

Low-Code/No-Code Development for SAP: A Comparison of SAP Build and Neptune DXP.

A Comprehensive Comparison of two Low-Code/No-Code Enterprise Application Development Platforms.



Executive Summary.

In today's competitive enterprise landscape, organizations operating in the SAP ecosystem are under immense pressure to modernize their operations.

The challenge is twofold: achieving digital transformation while maintaining cost efficiency and operational continuity. For IT teams, this means finding platforms that simplify app development without compromising quality, scalability, or integration capabilities.



This whitepaper provides an in-depth comparison of two leading solutions: SAP Build, part of the SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP), and Neptune DXP, an SAP-native low-code platform.

Key focus areas include:

- **Development flexibility and lifecycle efficiency.**
- **Integration and mobility features.**
- **Deployment options and cost predictability.**

By the end of this whitepaper, you'll have a clear understanding of how Neptune DXP outshines SAP Build in enabling enterprises to streamline app development to extend SAP solutions, lower costs, and drive innovation.

Overcoming SAP Complexity.

Enterprises using SAP systems often face challenges that hinder agility and efficiency:

Complex Systems Architecture

SAP landscapes include diverse components like S/4HANA, ECC, and third-party tools, making integration a daunting task.

Rigid Development Processes

Traditional development methods can be slow and require specialized expertise, limiting scalability.

Evolving User Demands

Modern users expect intuitive, mobile-first applications that work seamlessly online and offline.

SAP Build and Neptune DXP aim to address these challenges but adopt distinct approaches. SAP Build is a cloud-only suite offering segmented tools, while Neptune DXP provides a unified platform designed to simplify and accelerate the development lifecycle.

The right platform ensures long-term value by streamlining development while adapting to evolving enterprise needs.



Overview of The Platforms.

SAP Build

SAP Build is part of SAP's Business Technology Platform (BTP), which integrates data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), application development, and automation. It provides tools for developing custom apps and workflows, primarily targeting cloud environments.

Key components include:

- **SAP Build Apps:** No-code/low-code app development with drag-and-drop interfaces.
- **SAP Build Code:** Pro-code development with AI-assisted features.
- **SAP Build Process Automation:** Workflow automation tools to eliminate repetitive tasks.
- **SAP Build Work Zone:** A centralized space to provide users access to apps and tools.

While SAP Build is powerful, it requires careful tool selection at the outset, often locking teams into specific methods with limited flexibility to adapt mid-project. Additionally, it relies exclusively on SAP BTP, which can increase dependency on cloud infrastructure.

Neptune DXP

Neptune DXP takes a more streamlined approach, offering a unified platform for no-code, low-code, and pro-code development. This SAP-native platform simplifies app creation by:

- Enabling seamless transitions between development approaches.
- Providing robust offline support for mobile applications.
- Offering flexible deployment options tailored to enterprise needs.

Neptune DXP integrates directly into existing SAP systems, leveraging programming languages like ABAP and JavaScript with the enterprise features of SAPUI5, reducing the need for additional training or infrastructure investments.

***Neptune DXP eliminates complexity,
empowering IT teams to innovate faster and
more cost-effectively.***

Core Differentiators: Why Neptune DXP Redefines SAP App Development.

When comparing enterprise application platforms, the true value lies in their ability to adapt, integrate, and empower development teams.

Neptune DXP offers a unified and flexible approach to SAP app development, addressing the limitations of tools like SAP Build. Below, we highlight six key areas where Neptune DXP excels, simplifying complex workflows and enhancing enterprise agility.

01 No “Dead-Ends” in Development

Neptune DXP: Allows seamless transitions between no-code, low-code, and pro-code, enabling flexible development workflows without losing progress. Developers can adapt to evolving requirements without being locked into a specific tool.

SAP Build: Requires upfront decisions on tools (e.g., Build Apps or Build Code), with no way to transition between them. Developers face limitations if requirements outgrow the initial toolset.

02 Leveraging Existing Knowledge

Neptune DXP: Reuses ABAP and SAPUI5 code, minimizing retraining and accelerating adoption. Even developers without web expertise can quickly create applications with low-code tools.

SAP Build: Relies on drag-and-drop tools with no support for existing ABAP or SAPUI5 code within SAP Build Apps, requiring everything to be built from scratch.

03 Flexible Deployment Options

Neptune DXP: The flexibility of Neptune DXP extends to deployment, with support for diverse infrastructure setups:

- **On-Premises:** For maximum control, data security, and seamless integration with existing SAP systems.
- **Cloud:** Easily deploy on platforms like AWS, Azure, GCP, or SAP BTP.
- **Hybrid:** Combine on-premises and cloud environments for seamless operations.
- **Containers:** Use Docker or Kubernetes for portability and scalability.

SAP Build: Limited to cloud deployments on SAP BTP, with regional and service availability constraints depending on hyperscaler infrastructure.

04 Mobile and **Offline** Support

Neptune DXP: Provides strong offline functionality, enabling mobile apps to operate reliably in low-connectivity environments with seamless data synchronization.

SAP Build: Limited offline support; complex scenarios require additional tools like the SAP Mobile Development Kit or Native SDKs, increasing development time.

05 Simplified **Setup**

Neptune DXP: Installs directly into SAP ECC or S/4HANA as an ABAP add-on or deploys quickly in cloud and containerized environments.

SAP Build: Requires complex entitlement and service configurations. Setting up mobile apps demands additional services like SAP Mobile Services and Identity Authentication.

06 Flexible User Experience

Neptune DXP: Uses SAPUI5 for Fiori-compliant apps and will support modern frameworks (e.g., React, Angular) for consumer-grade UIs.

SAP Build: Limited customization options; React-based Fiori-style apps lack compatibility with SAP Fiori Design Guidelines.

From Differentiators to Features: A Side-by-Side Comparison.

With the six key differentiators outlined, it's clear how Neptune DXP addresses the challenges of SAP app development more effectively. On the following page, we dive deeper into a feature-by-feature comparison of Neptune DXP and SAP Build, offering a comprehensive look at how each platform supports enterprise innovation.

Comparing Neptune DXP and SAP Build

The following table provides a comprehensive comparison of key features, helping enterprises understand how each platform aligns with their specific needs.

Feature	SAP Build	Neptune DXP
Interoperability	Separate tools for different use-cases (Low-code/no-code app development, process automation, and pro-code. Limited or no interoperability between the various tools	Enterprise-grade development platform with strong low-code features focused on app implementation and business process optimization.
Target Audience	Business users and developers.	Developers and business users; strong focus on developers familiar with SAP. Supports a collaboration model in Fusion Teams
Integration with SAP	Side-by-side integration with SAP products (e.g., S/4HANA, SuccessFactors, etc.) using REST-based OData APIs. In SAP Build Apps OData support is limited to CRUD operations, function imports are only supported with a workaround.	Deep native integration with SAP systems S/4HANA and SAP ECC. Ability to directly connect to SAP systems via REST & OData services, RFCs and BAPIs and Fiori-based apps, leveraging existing SAP landscapes.
Platform Focus	Broad solution with no specific focus on application development. Many different options to choose from results in high complexity.	SAP-centric development platform with a clear focus on making the enterprise application development process more efficient and flexible.
User Interface (UI)	SAP Build App's UI technology is not compatible with SAP's pro-code tools. Uses React instead of SAP UI5.	Easy drag-and-drop functionality, heavily focused on Fiori and SAPUI5 design principles. Includes pre-configured templates that include UI components, data integrations, and workflows.
Mobile Support	Only supports simple mobile applications and simple tasks. Offline support is very limited and hard to achieve.	Provides robust offline support that can be easily implemented. Supports complex mobile applications with responsive designs, optimized for enterprise use-cases.
Process Automation	Provides workflow and task automation using bots.	Includes automation features but focuses more on workflow management and user interfaces.

Feature	SAP Build	Neptune DXP
Deployment Options	Limited deployment options. Cloud only. Requires SAP BTP running on a hyperscaler. (Note: not all services are available on all hyperscalers and there are regional differences on the hyperscalers)	Flexible deployment: on-premise, in containers, hybrid, or cloud, depending on the customer's SAP setup.
Prebuilt Templates	Most of the tools lack any templates or pre-built solutions. Only SAP Process Automation has some templates for workflows.	Offers building blocks, templates and sample applications for free on the Neptune DXP Marketplace.
Licensing and Cost	Several different subscription models exist, but they are complex and it's very hard to predict licensing costs upfront. SAP licensing costs in general tend to be very expensive.	Licensing is simple, transparent and easy to understand with typically much lower TCO for SAP environments.
Open Systems Integration	Supports integration with non-SAP systems but strong focus on the SAP ecosystem and OData services.	Strong integration capabilities with non-SAP systems through strong API support and connectors.
Support for Custom Workflows	Workflow creation and orchestration via SAP Build Process Automation.	Strong focus on optimizing workflows tied to SAP and other enterprise systems.
Developer Community	Very limited community for SAP Build Apps.	Extremely active developer community with a focus on SAP use cases. Marketplace for prebuilt components.
Adoption	Low adoption with limited usage of SAP Build apps in production environments.	Over 850 Enterprise customers

The Good, The Great, and The Gaps.

While both SAP Build and Neptune DXP bring valuable features to the table, it's important to understand where each platform shines and where it might fall short. Here's a quick breakdown:

Strengths

SAP Build:

- **Streamlines repetitive tasks** with Robotic Process Automation (RPA) features, helping businesses save time and reduce manual effort.
- **AI-assisted development** in SAP Build Code boosts productivity, making it easier for pro-code developers to create complex applications.

Limitations

SAP Build:

- **Scaling Costs:** As usage increases, hosting and processing costs on SAP BTP can escalate significantly.
- **Learning Curve:** Business users and citizen developers may struggle with SAP Build's ecosystem-specific complexity.
- **Online-First Approach:** Limited offline functionality can hinder mobile and field applications requiring continuous access.

Neptune DXP:

- **No Dead Ends:** Switch seamlessly between no-code, low-code, and pro-code for full development flexibility.
- **Leveraging Existing Knowledge:** Reuse ABAP and SAPUI5 skills to build responsive apps faster with less training.
- **Robust Offline Capabilities:** Keep apps running smoothly in low-connectivity environments with seamless data syncing.
- **Flexibility Across Infrastructures:** Deploy on-premise, in the cloud, or hybrid, with support for multiple databases.
- **Transparent Costs:** Predictable pricing models eliminate surprises and simplify budget planning.

Neptune DXP:

- **Narrower Focus:** Primarily targets application development, with limited built-in support for advanced automation scenarios (e.g., process mining).
- **Learning Curve for Non-Developers:** While intuitive for developers, non-technical users may need additional onboarding.

Why Neptune DXP is Built for Enterprise Success.

Neptune Software shines by turning complexity into simplicity. With its intuitive setup, businesses can get started quickly without jumping through hoops. Whether on-premises, in the cloud, or hybrid, Neptune adapts seamlessly to any infrastructure, meeting the diverse needs of modern organizations.

Here's what makes Neptune DXP unique:



Built on SAP Expertise:

Leverages existing SAP skills and infrastructure, saving time on training and ensuring your team gets productive fast.



Flexible Development

Approaches: Offers smooth transitions between no-code, low-code, and pro-code, so you can start simple and scale as needed.



Mobile and Offline Champions:

Ensures your apps perform reliably, even in environments with limited connectivity—perfect for field teams and remote workers.



Integration Powerhouse:

Treats REST APIs as first-class citizens, making third-party integration effortless while supporting SAP and non-SAP systems.



Transparent Costs:

Operates on a predictable pricing model, giving you financial clarity while delivering consistent, SAP-compliant user experiences.

Neptune DXP isn't just a platform—it's a future-proof partner for enterprise innovation. Whether you're building responsive mobile apps or simplifying complex workflows, Neptune delivers versatility and durability every step of the way.

Real Stories, Real Results.

Neptune DXP has empowered organizations worldwide to simplify processes, accelerate development, and keep users happy. Here's how it made a difference:



Nippon Gases: Clean ERP, Happy Users.

Neptune DXP is a vital part of **Nippon Gases' S/4HANA landscape**, enabling them to:

- Keep their ERP core clean by leveraging standard SAP processes in the backend.
- Focus on customer-centric solutions with a flexible, user-friendly frontend.
- Rapidly create solutions and achieve user acceptance during critical situations.
- Significantly boost user satisfaction by making complex processes easy to navigate.

Outcome: A clean ERP core, faster development, and a system users love to use.

[See Their Story.](#)



Elkjøp: Revolutionizing Retail at Scale.

Elkjøp, a European retail giant, revolutionized its sales systems using Neptune DXP. They achieved:

- Seamless integration across 10,000 devices.
- 23M+ daily API calls with 135M NOK processed in daily sales.
- Flexible, robust solutions that adapt to their rapidly evolving retail needs.

Outcome: Scalable, user-friendly solutions driving operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

[Read Their Story.](#)

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About Neptune Software.



Neptune Software is a leading app development platform that empowers businesses to easily create digital solutions that simplify complex enterprise processes for SAP & beyond. For decades, we've pioneered advancements in no-code, low-code, pro-code and AI-driven application development. We help accelerate your digital enterprise's innovation and execution while maximizing ROI through optimized technology and processes.

With a focus on bridging the gap between business and IT, we enable tech teams, business counterparts, and operations worldwide to easily build and deliver custom solutions at scale and with ease.

Neptune has been named a Top 50 Best Software in G2 Inc.'s Software Development Awards and made it into the Gartner Magic Quadrant year after year.

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