

Note: 000086

Overview

Number	000086
Description	Support and Release (Lifecycle) Details
Version	08 from 17.04.2024
Status	Released to Customer
Language	EN
Responsible	John Mantle
Product	BCS
Category	Documentation

Symptom

Customers or prospective customers wish to know more about QuantityWare (QW) release levels and support lifecycles.

Cause

Strategic knowledge required for planning.

Solution

Software Release Nomenclature

The latest release of [BCS \(Bulk Calculations - Solution\)](#) is **30**.

The support for differing SAP Oil, Gas and Energy platforms is defined by the following letter:

- A = ECC600
- B = S/4HANA

E.g. the current BCS release supporting all current levels of SAP Oil, Gas and Energy on S/4HANA is **30B**.

Installing BCS into your system makes two products available:

- Bulk Calculations - Petroleum (BCP)
- Bulk Calculations - Gas (BCG)

For further information concerning the individual products, refer to our website - [Our Solution -> Software](#)

Always install the latest possible version of BCS with all CSPs and QW notes, available for your platform.

Release Lifecycle

The history of BCS releases is as follows:

- 10A - (07.2006 - **06.2010**) - supported SAP Oil, Gas and Energy on SAP 472 and ECC 600
- 10B - (07.2010 - **09.2016**) - supported SAP SAP Oil, Gas and Energy on SAP ECC 600
- 30A - (10.2016 - 12.2030) - supports and is "SAP Certified Powered by NetWeaver" on SAP Oil, Gas and Energy on SAP ECC 600
- 30B - (05.2017 - 2040) - Supports SAP Oil, Gas, and Energy and is "SAP Certified Integration with SAP S/4HANA" on releases:
 - 1610, 1709, 1809, 1909, 2020, HC 2020_EX, 2021, HC 2021_EX, 2022, HC 2022_EX, HC 2023_EX
 - from 2022 onwards - "Works with RISE with SAP"

Release and Maintenance Strategy

The fundamental platform upon which we integrate with SAP Oil, Gas and Energy is the [SAP QCI](#) (Quantity Conversion Interface). This is a dynamic interface at the very centre of SAPs Oil, Gas and Energy solutions' bulk materials management and is inexorably linked with SAP HPM. Owing to its critical nature, SAP has maintained stability in this area over many product generations. For the same reason, we seek also to maintain stability, reliability and quality in our solution through:

- a program of cautions continuous improvement,
- the adoption and extensive usage of [test scenarios](#),
- use of extensive automated tests within our software production environment.

QW pursues a policy of "backward compatibility" in its development. Any divergence from this policy will be announced to, and discussed with customers beforehand.

Functional depreciation shall only take place if such functionality is not in productive use at customer sites or if a viable alternative functionality is available to customers.

All statements regarding future SAP Oil, Gas and Energy support are based on SAP (or any other party) maintaining the current QCI / HPM architecture in the SAP Oil, Gas and Energy solution. For upstream PRA and UOM customers, the "[Measurement System](#)" is itself an interface to the QCI, which is why our solution can also be used in such scenarios.

Usage and Service Ruling

Legacy Releases

For customers using the following release levels, an upgrade to the latest available BCS release supporting your SAP Oil, Gas and Energy platform should be performed by:

- BCS 10A - 30.06.2020
- BCS 10B - 31.12.2020

No further usage keys will be made available to such installations after the above dates.

Reasoning

As we cannot directly access customer systems to identify which version of our solution is currently being used, we rely on our customers maintaining their release information in our service portal. Through a portal data accuracy project, it has come to our attention that some customers are still using BCS 10A and 10B releases.

All customers have a contractual responsibility to import and use the latest version of BCS; this is technically relatively easy to accomplish - if - customers have followed implementation best practices as defined in our Project Assessment and Implementation Guidelines ([PAIG](#)) for their implemented BCS product.

Really, it's not that difficult. See the section "How do I upgrade?" down below.

Current Releases

- BCS 30A will be available and supported until SAP announces the final end of maintenance for SAP Oil, Gas and Energy systems on ECC600.
If adequate alternative productive support offerings are available after that time, we shall also continue to support our customers on the ECC600 platform if they so wish.
- BCS 30B will be available and supported for all current certified releases of S/4HANA (see "Release Lifecycle", above) for the length of standard lifecycle support provided by SAP for each release.
- BCS 30B will only be superseded by a further version of the 30 platform (let us call it "30C") if:
 - a major architecture change within SAP Oil, Gas and Energy running on S/4HANA is announced and QuantityWare decides to support such a platform,
 - QuantityWare decides for product management reasons to release "30C".

- To minimize our customers maintenance effort, we shall try to defer a "30C" release for as long as is feasible, supporting the 30B release with CSPs and re-certifying both the 30A and 30B releases according to the schedule defined by SAP for their "SAP Certified Integration" program.
- Any decision to release "30C" shall be communicated to customers via our service portal with at least twelve months' notice.
- The release of a "30C" version shall not affect the validity of usage for current QW 30 BCS releases on currently supported platforms.

Future Platforms

Annual releases of the underlying platform do not make our life easy; we will however strive to certify our solution (SAP Certified Integration) for the latest SAP Oil, Gas and Energy on S/4HANA release as soon as Release To Market (RTM) of the S/4HANA version has taken place.

Owing to the usage of QW BCS in the [SAP Standard Content Oil & Gas](#), be assured that we will make our customers aware of any QCI/QW-related issues (NDA permitting) which may be discovered on the latest SAP Oil, Gas and Energy S/4HANA release, during our internal tests, along with a planned remediation date of such.

How do I Upgrade?

Background

A BCS upgrade is predominantly a technical (BASIS) procedure.

If current [customer test scenarios](#) already exist in your environment and a well-managed CTS is present, two days should be sufficient for the technical preparation and test upgrade of the development system. Coordination of such an action within customer organizations differs considerably, thus add your own coordination effort.

A BCS upgrade does not require a specific downtime, however SAP Oil, Gas and Energy bulk goods movements should not be performed after starting the technical application of the new release, until the system consistency has been proven through the successful use of QuantityWare and [customer test scenarios](#). The reasons being:

- during the import of repository there is a risk of "load program lost" transactional errors,
- after a successful technical upgrade, a comprehensive test of the quantity conversions should be performed before processing productive data.

The technical upgrade including testing with test scenarios should be possible within two hours of "pause" / downtime:

- 30 minutes technical runtime,
- 90 minutes for tests and administration.

During an upgrade, QuantityWare repository and customizing / configuration will be changed.

Repository

The current software environments from SAP allow BCS to follow the "overwrite" or "in-place upgrade" strategy. As QuantityWare has an SAP-registered namespace for its objects and customer modifications to our solution are forbidden, we overwrite the historical-release version of our objects with the new version.

This is also the case when performing a "system" upgrade (e.g. ECC600 to S/4HANA) where the 10B or 30A version of our solution is overwritten by the 30B version which is included in the technical upgrade packages by the SAP SUM tool.

Customizing

According to our product-specific Project Assessment and Implementation Guidelines ([PAIG](#)), QuantityWare name-range reference customising should not be modified or used by customers; it should be copied to the customer name-range, exported out of the QW reference client and distributed throughout the existing customer system/client landscape as required.

Procedure

Based on the preceding information, the technical background and procedure to be followed is therefore identical to an install.

A full technical explanation and step-by step instructions are provided in the [BCS 3.0 Installation Manual](#).

Customer Test Scenarios

As described in the [BCS 3.0 Installation Manual](#) chapter "Installation / Upgrade Preparations"; during an upgrade, or at any system life-cycle event which could affect SAP Oil, Gas and Energy functionality or customization / configuration, test scenarios are especially valuable. The benefits and processes surrounding test scenario usage are described in QW Note 000073 ("[Automated Test Scenarios - Quantity Conversion Compliance Control!](#)") and the appropriate chapter of your [QuantityWare products' Reference Manual](#), available in the QuantityWare Knowledge Base.

If you do not have a comprehensive set of QuantityWare customer test scenarios in your SAP Oil, Gas and Energy system landscape, consider contacting a [QuantityWare-Certified consultant](#) to assist your organization in the creation of such, or send an appropriately-qualified member of staff to attend the appropriate QuantityWare [training course](#) which tackles the creation of test scenarios in detail.

An investment in test scenarios will be repaid over the entire lifecycle of your SAP Oil, Gas and Energy system while using QuantityWare calculations.

Conclusion

QuantityWare follows a clear and comprehensive software maintenance and development strategy.

The upgrade of standard QuantityWare installations is neither cost- or effort-intensive.

We request our customers' help to maintain their installed software base to the most modern QuantityWare BCS release available, allowing us to concentrate on continuous improvement for our solution, maintain high solution quality and provide excellent support service for our customers.

Change History:

Version	Date	Changes
00	19.06.2019	Initial release
01	20.11.2019	Added S/4 1910 Certification
02	13.02.2020	Updated SAP product support dates & certification text
03	25.01.2021	Added S/4 HANA 2020 support
04	02.02.2021	Added S/4HC 2020_EX support
05	09.11.2021	Added S/4 HANA 2021 & HC 2021_EX support
06	23.12.2022	Added S/4 HANA 2022 & HC 2022_EX support
07	20.12.2023	Added S/4 HANA 2023 & HC 2023_EX support
08	17.04.2024	SAP Oil, Gas and Energy update - removed CTP & CTG as separate products

Transport Reference

No SAP-based transport

Validity

SAP Release	From SP	To SP	In SP Shipment
ECC600	ALL	ALL	-
S/4 HANA	ALL	ALL	-