



WHITE PAPER

Investment-Focused Analysis on SAP Integration

BUILD VS. BUY

ENOSIX IMPACT STORY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Architects and business leaders face a critical decision in SAP integration: **Build vs. Buy**. While building integrations involves costly, time-consuming development and maintenance, buying, leveraging prebuilt APIs and integration platforms as a service (iPaaS) solutions like MuleSoft, promises quicker time to value, reduced complexity, and lower costs. This white paper explores these options, providing a detailed analysis to guide informed decision-making.

INTRODUCTION

Integrating third-party systems with SAP is a common requirement for many enterprises. Traditionally, this involves using standalone iPaaS platforms like MuleSoft and SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP) to replicate data and transform it for consuming systems. This approach requires building each integration from the ground up and maintaining each API, leading to significant costs over the lifecycle of the integrations.

Alternatively, a Buy approach utilizes prebuilt APIs in conjunction with an iPaaS solution like MuleSoft. This method leverages assets designed by SAP experts, resulting in better integration patterns. Using prebuilt assets typically leads to faster time to value, reduced complexity, minimal data replication, and overall lower costs. This paper examines the factors to consider when deciding between building custom integrations and buying prebuilt solutions.

Comparative Analysis: Custom Build vs. Buy Cost Analysis

CUSTOM BUILD

Building custom integrations often involves significant upfront and ongoing costs. These include the development of APIs, custom SAP BAPIs (Business APIs), and the maintenance of these APIs over time. Additionally, migrations to new SAP versions, such as S/4HANA, further escalate costs.

BUY APPROACH (MuleSoft + enosix)

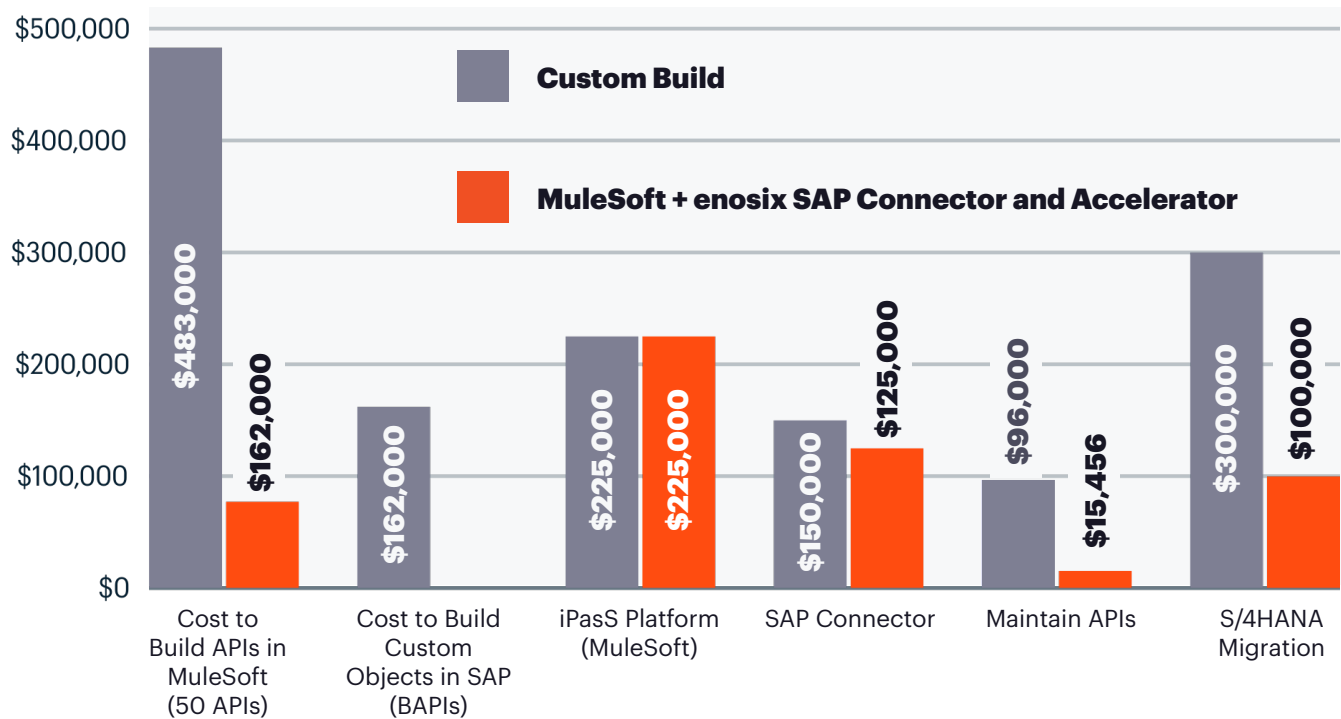
Utilizing prebuilt APIs from enosix combined with an iPaaS platform like MuleSoft, significantly reduces the costs associated with integration. The table below provides a detailed cost comparison for building 50 APIs from design to deploy using only an iPaaS approach vs. pre-built APIs and the same iPaaS platform:

Cost Components	Custom Build	MuleSoft + enosix
Cost to build APIs (50 needed for Custom/8 needed for MuleSoft + enosix)	\$483,000	\$77,280
Cost to build Custom SAP BAPIs (not required with prebuilt)	\$162,000	-
iPaaS Platform	\$225,000	\$225,000
SAP Connector(s)	\$150,000	\$125,000
Annual cost to Maintain APIs	\$96,600	\$15,456
S/4HANA Migration (if on SAP ECC)	\$300,000	\$100,000
Total	\$1,416,600	\$542,736
SAVINGS (62%)	-	-\$873,864

TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP (TCO) – YEAR ONE

The total cost of ownership in the first year clearly favors the Buy approach with prebuilt APIs and MuleSoft. The savings are substantial, making a compelling case for this approach.

ANNUAL COST ANALYSIS OF PLATFORM AND ONE-TIME BUILD COST



Annual Cost Analysis of Integrations

Analyzing the annual costs further strengthens the argument for the Buy approach. Maintenance and operational efficiencies result in significant savings year over year, making it a financially prudent decision.

CUSTOM BUILD VS. MULESOFT + enosix PREBUILT APIs

Cost Components	Custom Build with MuleSoft	MuleSoft + enosix
Annual Maintenance Costs	\$96,600	\$15,456
API Upgrades and Modifications	High due to custom work	Low, leveraging prebuilt updates
Data Replication	High	Minimal, direct API calls
Operational Efficiency	Lower	Higher, standardized processes

BENEFITS OF THE BUY APPROACH

FASTER TIME TO VALUE

Prebuilt APIs significantly reduce the time required to achieve integration goals. Enterprises can instantly connect systems, reducing the time to value from months to weeks. This rapid deployment enables faster adaptation to market changes and enhances overall business agility.

REDUCED COMPLEXITY

Using prebuilt APIs simplifies the integration landscape. Instead of developing and maintaining numerous custom APIs, enterprises can leverage standardized, expert-designed solutions. This reduces the complexity of the integration architecture and streamlines operational processes. Using prebuilt APIs and MuleSoft supports the Clean-Core architecture recommending by SAP.

COST EFFICIENCY

The cost benefits of using prebuilt APIs are evident not only in the initial deployment but also in ongoing maintenance. Lower development costs, reduced maintenance overhead, and minimized data replication contribute to substantial cost savings over the integration lifecycle.

ENHANCED RELIABILITY AND PERFORMANCE

Prebuilt APIs from enosix and platforms like MuleSoft are designed and tested by experts, ensuring high reliability and performance. These solutions are optimized for SAP environments, providing robust and scalable integrations that meet enterprise requirements.

Considerations for Decision Making

When deciding between building custom integrations and buying prebuilt solutions, consider the following factors:

- **Total Cost of Ownership (TCO):** Evaluate both initial and ongoing costs associated with each approach.
- **Time to Value:** Assess the time required to deploy and achieve functional integrations.
- **Complexity and Maintenance:** Consider the complexity of managing custom-built integrations versus leveraging prebuilt APIs.
- **Scalability and Performance:** Ensure the chosen solution can scale with your business needs and maintain high performance.
- **Vendor Support and Updates:** Evaluate the support and update mechanisms provided by the vendor for prebuilt solutions.

CONCLUSION

The decision to build or buy SAP integrations is critical for architects and business leaders.

While building custom integrations provides tailored solutions, it comes with inflated costs, complexity, and maintenance burdens.

On the other hand, buying prebuilt APIs and using iPaaS solutions like MuleSoft and enosix offers significant advantages in terms of cost efficiency, faster time to value, reduced complexity, and enhanced reliability.

By carefully considering the factors outlined in this white paper, enterprises can make an informed decision that aligns with their strategic objectives, ensuring successful and cost-effective SAP integrations.

For further details or personalized consultation on SAP integration solutions, please contact our expert team at info@enosix.com.