## Keynote: Simplifying Finance in a Complex World

Thack Brown, GM, Global Head, LOB Finance / SAP SE September, 2015



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#### Finance IS AT AN INFLECTION POINT

Keeping Up with the Digitalization of Business

#### **Business Trends**

#### **Technology Trends**

Increasing complexity of external conditions

Pressure to support **global growth** initiatives

Requirement to drive efficiency and reduce the cost of finance



Instant insight and real time business process enabled by in- memory technology

Millennial work style enabled by consumer grade user experience and mobility

Accelerated adoption of technology innovations through cloud deployments

## Transforming Finance to Better Support the Business is Hard

Challenges to innovate can hold finance teams back

can respond in real-time to information requests\*\*



**Instant Performance** Information

76%

of global companies do not have financial performance data at the ready\*\*\*

**Predictive Analysis** 

91%

say finance team needs to **provide more** forwardlooking, predictive analytics\*\* **Strategic Support** 

87%

say finance team needs to **improve** its capabilities to support profitable growth\*\*

**Understandable Data** 

58%

say it's difficult for managers to understand finance data even when it is easy to access\*\*

**Easier to Use** 

80%

say ability to meet growth targets would improve if their systems were easier to use\*\*

**Resource Allocation** 

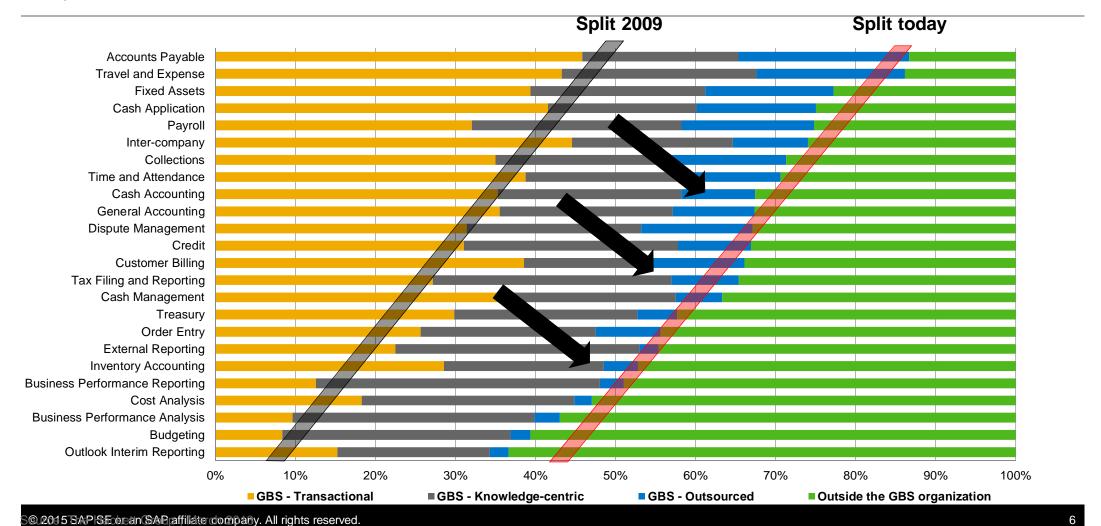
76%

believe at least half their time should be on high-value planning and analytic activities, though only 55% achieve this\*

urces:\* CFO.com Research 2013, \*\* CFO.com Research 2014, \*\*\*Harvard Business Revisv

## Efficiency Improvements are Still Needed

Despite reduced costs achieved with Shared Services



## **Technology Can Support Transformation**

Leveraging Technology to Keep Up with the Accelerating Pace of Business

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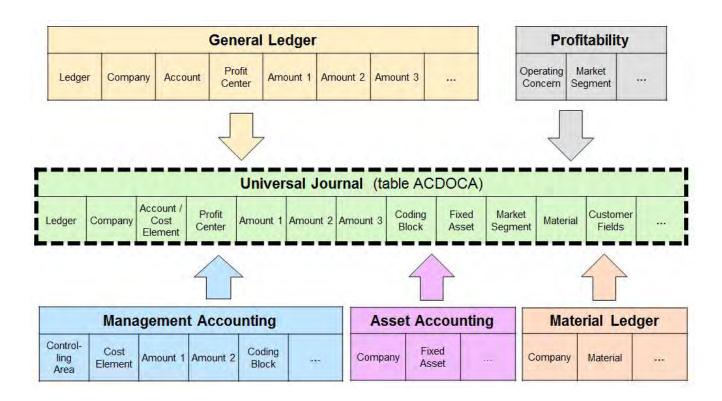
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## The Simplification of the Universal Journal

The "Single Source of Truth"

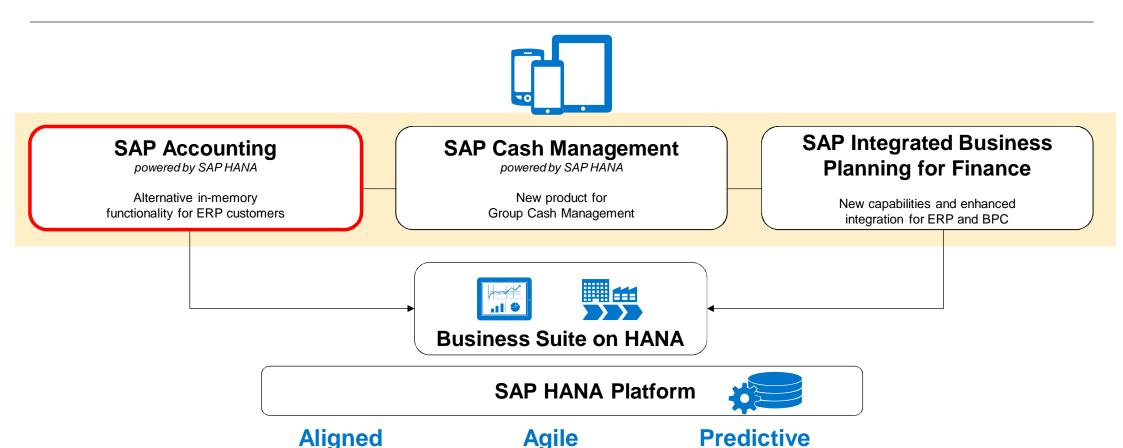


A universal journal entry can have (technically) up to 999,999 line items > less or no need for summarization (depending on data volume)

#### **New Architecture**

- Concept: "Take the best of all worlds" (e.g. ledger, market segment, coding block, etc.)
- One line item table with full detail for all applications - for instant insight & easy extensibility
- Data stored only once: no more reconciliation needed - by design
- Reduction of memory footprint through elimination of redundancy.
- ➤ Fast multi-dimensional reporting possible without replicating data to business warehouse (BW).
- ➤ If BW is in place anyway, only one single extractor needed.
- Secondary cost elements are now G/L accounts.

## SAP Simple Finance - Reimagining The Finance Value Chain



Real time processes

Dynamic Planning and Analysis

Single Source of Truth

## **Simple Finance**

### Transforming Finance with Instant Insight

#### **Instant Insight**

Real end-to-end in memory

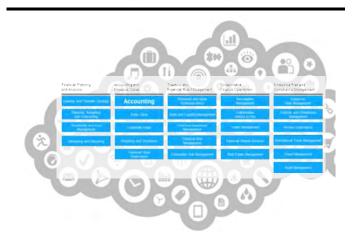


# **Intuitive User Experience**All devices

A contract to the contract to

#### Flexible and Non-disruptive

Cloud or on premise



Financial Planning and Analysis

**Accounting and Financial Close** 

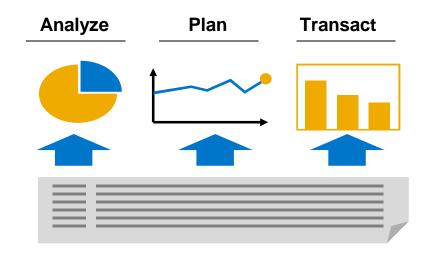
Treasury and Financial Risk

Finance Operations

**Enterprise Risk** and Compliance

## **Value Scenarios of SAP Simple Finance**

Real-time analytics enabling real-time processes





#### **Centralize Finance**

- Real-time financial and operational reporting
- Harmonized internal and external reporting
- Group reporting in multi-ERP and M&A situations
- Flexible reporting in matrix organizations
- Centralized process execution



#### Close Books in a Day

- Task acceleration and automation
- Intra-period reconciliation
- Soft close and simulation (planned)



#### **Plan Dynamically**

- Integrated business planning
- Predictive forecasting
- Budget management (planned)



#### **Optimize Working Capital**

- Group cash management
- Working capital analytics
- · Continuous cash collections
- Invoice and discount optimization



#### **Ensure Compliance**

- Fraud detection and prevention
- Audit management



# Thank you

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