

Cleaner Core, Smarter AP:

✓ Basware and SAP S/4HANA

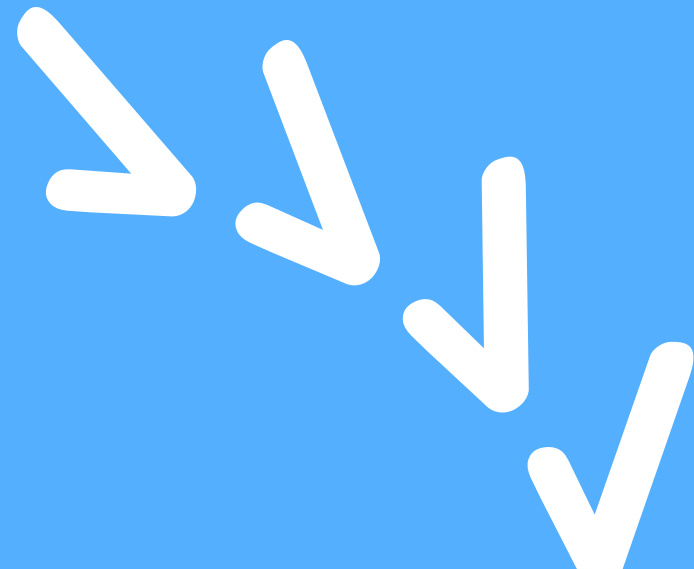
Accelerating Value in S/4HANA with
Invoice Lifecycle Management



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Executive Summary

Basware & S/4HANA: A Powerful Partnership

For SAP-centric enterprises, transforming AP isn't optional—it's essential for cash flow resilience, compliance, and competitive agility. Invoice Lifecycle Management's (ILM) full potential can be achieved if businesses focus on four key themes:

- **Transform end-to-end ILM:** Clients increasingly pursue holistic transformations in ILM, using intelligent automation, AI, and analytics to improve efficiency, compliance, and working capital.
- **Enable ILM transformation through S/4HANA:** S/4HANA migration offers a unique opportunity to transform ILM processes.
- **Capitalize on ILM trends:** Understand key market disruptors and leverage leading technologies to optimize ILM.
- **Maximize ILM's potential:** Leverage intelligent automation, AI, and best-of-breed technologies to elevate ILM from a cost center to a strategic driver, boosting efficiency and compliance.

Navigating Complexity: The Evolving Role of Finance Leaders

Today's finance leaders navigate an increasingly complex and disrupted landscape, facing unprecedented internal and external pressures. From the complexities of AI and digital transformation, to evolving regulatory and compliance requirements, global economic uncertainties necessitate real-time decision-making, while rising stakeholder expectations demand continuous adaptation and operational resilience. These pressures are further compounded by system migrations, which can disrupt existing AP processes and often result in solutions that fail to meet the needs of a modern finance organization. This highlights the need for solutions that complement the SAP clean core and provide comprehensive AP automation capabilities.

These pressures significantly impact the accounts payable (AP) function.



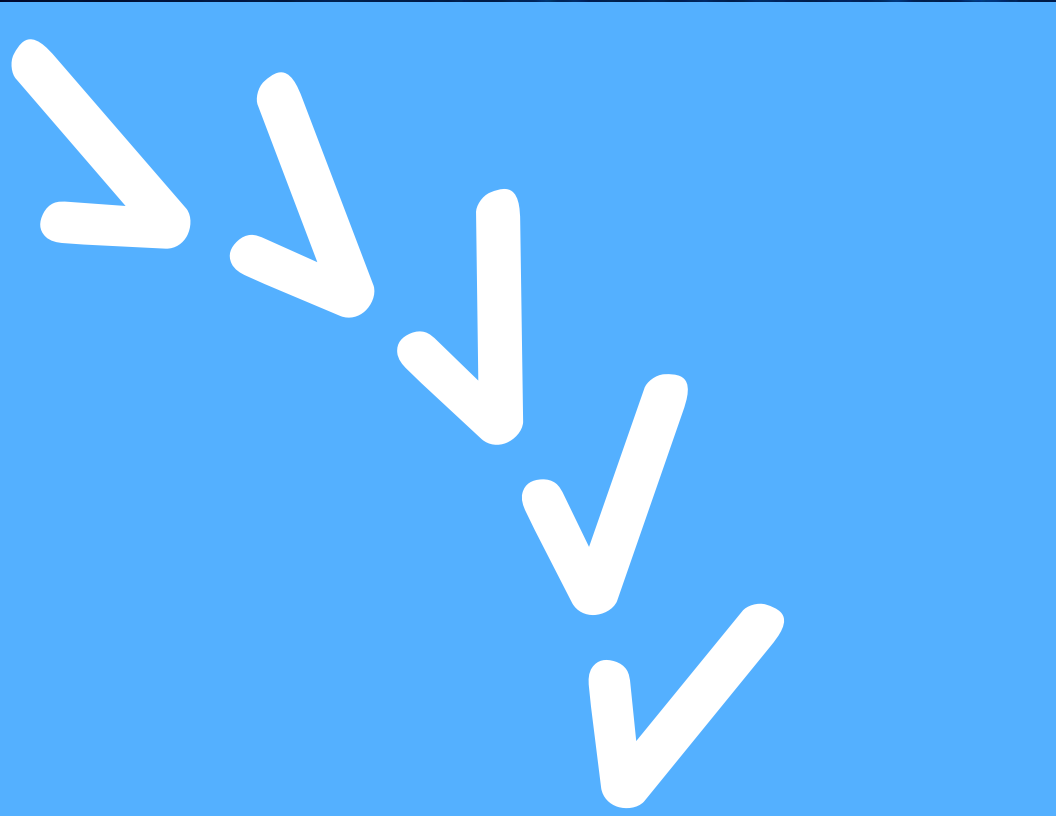


Often burdened with manual processes, AP teams face inefficiencies, errors, risk of compliance breaches, fraud, and sub-optimized cash flow. Consequently, organizations are actively seeking ways to automate AP to improve accuracy, efficiency, supplier relations, staff morale, and business process control. To thrive and enable future business growth, the AP function must undergo a significant transformation, embracing innovation and agility, re-evaluating traditional processes, and leveraging leading technologies to automate tasks, improve visibility, incorporate regulatory requirements, and enhance decision-making. Many companies, particularly those using SAP, are turning to cloud transformations, often through SAP S/4HANA, to leverage AI-driven automation and to improve user experiences, ultimately driving this critical AP transformation.

Accelerating SAP Transformation with Invoice Lifecycle Management

Vendors like Basware offer invoice management solutions that extend far beyond traditional AP automation capabilities, encompassing the entire invoice journey from receipt to payment, archiving, integration with working capital management, and adherence to evolving compliance requirements. This comprehensive approach is fundamental to efficient financial operations, strong vendor relationships, and accurate reporting. As organizations explore technology options for AP transformation, a crucial consideration is understanding the key drivers of ROI and desired business outcomes, such as improved working capital management. This understanding allows businesses to select the right technology to deliver those results.

This document examines how Basware complements and extends existing SAP functionalities for organizations using SAP (both ECC and S/4HANA) and are in the process of exploring options to automate and optimize their invoice processes. Leveraging Basware can de-risk and accelerate SAP S/4HANA implementation by providing a robust, pre-integrated invoice processing solution that minimizes disruption and allows you to maintain a clean core. This paper provides valuable insights for key finance stakeholders, including the CFO, Finance Systems and Integration Leads, and Procure-to-Pay leads. It demonstrates how innovative solutions like Basware can address their specific needs. We will explore how Basware's solutions integrate with SAP to deliver a best-in-class invoice management solution, optimizing the entire AP process and driving significant efficiency, accuracy, and control improvements, ultimately enabling greater strategic value.



The Future of Accounts Payable

The Future of Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable (AP) – From Cost Center to a Strategic Powerhouse

The AP function is in constant flux in today's dynamic business environment, adapting to rapid technological advancements, regulatory requirements, and evolving stakeholder expectations. This transformative landscape demands agility and resilience. Traditionally perceived as a cost centre burdened by manual processes and prone to inefficiencies, AP is undergoing a fundamental shift, evolving into a strategic driver of business value by adopting innovative and best-in-class technologies. The following sections outline key AP function trends that present both challenges and opportunities.

Key Trends in the AP Environment

Key trends are reshaping the future of Accounts Payable (AP):

AI is revolutionizing AP, enabling touchless processing and mitigating fraud risks associated with manual processes like duplicate invoices and vendor impersonation. Intelligent agents further support AP and business users by providing proactive guidance, resolving exceptions, and answering queries, freeing up valuable time for strategic activities. Automating AP also addresses the common challenge of timely invoice processing caused by manual handling of paper and spreadsheets. Robust data governance and a shift towards automated operations are crucial.



AP is undergoing a fundamental shift, evolving into a strategic driver of business value

A regulatory revolution demands greater AP transparency and compliance. Adhering to evolving tax codes, privacy statutes, and e-invoicing mandates presents a challenge, necessitating investment in technology and expertise.

Real-time intelligence derived from clean and reliable data is vital in today's dynamic environment. Enhanced dashboards with key performance indicators (KPIs) provide visibility into cash flow, working capital, and supplier relationships. Real-time data on invoice processing, cash availability, and early payment discounts empowers strategic decision-making.

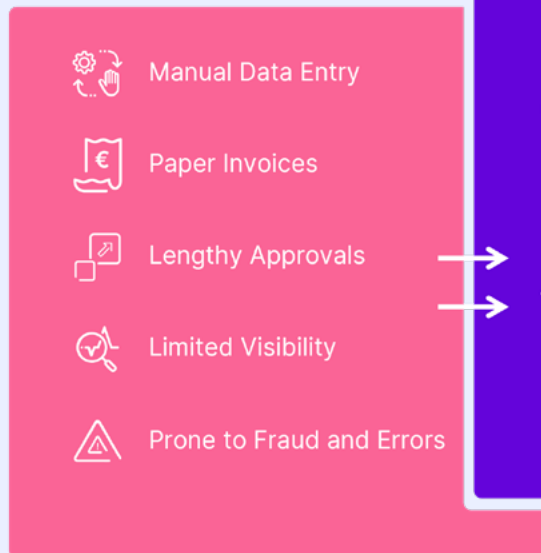
Stakeholder expectations of AP now extend beyond cost reduction to encompass technology-driven efficiency, enhanced decision-making, and stronger supplier relationships. AP must become a strategic partner that contributes to broader business objectives.

Complex vendor landscapes, often compounded by workforce challenges such as staff shortages and skill gaps, increase AP risks related to off-cycle payments, urgent invoices, and disputes. Automating vendor master data management and enabling process orchestration to facilitate collaboration between suppliers and buyers, creating visibility and streamlining communication. While organizations recognize the potential of new technologies, they often focus on incremental upgrades rather than holistic solutions. The following section will explore evolving AP technologies and provide tailored recommendations.

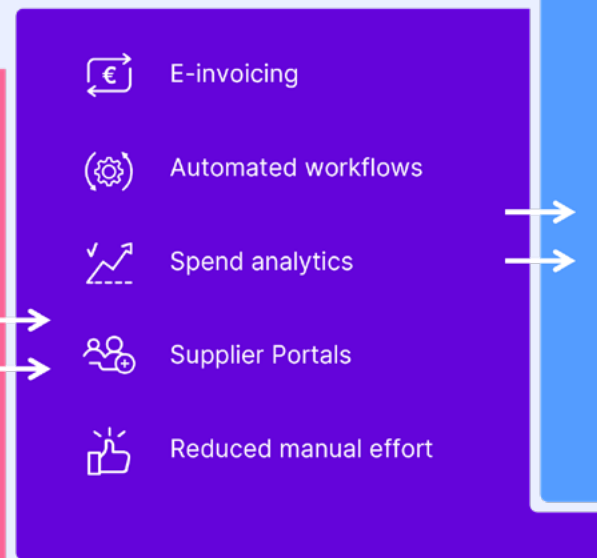
The Future of AP: Invoice Lifecycle Management

As mentioned in the section above, automation, powered by AI and machine learning, is leading to the emergence of Invoice Lifecycle Management platforms. This shift towards a more automated AP function improves efficiency and responsiveness and positively impacts cash flow and compliance. Businesses embracing these technologies are better positioned for success in today's dynamic financial environment.

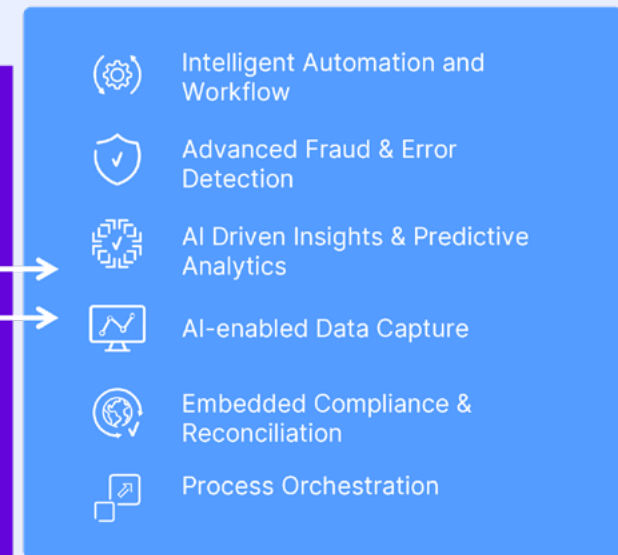
The Beginning: AP Digitization



The Past: AP Automation



The Future: Invoice Lifecycle Management



Operational, limited

Strategic, transformational

Benefits

Innovations shaping Invoice Lifecycle Management

The evolution of AP is fueled by several key technologies that are worth exploring, and this document highlights the following:

AI-Powered Intelligent Automation and Workflow

Streamlines invoice processing, enhancing financial visibility, compliance, and supplier relationships. Integration with ERP systems enables full invoice data automation.

Advanced Fraud and Error Detection

Sophisticated algorithms and AI proactively detect fraud and errors, enhancing financial security by identifying anomalies. This also reduces manual intervention for error handling.

Supplier Collaboration Through E-invoicing Networks

Supplier portals and e-invoicing networks improve efficiency and collaboration by providing real-time visibility into invoice status and payments.

AI-enabled Data Capture

AI-based data capture accurately captures header and line-item data from various invoice formats (PDF, image, etc.), ensuring a highly automated and scalable approach.

Embedded Compliance

Modern AP automation solutions embed compliance requirements throughout the invoice lifecycle. This ensures adherence to relevant regulations and internal policies, reducing risk and improving auditability.

Advanced Insights Including Predictive AI

AI-driven analytics provide real-time insights for better decision-making and spend management—predictive AI forecasts future trends and potential bottlenecks.

The emergence of Invoice Lifecycle Management platforms represents a fundamental shift. The convergence of cloud computing, AI, and machine learning enables AP to become a strategic value driver, providing immediate cash flow insights, enhanced regulatory adherence, and stronger supplier partnerships. Invoice Lifecycle Management is compelling for businesses in regulated multi-global environments, processing high invoice volumes, or those on their S/4HANA journey. For rapidly growing companies, legacy AP systems can hinder operations. S/4HANA migration offers an opportunity to implement a unified, automated, and fully integrated AP solution.

Unlocking the Value and Efficiency

AP automation is crucial for businesses seeking to streamline operations and eliminate inefficiencies in traditional AP processes. By automating tasks, businesses reduce manual effort, minimize errors, boost productivity, and save valuable time for more strategic activities. For example, automation can drastically reduce invoice processing times to as low as >1 day*, freeing up AP staff to focus on higher-value activities. Businesses can benefit from achieving cost efficiencies and better cash flow management through speedier payment cycles, opportunities for early payment discounts, and on-demand insights into balance sheets that all help to boost working capital and optimize cash flow.

Investing in AP automation is not just about improving efficiency; it's about building a foundation for sustainable growth and ensuring the AP function can effectively support the business as it evolves.

*Ardent Partners' Accounts Payable Metrics that Matter, 2024

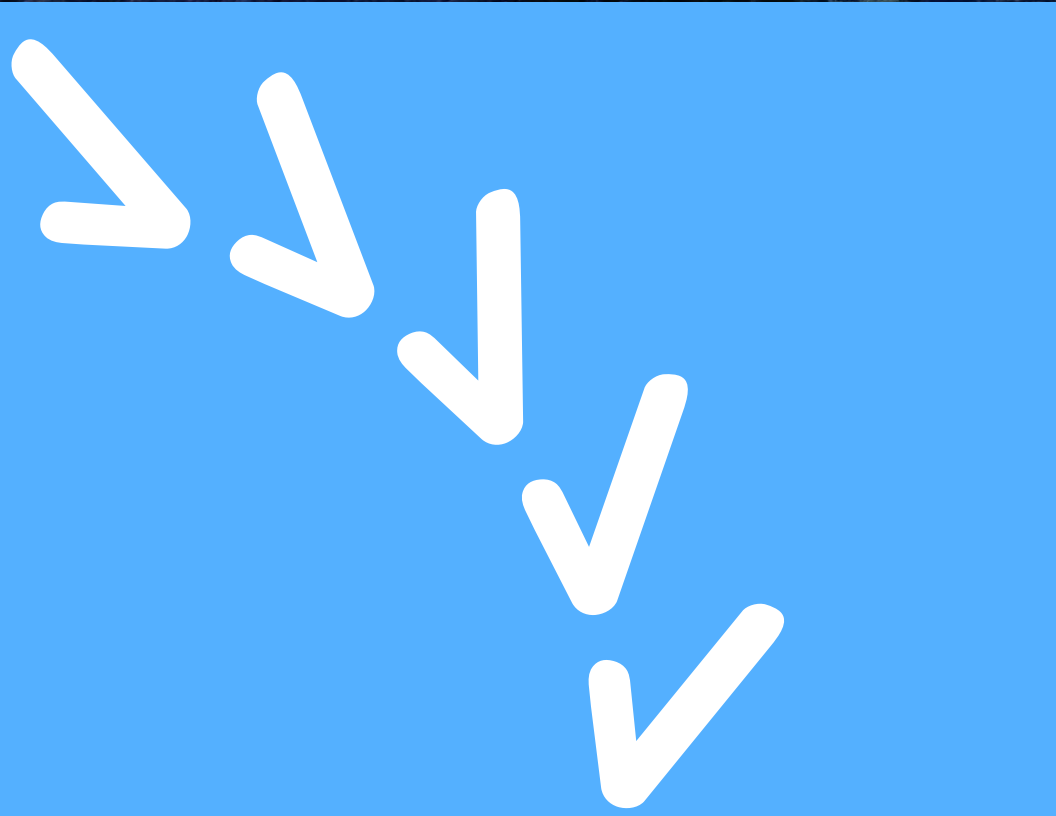
The Strategic Advantage of Decoupling AP from Your Wider ERP Transformation

A critical strategic consideration is the decision of what to keep "inside" and "outside" of your core ERP, particularly when embarking on a significant transformation like an S/4HANA migration. While the Clean Core approach rightly emphasizes minimizing customizations within SAP, it's equally important to highlight the compelling benefits of decoupling specific processes, like AP, from the broader ERP transformation.

Strategically decoupling AP is not just an operational decision, but a strategic move that can significantly contribute to earlier benefits realization, minimize change disruption, reduce project risk, enhance compliance, and create a more agile, future-ready IT landscape. It's about making wise choices on where to build, buy, and integrate to maximize value and minimize disruption.



Strategically decoupling AP is not just an operational decision, but a strategic move



Exploring Basware:

The Ideal Complement to S/4HANA

Exploring Basware: The Ideal Complement to S/4HANA

SAP Accounts Payable (AP)

SAP is a dominant player in enterprise resource planning (ERP) software market, offering integrated solutions that unify various business functions, including finance, HR, manufacturing, supply chain, and sales, onto a single platform.

The SAP AP solution plays a crucial role in the P2P process. Integrated within S/4HANA, it provides a comprehensive system for streamlining and automating the management of supplier invoices and payments over the full invoice lifecycle.

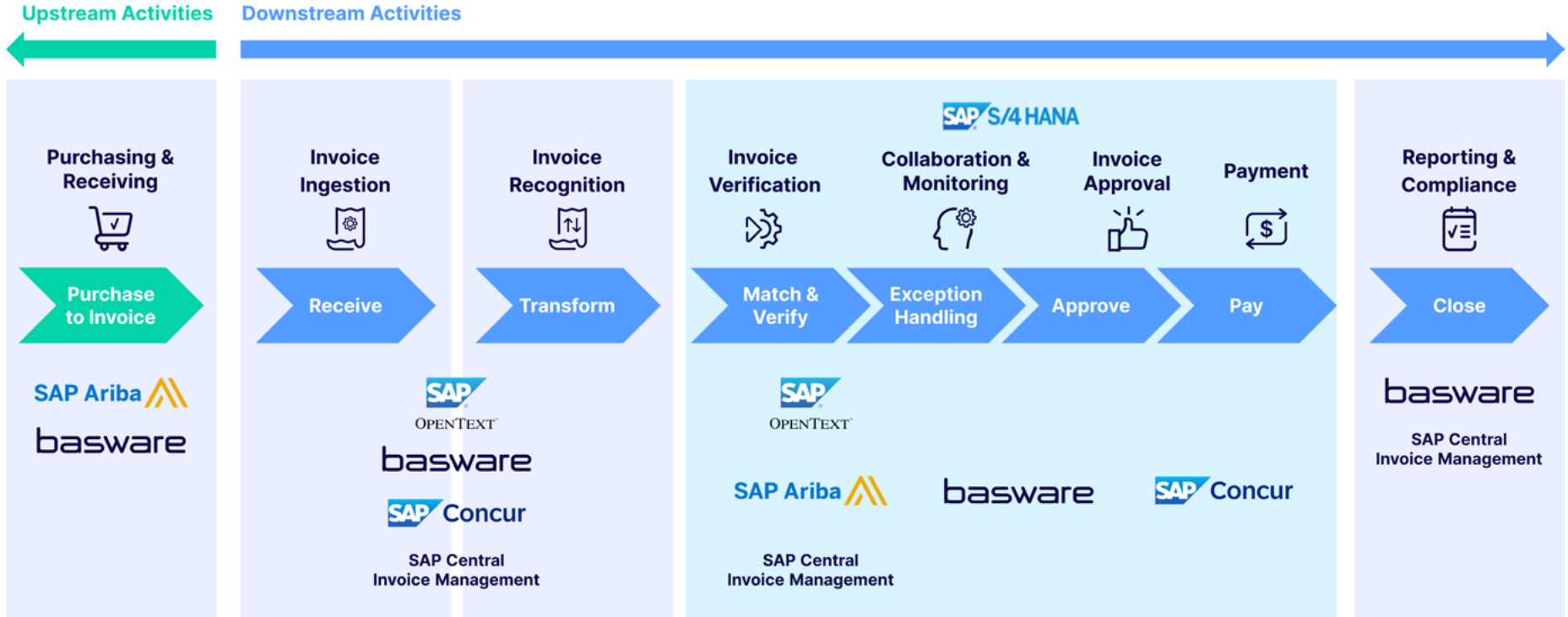
However, while SAP's AP solution offers a robust set of features, it also has limitations, particularly when compared to specialized and best of breed AP automation solutions like Basware's specialized Invoice Lifecycle Management (ILM) platform, or Open Text Vendor Invoice Management (VIM) add on for SAP (also called SAP VIM). For organizations with highly complex, global AP processes, involving numerous legal entities, multiple currencies, and intricate, multi-level approval workflows, the native S/4HANA AP functionality might require extensive customization and configuration to meet specific business requirements. Furthermore, it may not scale as efficiently as dedicated solutions to handle high volumes of invoices and complex processing scenarios.

Basware's specialized Invoice Lifecycle Management platform, recognized as a **market leader for AP applications by Gartner** (March 2025), enhances invoice lifecycle management by addressing gaps in existing solutions and offers best-in-class features that complement the SAP offering in AP. The following section details Basware's key capabilities, features, and benefits to streamline invoice processing for organizations.



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SAP Procure-to-Pay Solution



The SAP Procure-to-Pay Solution value chain illustrates the journey from initial demand to final payment, segmented into distinct procurement and accounts payable activities. Third-party procurement activities, primarily purchasing and receiving, involve the initial requisitioning and ordering of goods and services. Solutions like SAP Ariba, Coupa, Ivalua, and Basware are highlighted as procurement enablers.

The focus shifts to invoice management as the process moves into accounts payable activities. Invoice Ingestion (receiving the invoice) and Invoice Recognition (transforming raw invoice data) are often handled by specialized solutions such as Basware, SAP VIM, and SAP Concur, which excel in data capture and automation. The subsequent phases within SAP S/4HANA include Invoice Verification (matching and verifying details), Collaboration & Monitoring (exception handling), Invoice Approval, and Payment.



Basware's recognized as a market leader for AP applications by Gartner (March 2025)

Basware's AP Capabilities, Benefits, and Alignment with S/4HANA

Basware provides a comprehensive suite of cloud-based solutions specifically designed to optimize AP processes. These solutions streamline and automate the entire invoice lifecycle, from initial receipt and data capture through validation and approval workflows, and ultimately payment and reconciliation. This end-to-end automation significantly reduces manual efforts, eliminates errors, and accelerates processing times.

Basware offers specialized and advanced solutions that extend the financial capabilities of S/4HANA. By integrating with S/4HANA, Basware enhances the core financial functionalities of the ERP system with best-in-class AP automation features. This integration enables a seamless, bi-directional data flow between the two systems, ensuring data consistency and accuracy. Organizations can leverage the strengths of both platforms: S/4HANA for core financial management and Basware for specialized AP automation, resulting in improved efficiency, enhanced compliance, increased visibility into invoice processing, and greater control over AP operations. This combined approach allows businesses to optimize their AP processes and achieve significant cost savings while mitigating financial risks.

The following highlights Basware's capabilities so that organizations can understand its full potential.

Basware Capabilities:

Basware's Invoice Lifecycle Management platform consists of core technologies built to intelligently automate the end-to-end lifecycle in the most complex global enterprise environments.

Basware Network enables the largest open e-invoice network, connecting businesses with global suppliers and government portals, simplifying onboarding and promoting electronic invoicing. It enables organizations to send and receive electronic invoices in various

formats (including EDI, XML, PDF, and even paper Invoices that are converted to electronic) and allows you to connect with different portals (Government, Peppol, etc.).

AP automation, encapsulating advanced coding and matching capabilities and intelligent workflow, enables best-in-class rates of touchless invoice processing.

Intelligent workflow routes invoices to appropriate approvers, facilitating efficient collaboration.

Embedded Global Compliance enables companies to meet country-specific mandates and clearance models, reduce penalty risks, and stay ahead of changing regulations.

Basware Insights provides real-time visibility of AP operations through AI-powered analytics, enabling deep insight into AP performance and faster decision making.

Basware Benefits:

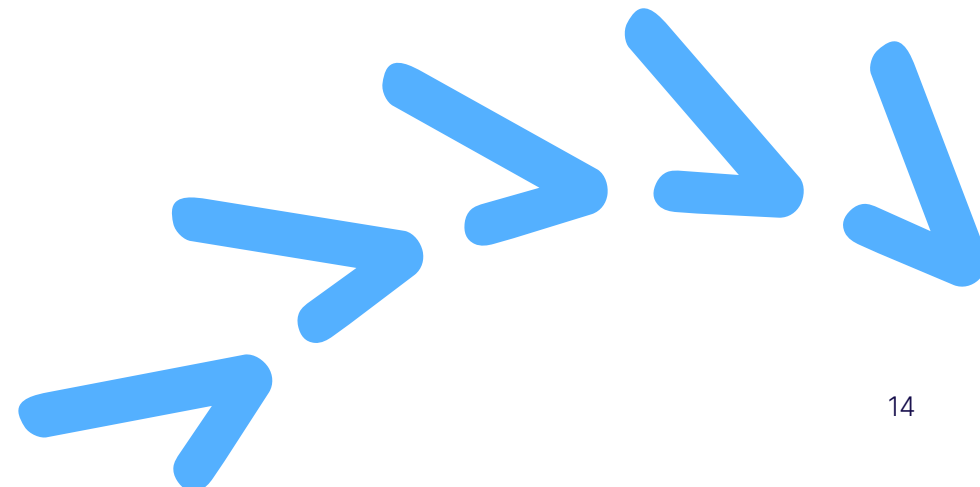
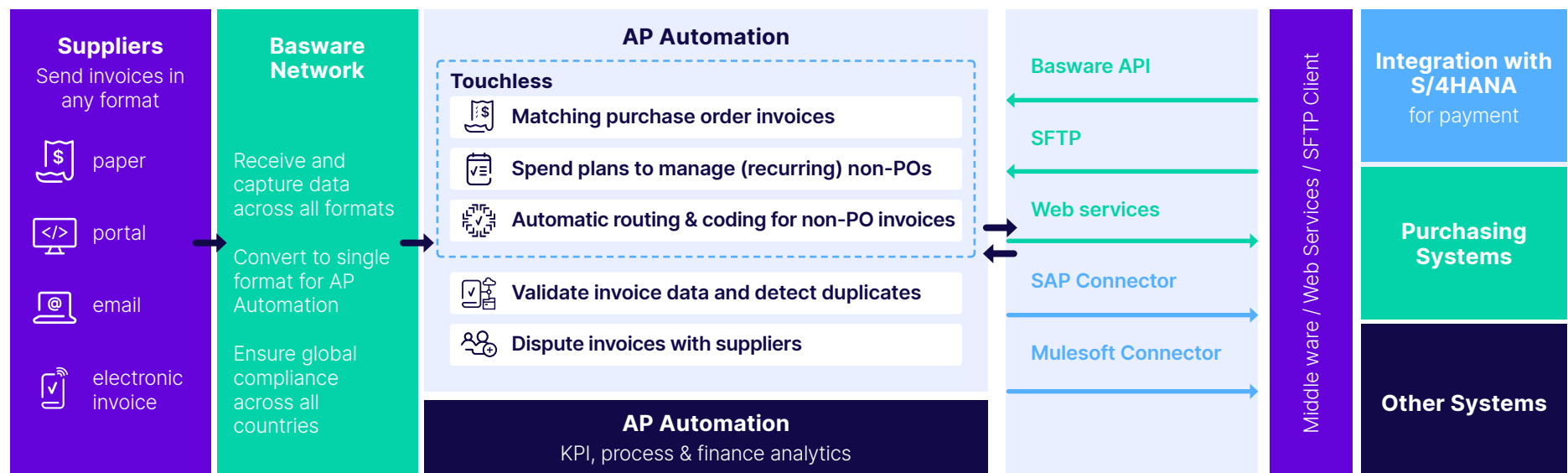
Implementing Basware's Invoice Lifecycle Management platform delivers compelling benefits, positively impacting the bottom line and operational efficiency. Automating manual tasks accelerates invoice processing and increases AP staff productivity. This streamlined workflow generates cost savings through reduced processing expenses, elimination of late payment fees, and maximized early payment discounts, ultimately improving cash flow and profitability.

Automation dramatically improves accuracy by minimizing data entry errors and discrepancies, leading to more reliable invoice records and financial reporting. Real-time dashboards and analytics provide greater visibility and control over spending and cash flow, empowering data-driven decisions and proactive financial management. Compliance with regulations and internal policies is strengthened, mitigating penalties and reputational damage risks. Enhanced security, including AI-powered fraud detection, significantly reduces fraud and overpayments.

Basware's scalability adapts seamlessly to future growth, increasing invoice volumes without significant additional resources. Seamless integration with various ERP systems (including SAP, Oracle, and Microsoft Dynamics) via pre-built connectors and APIs ensures smooth data flow, eliminates data silos, and provides a unified view of your financial information.

By automating routine tasks, reducing errors, strengthening controls, and providing real-time insights, Basware's AP automation solution frees your AP staff to focus on strategic activities like process improvement, supplier relationship management, and financial analysis, ultimately driving greater value for your organization.

Basware's Alignment with SAP S/4HANA





Basware facilitates the seamless alignment of crucial master and transaction data between the SAP S/4HANA system and the Basware platform

Recognizing the critical importance of seamless integration with SAP S/4HANA, Basware has designed its Invoice Lifecycle Management to complement and enhance the core financial functionalities of S/4HANA specifically. This integration is achieved through the pre-packaged and certified Basware ERP Connector for SAP, which is compatible with both SAP NetWeaver and on-premise deployments of SAP S/4HANA. Additionally, Basware has a BTP connector in development for SAP S/4HANA. This robust connector ensures secure and reliable data exchange for essential information, including master data such as vendor details, cost center hierarchies, GL account structures, and transactional data like purchase orders (POs), goods receipts (GRs), and invoice details. This bi-directional data flow ensures data consistency and accuracy between the two systems.

Furthermore, Basware is strategically positioned to leverage the latest SAP APIs and integration frameworks offered by S/4HANA. This forward-looking approach allows for continuous integration optimization and ensures that Basware can take advantage of new functionalities and enhancements as they become available within the SAP ecosystem. This commitment to ongoing integration and improvement ensures a seamless and efficient data flow between the two platforms.

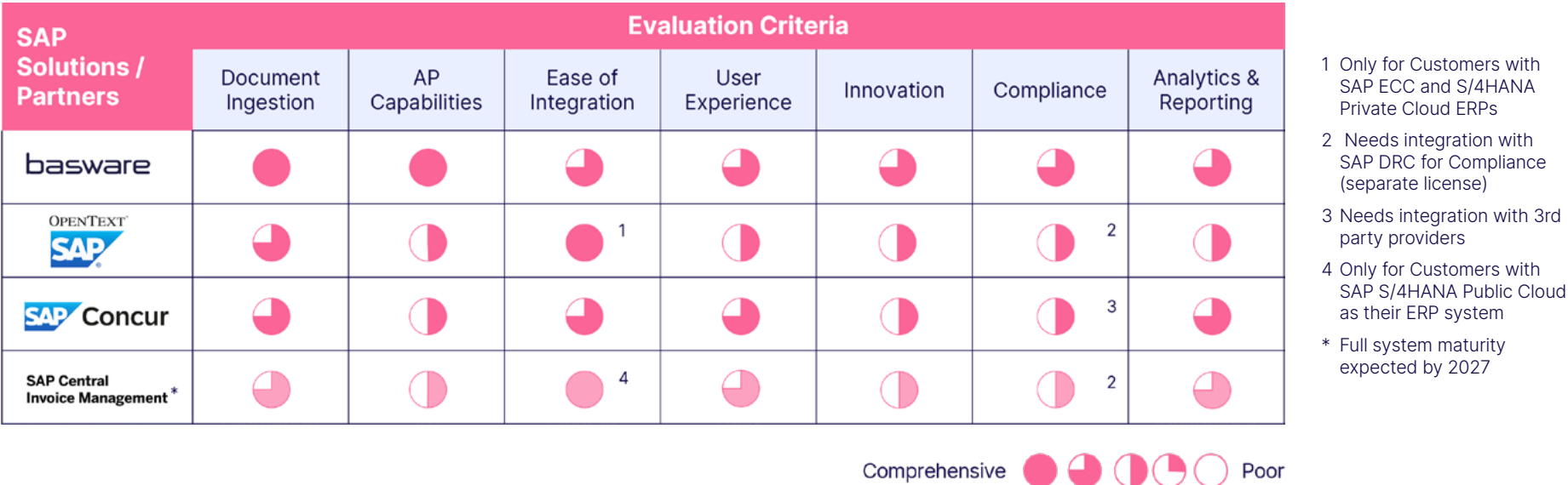
While S/4HANA provides baseline accounts payable features, Basware offers more advanced and comprehensive capabilities, particularly in touchless invoice processing, global e-invoicing compliance, and extensive supplier network connectivity. For organizations operating internationally with S/4HANA, Basware's deep expertise in navigating the complexities of diverse global e-invoicing and tax regulations is invaluable. This expertise helps businesses ensure compliance with local requirements in various countries, minimizing the risk of penalties and streamlining cross-border transactions.

Finally, Basware facilitates the seamless alignment of crucial master and transaction data between the SAP S/4HANA system and the Basware platform. This includes synchronizing vendor details, cost center hierarchies, GL account structures, and PO and GR data, ensuring data consistency and operational harmony across both systems. This unified data approach eliminates data silos, improves data accuracy, and provides a single source of truth for all AP-related information. By seamlessly integrating with S/4HANA and providing advanced AP automation capabilities, Basware empowers organizations to optimize their AP processes, improve efficiency, enhance compliance, and gain greater control over their financial operations.

Basware as an Alternative Solution to SAP VIM, SAP CIM, and Concur

The following chart compares AP solutions, evaluating the four key solutions against several criteria.

High Level Comparison of Invoice Management (IM) Solutions



The comparison positions Basware as a strong contender, demonstrating consistently higher scores across all the criteria than SAP VIM, SAP Concur, and SAP Central Invoice Management. This suggests Basware offers a more comprehensive and robust solution across the evaluated criteria.

Which is a better solution for Invoice Management?

SAP Vendor Invoice Management (VIM), developed by OpenText, offers a solution for automating invoice processing within the SAP

ecosystem. Integrating with SAP ERP and S/4HANA, VIM streamlines invoice management from receipt to payment, incorporating automated invoice capture, intelligent workflow, automated matching against purchase orders and goods receipts, exception handling for discrepancies, and reporting and analytics capabilities. Its tight integration with SAP leverages existing SAP master data and business rules, ensuring data consistency and seamless integration with other SAP modules like P2P and Finance. VIM also offers significant customization options to align with specific SAP configurations and unique business processes.



Basware includes a built-in compliance management tool covering global e-invoicing mandates and regulations across over 50 countries

Basware vs SAP VIM

VIM provides a solid foundation for invoice lifecycle management within SAP environments, but it falls short of the advanced capabilities offered by Basware. Though it includes a broad range of features, it lacks Basware's advanced AI and machine learning capabilities, such as intelligent data capture, anomaly detection, and proactive fraud prevention. Additionally, while VIM offers standard S/4HANA Fiori Dashboards and Reporting, Basware Insights delivers more advanced analytics and reporting powered by AI, enabling numerous KPIs and dashboards for a more transparent and detailed view of AP performance.

Furthermore, VIM lacks built-in global compliance management, often requiring integration with supplementary SAP solutions like SAP Document Reporting & Compliance (DRC) to address complex international e-invoicing and tax regulations. This adds complexity and cost to implementations, particularly for multinational organizations.

SAP VIM's integration is primarily limited to SAP ERP backends, making it a suitable choice for organizations with a substantial and exclusive investment in the SAP ecosystem seeking a tightly embedded AP automation solution. This limitation can restrict flexibility and interoperability for organizations with diverse IT landscapes. On the other hand, Basware offers broader integration capabilities, connecting seamlessly with multiple ERP systems, including SAP, Oracle, Microsoft Dynamics, and others. This versatility makes Basware a more adaptable solution for organizations with heterogeneous ERP environments.

Moreover, Basware includes a built-in compliance management tool covering global e-invoicing mandates and regulations across over 50 countries. This eliminates the need for separate compliance solutions and simplifies regulatory compliance for international businesses. By offering broader integration, more advanced automation, and comprehensive compliance management, Basware provides a more robust, versatile, and future-proof solution for organizations seeking to optimize their AP processes and achieve greater efficiency, accuracy, and control.

Basware vs SAP Ariba Central Invoice Management

SAP Ariba Central Invoice Management (CIM) is a solution that has been built and deployed on the SAP Business Technology Platform. It's part of SAP's strategic move towards a cloud-first approach and a more integrated, streamlined experience within the SAP ecosystem, particularly for S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition (currently). CIM aims to provide a more standardized, out-of-the-box solution focusing on simplicity and ease of adoption in the cloud.

Key benefits touted for SAP CIM include enhanced visibility into invoice processing, improved efficiency through automation features such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for data capture, better compliance with invoicing regulations, and reduced processing costs by consolidating invoice handling within a single environment. It offers a centralized workload for accounts payable teams, enabling them to manage exceptions and approvals effectively.

However, it's crucial to understand that SAP CIM is currently only available for S/4HANA Cloud, Public Edition, and is included in the S/4HANA GROW, Premium edition, with a limitation of 20,000 invoices per year. This restricts its applicability for organizations using other S/4HANA deployments or those with higher invoice volumes. Furthermore, like SAP VIM, SAP CIM requires a separate license for SAP Document Reporting & Compliance (DRC) to achieve full regulatory e-invoice compliance and access to the Peppol network. This adds additional cost and complexity to implementations.

It's also important to note that CIM is a relatively new solution and, as such, is not yet as sophisticated or feature-rich as established solutions like Basware. While SAP has stated its intention to further develop and enhance CIM's capabilities by 2027, this leaves a significant gap in functionality for organizations seeking advanced AP automation capabilities now. Basware already offers a mature and comprehensive suite of AP automation tools, including advanced AI and ML capabilities, global e-invoicing compliance features, and extensive supplier network connectivity. These features are available today, providing immediate benefits to organizations looking to optimize their AP processes without waiting for future developments.

Choosing Basware allows businesses to leverage cutting-edge technology and best-in-class functionality, rather than waiting several years for comparable capabilities to mature within the SAP CIM solution. This can provide a significant competitive advantage and accelerate the realization of ROI from AP automation.

Basware vs SAP Concur Invoicing

SAP Concur Invoicing is a cloud-based solution designed to automate and streamline the AP process, integrating seamlessly with SAP Concur's travel and expense management capabilities. It allows organizations to capture invoices in various formats (paper, electronic, email), automate data entry using OCR technology, and establish customizable approval workflows to ensure timely payments and compliance. Key features include automated invoice capture, intelligent approval routing, integration with financial systems (including SAP), robust compliance and policy enforcement, real-time analytics and reporting for spend visibility, and mobile accessibility for on-the-go management.

SAP positions Concur Invoice for Small and Medium Businesses (SMB) and Concur Expense. Like VIM and CIM, Concur requires a separate license for SAP Document Reporting & Compliance (DRC) to achieve full regulatory e-invoice compliance and access to the Peppol network. Hence, for SMBs, the Basware solution provides an alternative to Concur. It's worth noting that Basware is more mature and incorporates AI and compliance features, supporting the case for being a more valuable tool.



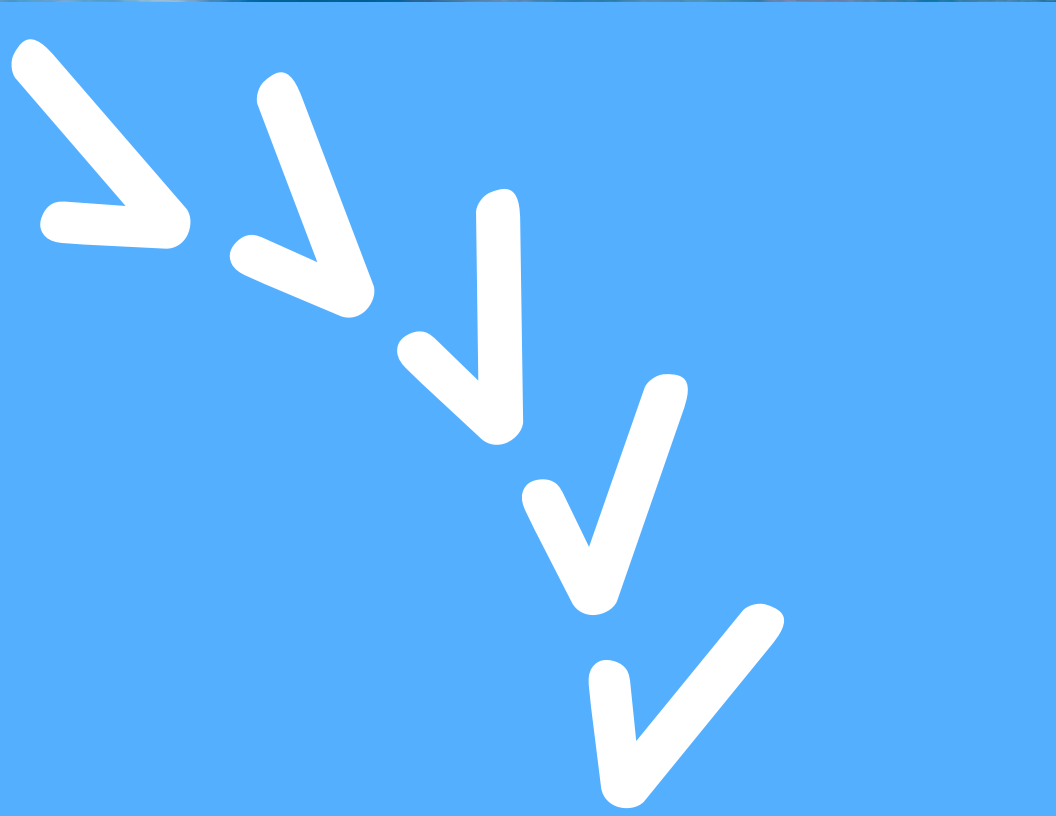
Choosing Basware allows businesses to leverage cutting-edge technology and best-in-class functionality

Which Solution is Optimal for Your Organization?

The table below provides a summary of the considerations for organisations selecting an AP solution to complement their SAP S/4HANA deployment. Finance and IT leaders should consider the overall ERP landscape, the size and complexity of their operations and the desired level of automation and innovative technology when selecting the most appropriate solutions.

A primary determining factor for organisations is the ERP landscape.

Solution Selection	Key Considerations
Basware	• Automation and advanced use cases are a top priority • Multi-ERP environments (SAP and non-SAP) are in scope • Large global organization • Built-in Compliance and e-Invoicing mandates are important • Multiple procurement solutions will be used • Early deployment and decoupling of AP from S/4HANA migration is desirable • Large number of Non-PO Invoices
SAP Ariba and OpenText VIM	• Native integration with SAP is critical • No non-SAP environments are in scope • Large organization • Integrated P2P is important • P2P and AP can be linked to S/4HANA migration timelines • Built-in compliance requirements are less important (a separate DRC license is sufficient)
SAP CIM	• S/4HANA Public Cloud ERP (until 2027) • Small invoice volumes • No non-SAP environments are in scope • Built-in compliance requirements are less critical (a separate DRC license is sufficient)
SAP Concur Invoice	• Small and Medium Business • Already using/planning to use Concur Expense • Less complex business requirements • Built-in compliance requirements are less critical (a separate DRC license is sufficient)



Understanding ROI:

The Impact on Bottom Line

Understanding ROI: The Impact on Bottom Line

Many organizations find their AP departments burdened by manual processes. Tasks like data entry, invoice routing, and reconciliation are time-consuming, error-prone, and costly. This often leads to high processing costs, frequent errors, late payment penalties, and a lack of visibility into invoice status and spend. Furthermore, non-compliance can lead to legal consequences that can impact the organization's reputation. These challenges prevent AP teams from focusing on strategic initiatives that can drive real business value.

As a modern AP automation solution, Basware offers a powerful way to address these challenges and unlock significant ROI. Automating invoice management processes with Basware eliminates manual data entry and routing work, dramatically reduces processing time, and frees up AP staff. Touchless processing further streamlines operations and drives down costs. In addition, real-time visibility into invoice status and spend enables better cash flow management and more accurate forecasting. Automation enables organizations to capitalize on early payment discounts, resulting in substantial cost savings. All of these are forms of returns realized through the implementation of Basware.

The financial impact of AP automation through Basware can be transformative.

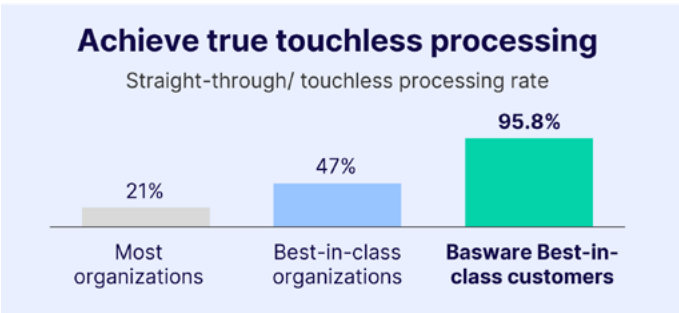
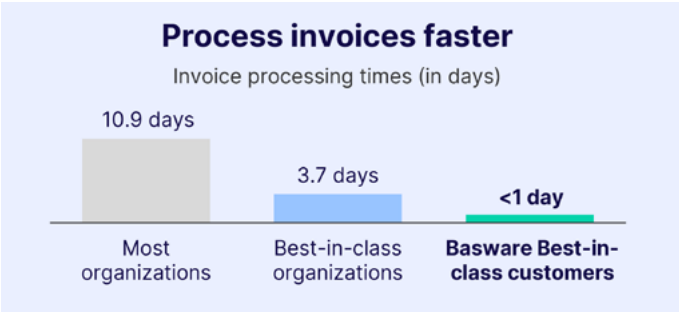
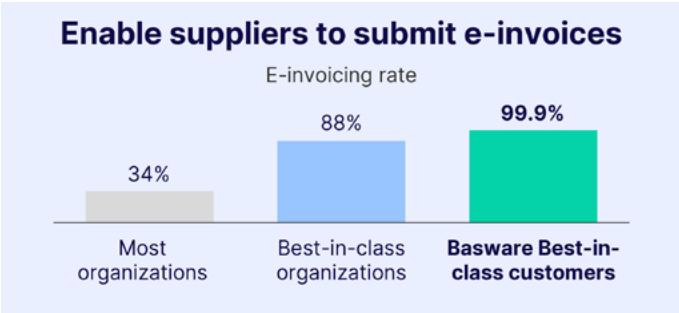
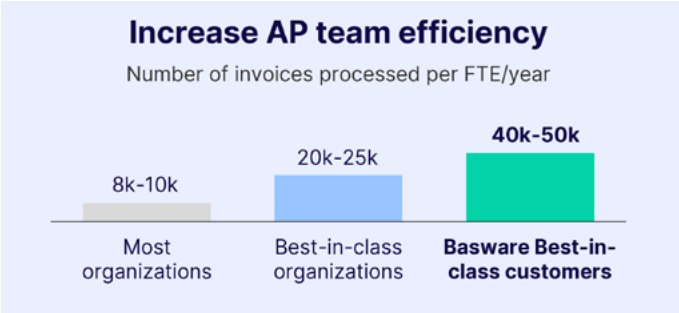
For example, invoice processing costs can **decrease by up to 80%**, which equates to about **\$30-35k in processing costs** per FTE/year. Average processing time can drop from weeks to just a few days, significantly improving efficiency. With Basware, this can be achieved in **less than 1 day**.

Additionally, error rates can plummet, and touchless processing increases while minimizing costly mistakes. With Basware, one can proudly say that the straight-through processing rate can be up to 95%. Organizations can capture a significantly higher percentage of available early payment discounts, directly impacting profitability. Additionally, e-invoicing compliance rates of up to 99.7% can be achieved using Basware.



Automating invoice management processes with Basware eliminates manual data entry and routing work, dramatically reduces processing time, and frees up AP staff

Typical benefits Basware customers achieve

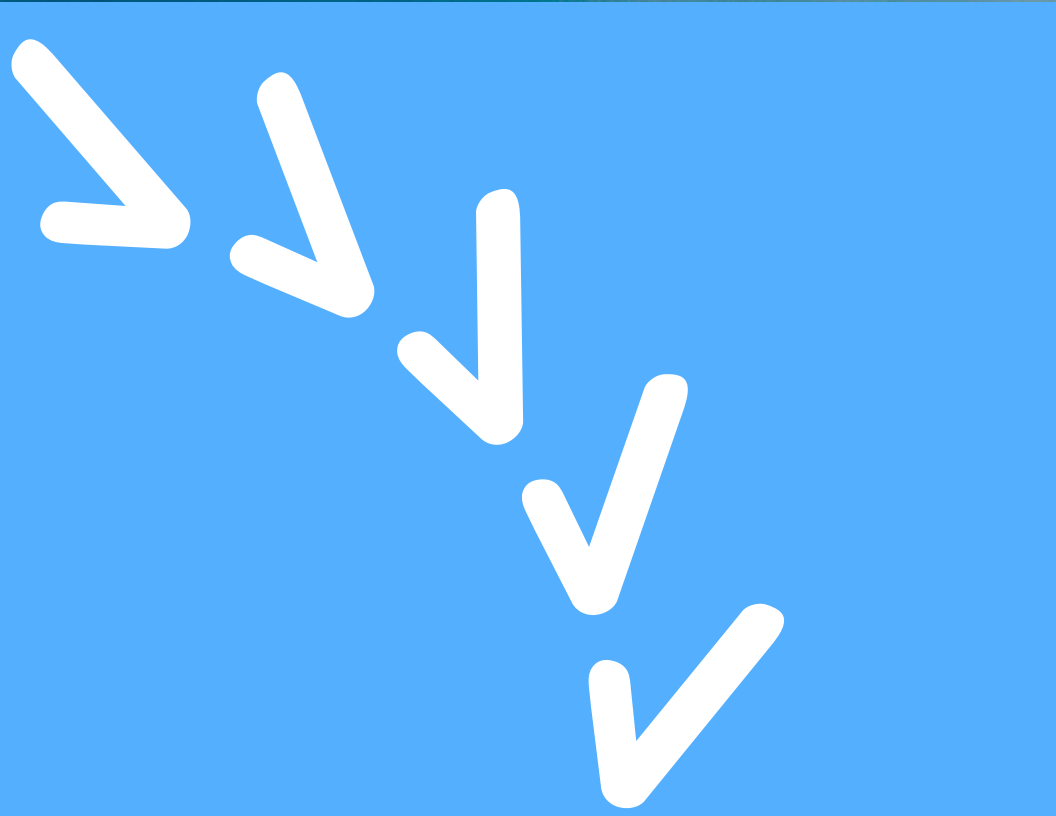


Beyond the quantifiable financial benefits, AP automation also delivers valuable qualitative improvements. AP staff are freed from tedious manual tasks and can focus on more strategic activities, increasing job satisfaction. Supplier relationships benefit from faster and more accurate payments. Enhanced visibility and control strengthen compliance and reduce the risk of fraud.

In conclusion, Basware offers a compelling ROI and a powerful way to transform AP departments. By automating invoicing processes, enhancing visibility, and enabling early payment discounts, organizations can achieve significant cost savings, improve efficiency, and strengthen financial performance. Investing in AP automation is a strategic decision that can contribute significantly to an organization's success.



Note: Best –in-class organizations based in research conducted by Ardent Partners, Hackett Group and APQC; Basware figures based on internal benchmarking database.



Take the Next Step:

**Accelerate
Your AP with
Basware**

Take the Next Step: Accelerate Your AP with Basware

In conclusion, this paper has explored the evolving landscape of accounts payable, highlighting the pressures faced by modern finance organizations and the transformative potential of AP automation. With its comprehensive suite of cloud-based solutions, Basware emerges as a powerful partner for SAP users, offering an integrated approach to optimize the invoice lifecycle.

By leveraging Basware's advanced capabilities, including AI-powered automation, global e-invoicing compliance, and seamless integration with S/4HANA, organizations can address existing gaps in their AP processes, drive significant improvements in efficiency, accuracy, and control, and ultimately unlock substantial ROI. From reducing processing costs and errors to strengthening compliance and supplier relationships, Basware empowers finance teams to transition from a cost center to a strategic powerhouse, driving business value and enabling future growth.

The strategic choice between solutions like Basware, SAP VIM, SAP CIM, and Concur hinges on factors such as ERP landscape, company size, and desired level of automation. Ultimately, embracing innovative solutions like Basware is not merely an operational improvement but a strategic imperative for organizations seeking to thrive in increasingly complex environments and growing competition.



With Basware's AI-powered automation, global compliance, and smooth S/4HANA integration, organizations can close AP gaps and boost efficiency, accuracy, and control



2024



Leader

MarketScape:
Worldwide AP
Automation Software
– Large Enterprise

2025

Gartner®

Leader

Gartner® Magic
Quadrant™ for
Accounts Payable
Applications

2024

FORRESTER®

Leader

WAVE: Accounts
Payable Invoice
Automation



4.8 Star Reviews
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Basware is how the world's best finance teams gain complete control of every invoice, every time. Our Intelligent Invoice Lifecycle Management Platform ensures end-to-end efficiency, compliance and control for all invoice transactions. Powered by the world's most sophisticated invoice-centric AI – trained on over 2 billion invoices – Basware's Intelligent Automation drives real ROI by transforming finance operations. We serve 6,500+ customers globally and are trusted by industry leaders including DHL, Heineken and Sony. Fueled by 40 years of specialized expertise with \$10+ trillion in total spend handled, we are pioneering the next era of finance. With Basware, now it all just happens. ©Basware 2025

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