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_AbapRunPrintExt	Run an ABAP report with print parameters and
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_BW_GenerateInfoPackageGroup	Generate a job chain for an SAP BW InfoPackag
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_BW_ImportInfoPackageGroups	Import InfoPackage groups
GLOBAL.SAP	SAPR3	GLOBAL_SAP_BW_ImportInfoPackages	Import InfoPackages

The task configuration panel on the right includes the following details:

- Description: RFBILA description
- Responsible: NLGKRB
- Processing: NLGKRB
- Role: [Empty]
- Type of Task: Remote Task (selected)
- Variant: FCC.FCC\_SAP\_ExecuteAbap
- Task Time: 00:00:00

SAP Financial Closing cockpit is integrated tightly and seamlessly with SAP CPS.

**Simultaneous processing of closing functions** greatly enhances efficiency. Critical closing processes can run simultaneously without manual intervention. It's multi-tasking for your financial processes. For example, once labor, material and overhead costs are posted to the General Ledger (GL), a series of internal and external orders can be automatically settled in parallel without manual intervention. This kind of parallel processing is especially helpful in transitioning from GAAP accounting standards to IFRS, where parallel ledgers may be required. Functions such as cost allocations, assessments, inventory valuations, and special purpose ledger updating (e.g. material ledger) can be made faster and more accurate through parallel processing.

### **SAP CPS: A Powerful Automation and Integration Engine**

SAP CPS is the only workload automation product developed in lockstep with the SAP roadmap providing you end-to-end business and IT process automation that drives process management across your whole enterprise landscape under the SAP umbrella. SAP CPS aligns IT practices to business needs, coordinating all of your key business processes. This, in turn, allows finance full transparency into all key business activities.

SAP CPS is the engine that drives business process automation. It identifies potential business process and IT issues so that they can be addressed before they impact your business. It immediately responds to changes, supporting your business rules to automate any business process that includes IT resources. SAP CPS centralizes and simplifies enterprise process management while ensuring compatibility with legacy, current, and future business processing requirements. Maximize your business process impact using your existing resources with SAP CPS.

SAP CPS supports the full range of SAP solutions:

- **SAP Financial Closing cockpit:** to enable a faster, more efficient financial period-end close with SAP ERP Financials
- **SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence:** to provide timely reporting with data integrity
- **SAP Industry Solutions:** to improve the efficiency and speed of SAP applications that use high- volume processing
- **SAP Solution Manager:** to automate advanced solution deployment, operation, change management and continuous improvement

### **Reducing Complexity**

#### **From 12,000 Tasks to a Single Process**

A world leader in telecommunications equipment recently decided to centralize and automate their company-wide closing processes. Their requirements were stringent, especially for a company with more than 100 separately-functioning subsidiaries. Corporate leadership demanded one system platform; a single, global closing schedule; a clear financial model and directives; coordinated master data; workflow that ensured groups used the system in a consistent manner; clear, defined roles and management support. It was a tall order, but Redwood had the solution.

The company implemented SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit. The solution provided immediate and significant improvements to their close with automatic monitoring and control of 12,000 individual tasks per closing. The solution gave them automatic email notification on cancelled jobs, those that were running too long, and those that ran past certain time parameters. Cancelled jobs were automatically restarted, according to business rules. They automated batch uploads and created dependency chains between their SAP and Business Warehouse solutions. The priorities for closing-related tasks were established and provided a framework that did not require manual intervention.

Throughout the entire automated process, corporate management had complete transparency, control over the closing process and, of course much greater efficiency. The company was able to focus on the financial closing group as a single team, concentrating on competencies in one unit. The new approach gave them a shorter, more unified and accurate financial close, together with the flexibility to continue to grow and become more agile in the process.

The integration between SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit is the result of joint development between SAP and Redwood Software and is not possible with other automation products. Redwood is the only vendor that is able to connect with the SAP Business Automation Enabler Connector (SAP BAE). This provides several key advantages to the customer with both SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit.

With SAP CPS you can be certain that your solution will grow right along with your business since SAP CPS:

- Fully supports integration with SAP Business Objects and other, future SAP products
- Provides monitoring and control of both SAP and non-SAP applications

With SAP CPS, you enjoy a level of automation and integration that is simply not available with any other solution. You also get the most out of your existing IT investments. Your business processes all work together with a central point of control enabling optimization at every level of process.

## With SAP CPS and SAP Financial Closing cockpit you get:

### Reliability

A robust, automated and centrally-controlled closing process capable of generating reliable information for reporting and auditing

### Speed

Fewer days to close facilitates additional time for analysis and variance reporting

### Efficiency

Effective manpower, system and process implementation, aligning resources to budgetary constraints

### Compliance

Monitor internal controls and generate accurate financial reporting – at every step of the process.

### Integration

SAP CPS is embedded into the SAP Financial Closing cockpit user interface, and the interface makes clear reference to SAP CPS as an integrated part of the solution. No other solutions function this closely or transparently with your SAP investments.

The automation revolution is here – now. Start changing the way you do business today with SAP Financial Closing cockpit powered by SAP CPS.



## About Redwood Software

Redwood Software helps customers compete and win in today's business environment through best-in-class business and IT automation solutions, products and services. We help businesses automate what matters most – to improve reliability, speed, efficiency and compliance.

We are the trusted automation expert to thousands of customers worldwide. We work to drive agility and unparalleled competitive advantage through specific process automation solutions while helping to maximize the value of existing information management and technology investments.

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