

PUBLIC

## Podcast: SAP BTP Talk

Episode 110 – Empower organizations to maintain a secure digital landscape with SAP BTP Security services.



Fig. 1 – Cover art of SAP BTP Talk podcast



## Transcript

**Gaurav:** Namaste and welcome to the 8th podcast episode of the year 2024. On behalf of the whole SAP family, I would like to thank you for tuning in. It's August, the month where we celebrate historical events, honor traditions, and raise awareness about important issues. Today, we are zooming in on a topic that's critical for any organization operating in the digital world: security. Specifically, we will be diving [00:01:00] into SAP BTP security services, and it's a must listen for everyone working with or considering the SAP Business Technology Platform. And we have an expert joining us today from the SAP Security Solutions team. So stay tuned for that.

But first let's talk about what's new in SAP BTP. other SAP BTP services we have picked for you. This time from Joule, the Joule booster has been updated. If you run the Joule booster, a Joule formation is created in the system landscape in BTP. The formation includes the Joule system and the selected systems.

A note to mention, customers who have already set up the integration with Joule need not run the booster again. The existing integration will continue to work seamlessly. However, if you want to make changes to the existing setup, [00:02:00] such as include or exclude a system, you must run the Joule Booster again. On ABAP environment, you can now expose APIs via Unified Customer Landscape for the usage in the SAP Business Application Studio and SAP Build. You can do this by creating packages and assigning them to the required APIs in the ABAP Development Tools for Eclipse. Until now. Any image file larger than 5 MB was rejected when uploaded to the image widget of SAP Build WorkZone Advanced Edition, and it wouldn't be recognized as an image when uploaded to Workspace content.

With the new behavior, for images uploaded to the content folder, a preview is available for images up to 20 MB. Above 20 MB, a preview will not be available. So, for the images uploaded directly to the image widget, 20 MB is the new [00:03:00] size limit. These were just a few selections from the list of items that are new to SAP BTP services.

To know more, take a look at the links mentioned in the show notes.

Now moving to the section where we invite guests to discuss on some selected topics. And this time, we discuss how security features and BTP can support the security policies of your organization. Joining us today is Juergen Adolf, an expert in SAP Security Solutions.



Juergen, welcome to the show.

**Juergen:** Thank you, Gaurav. It's great to be here and talk about such a crucial topic.

**Gaurav:** Great. Glad to have you, Juergen.

Whenever we invite experts in our podcast, we play a fun, small game with them. Do you want to give it a try?

**Juergen:** Yes, let's try it.

**Gaurav:** Great. So, the game is, you give me [00:04:00] two or three words, could be something that you see right now, and I will create a joke with them. Great. If you laugh, I win. And if you don't, you win.

And I can put the blame on the generative AI tool that I used. So are you ready?

**Juergen:** Yes, I'm ready. sounds interesting. And so I see a rucksack, uh, the, a picture of the Eiffel Tower...

**Gaurav:** okay.

**Juergen:** and an iPhone and a lamp.

**Gaurav:** Okay. And a lamp. Okay. Let's see what the AI tool says. Why did the rucksack bring an iPhone and a lamp to the Eiffel Tower? Because it wanted to light up its selfies and carry them in style.

**Juergen:** Okay, curated in style, huh? That's interesting.

**Gaurav:** So not that funny I should say, yeah? [00:05:00] Great. So my AI tool needs a bit more of a training.

**Juergen:** Well, I hope you can do so in the next sessions with the other participants.

**Gaurav:** So listeners, if the words matched to what you also see, give us a shout out on social media channels. And if you find a better joke, also post that. Our social media handles are in the show notes.



Now we resume back to the topic for which we invited Juergen to the talk. And as I mentioned that today, our focus would be exploring SAP BTP security services, which helps enterprises secure the cloud with built in capabilities from SAP BTP.

Juergen, before we get into the specifics, can you please start by giving us an overview of SAP BTP and its security framework?

**Juergen:** Absolutely. SAP BTP, our SAP Business Technology Platform we're talking about, is a comprehensive suite [00:06:00] of solutions that helps organizations integrate the data, build applications upon and extend their landscapes both SAP landscapes and non SAP landscapes. But what really sets SAP BTP apart is the fact that it's built with security at its core.

And that's what we are talking about today. The Business Technology Platform incorporates state of the art security features and privacy capabilities. directly into its architecture from the ground up. This means organizations using the platform can rely on built in security measures that are designed to protect the data, ensure compliance, and provide secure access.

When we talk about SAP security services, we are looking at the broad spectrum of capabilities. They support organizational security policies from user [00:07:00] authentication and identity lifecycle management to data protection and secure connectivity. All of these elements work together to provide a holistic security framework for our entire BTP ecosystem.

**Gaurav:** Wonderful. And I'm sure that sounds comprehensive. So, Security isn't something that's added later. It's baked in from the beginning,

**Juergen:** Exactly. SAP BTP has been developed securely with built in privacy and security features from the ground up. Whether you're developing an application, integrating systems, or managing data, security is an integral part of every process.

**Gaurav:** rightly said, Juergen. Let's start with securing user access and permissions. How does SAP BTP handle authentication and authorization across its services?

**Juergen:** That's a great question. At the [00:08:00] heart of BTP's security framework are these SAP Cloud Identity Services. They include several key components. We have the Identity Authentication Service, the Identity Provisioning Service, the Authorization Management Service, and the Identity Directory as a base component.



So let me shortly explain them, starting with the Identity Authentication Service. This service ensures that users are authenticated correctly before accessing any of the platform's resources. It's designed to support single sign on and integrates with various identity providers which are in the market.

This makes it easier for organizations to manage user identities securely. Next, we have the Identity Provisioning Service, which is responsible for managing the [00:09:00] life cycle of identities. It automates the provisioning and the deprovisioning of users across different systems. It ensures that access rights are up to date and consistent with organizational policies you have in your company.

Then, There's also the Authorization Management Service, which controls what authenticated users can do within the platform. This service allows organizations to implement fine grained access controls. These controls ensure that users only have access to the resources they need to perform their roles.

And finally, the Identity Directory serves as a central repository for managing user identities and permissions. All these services work together to form a robust [00:10:00] identity and access management framework, ensuring secure user access and permissions across the entire SAP BTP landscape.

**Gaurav:** I must say that's a lot of components working together. So how does this setup benefit organizations in terms of security? If you can put light on that.

**Juergen:** Yeah, The biggest benefit is that it ensures consistent security policies across all SAP BTP services. Whether a user is accessing an analytics tool, a data service, or a custom application built on the platform, the same security controls apply. This unified approach simplifies identity management, reduces the risk of unauthorized access, and provides organizations with greater visibility and control over [00:11:00] who is accessing what.

**Gaurav:** Before we come to the next topic, when using SAP Cloud Identity Services, let's say for authentication, provisioning and authorization, can organizations continue using their existing third party or legacy components maybe like a central user store with these services.

**Juergen:** That's a great question, and customers ask it very often. And the answer is yes. SAP Cloud Identity Services are designed to be flexible and interoperable with third party and legacy systems. For example, if an organization already has a central user store, such as an LDAP directory or an active directory, they can integrate it, with SAP Cloud Identity Services.



How is [00:12:00] this done? Through standard protocols like SAML, OAuth or OpenID Connect, SAP's Identity Authentication Service can federate authentication with external identity providers. This allows organizations to maintain their existing identity infrastructure. Similarly, the Identity Provisioning Service can sync user data with third party systems.

This ensures that user identities are managed consistently across all platforms our customers have in use. This flexibility ensures that organizations don't need to rip and replace their existing systems when adopting SAP BTP. Instead, they can integrate their current solutions with SAP Cloud Identity [00:13:00] Services, allowing them to leverage the best of both worlds, continued use of their familiar tools while benefiting from SAP's robust cloud security capabilities.

**Gaurav:** Wonderful. That's reassuring for organizations with, you know, established identity infrastructures. It sounds like SAP BTP's security services offer both flexibility and future proofing.

**Juergen:** Exactly. It's all about ensuring that organizations can transition to the cloud at their own pace while maintaining the security and compliance they need.

**Gaurav:** Juergen, now that we have covered user access, let's talk about secure connectivity; which is, again, very crucial. How does SAP BTP ensure that communication between different systems, whether on premise or in the cloud, is [00:14:00] secure?

**Juergen:** Yeah, this is another critical area where the technology platform excels. Secure connectivity is ensured through a combination of services. Each service is designed to protect different aspects of communication and data transfer. First, we have the connectivity service, which provides secure communication between SAP BTP applications and external systems.

This includes both cloud to cloud and cloud to on premise connections, which are essential for hybrid environments, for example. To manage these connections of the connectivity service, we use the destination service. This service securely stores the connection details and credentials needed to access the external systems.

In this way, it ensures that sensitive [00:15:00] information is protected. Then there's the cloud connector, which is another vital component that enables secure communication between SAP BTP and on premise systems. It acts as a reverse proxy, establishing a secure tunnel between on premise systems and SAP BTP. It



certifies that data is encrypted in transit and that the connection is protected from unauthorized access.

Additionally, we also have the credential store service, which securely stores sensitive credentials such as API keys, certificates, and passwords. This service ensures that these credentials are encrypted and managed securely across the entire platform. Finally, the custom domain service allows organizations to apply their [00:16:00] own domains to their SAP BTP applications.

It ensures secure and consistent communication that aligns with corporate branding and security policies. By controlling the domains, organizations can also implement SSL TLS encryption, further securing data in transit.

**Gaurav:** Very beautifully articulated, Juergen. And it won't be wrong if I say that SAP BTP covers all bases when it comes to secure communication. My question is, how does this setup support compliance with regulations and standards?

**Juergen:** Great point. Secure connectivity and encryption are fundamental to meeting various regulatory requirements. By encryption both in transit and at rest, SAP BTP helps organizations comply with regulations [00:17:00] like GDPR, the European General Data Protection Regulation, and HIPAA, the US Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

and other regulations that require stringent data protection measures too. The combination of these services ensures that data is always protected, no matter where it's going or how it's being used.

**Gaurav:** Wonderful, and this is great to hear. We have talked about accesses and connectivity, but compliance is a huge concern for many organizations today, Juergen. What kind of compliance services or are there any compliance services that SAP BTP offers?

**Juergen:** Yeah, compliance is a key focus area of SAP BTP. The platform provides several services specifically designed to help organizations meet their compliance requirements.[00:18:00]

**Gaurav:** Wonderful.

**Juergen:** Let us start with the audit log service. This service tracks user activities and system changes across the platform. It creates a comprehensive audit trail that is essential for compliance audits.



Organizations can easily access these logs to verify compliance with internal policies and external regulations. Next, we have data privacy integration, which helps organizations manage data privacy in line with regulations such as GDPR or HYPER. This service includes features like deletion orchestration, information reporting, anonymization, and consent management.

There's also the malware scanning service, which scans files and data being uploaded to the business technology platform [00:19:00] for malicious content. This is especially important for organizations dealing with sensitive data. It helps prevent security breaches caused by malware. In addition to these services, SAP BTP and its underlying infrastructure holds various certifications and attestations, including ISO 2701, SOC 1213, and others.

These certifications demonstrate SAP's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of security and compliance. They give customers peace of mind that their data and operations are secure. Customers can view the attestations and certifications in the SAP Trust Center.

**Gaurav:** Great. Thanks, Juergen. And we'll also link the location of the SAP Trust [00:20:00] Center in the show notes, feel free to check them out as well. So, Juergen, if an organization needs to comply with, say, GDPR or HIPAA, SAP BTP can help them meet those requirements? Is that understanding correct?

**Juergen:** Exactly. SAP BTP's compliance services provide the tools and capabilities organizations need to comply with a wide range of laws, regulations, and industry standards. By using these services, organizations can ensure that their operations and data handling practices are fully compliant. It reduces the risk of legal issues and fines.

**Gaurav:** Oh, wow. That's music to my ears, at least.

Beyond these specific services we have talked about so far, Juergen, how does SAP help organizations implement best practices for securing their BTP environment?[00:21:00]

**Juergen:** Yeah. SAP provides comprehensive security guidance to help organizations secure their SAP BTP environments. This guidance includes best practices, security recommendations, and tools that support the secure configuration and operation of BTP services in their landscape, whether it's implementing strong encryption protocols, managing access control policies, or ensuring secure communication, SAP offers detailed security recommendations to help organizations stay secure. One



exciting development we had this year in this area is the integration of security services with SAP Cloud ALM.

SAP Cloud ALM is SAP's application lifecycle management tool. It now includes features such as [00:22:00] configuration and security analysis. It is the base for a SAP Analytics cloud based template, which customers can use of a configuration dashboard. This dashboard helps organizations to monitor and analyze the security configurations of their BTP services. This integration allows organizations to identify security gaps, receive alerts about potential vulnerabilities, and take proactive measures to secure their environment.

**Gaurav:** Great. So with these tools, it sounds like organizations have everything they need to manage their security effectively. Would you say SAP BTP makes security easier for companies?

**Juergen:** Absolutely. SAP BTP provides not only the technical capabilities to secure your operations, but also the [00:23:00] guidance and tools to ensure that those capabilities are being used effectively. The goal is to make security as seamless and manageable as possible, so that organizations can focus on innovation and growth, while knowing their security needs are covered already.

**Gaurav:** Rightly said, Juergen. Let's make this concrete for our listeners. Can you share some real world examples of how organizations are using SAP BTP security services?

**Juergen:** Sure. One example is a global manufacturing company that wanted to modernize its IT landscape by moving to the cloud. They used SAP BTP security services to ensure that their transition was secure by leveraging Identity Authentication and Provisioning. They ensured that only [00:24:00] authorized users could access their cloud applications. And they used the connectivity services to securely link their on premise systems with their new cloud environments.

Another example comes from the financial sector. A leading bank used SAP BTP's compliance services to protect sensitive customer data and meet regulatory requirements. By using the audit log service and data privacy integration, they were able to ensure that all customer interactions were locked, secured and compliant with industry standards.

And in the area of healthcare, a provider used SAP security services To protect patient data, they implemented encryption and role based access controls to safeguard sensitive information. They used the cloud connector to ensure secure



communication [00:25:00] between their on premise and cloud systems. This was crucial for their compliance with HIPAA.

**Gaurav:** Awesome. Those are really great examples, Juergen, that you shared. It really shows how security isn't just a technical necessity, it's a business enabler.

**Juergen:** Exactly. When organizations have robust security in place, they can innovate and scale with confidence, knowing that the data, users, and systems are protected.

**Gaurav:** We have a varied set of listeners tuning in today, Jürgen, like CXOs, architects, consultants, developers, and many more. Many of them are probably wondering, how to get started or implement SAP BTP security services in their own environments. Are there any blueprints, reference architectures, or let's say SAP Discovery Center missions that they can refer to for [00:26:00] an end to end real time scenario?

**Juergen:** Absolutely, Gaurav. SAP provides a wealth of resources to help organizations at every state of their journey. One of the best places to start is the SAP Discovery Center; maybe we can link it in the show notes. Here you'll find guided missions that cover a wide range of use cases, including those specifically focused on security.

These missions for security provide a step by step approach, completed with best practices, reference architectures, and hands on exercises. For instance, there are missions that focus on setting up secure authentication SAP Cloud Identity Services or configuring secure connectivity between cloud and on premise systems.

These resources are designed for a wide range of roles, from architects needing a high level [00:27:00] blueprint to developers looking for detailed implementation guides. Additionally, SAP's reference architecture. Documents provide end to end scenarios that show how different SAP BTP services, including security, can be integrated to meet business needs.

These blueprints help organizations understand the bigger picture and ensure that they are implementing SAP solutions in a way that aligns with industry standards and SAP's best practices. So whether you are a CTO looking for guidance or a developer seeking technical details , these resources are tailored to help you successfully implement SAP BTP security services in your landscape.



**Gaurav:** Awesome, this is great. Well, Juergen, this has been incredibly insightful and I think our listeners now have a much clearer picture of [00:28:00] how SAP BTP security services work and why they are so critical to digital transformation efforts. Any final thoughts for our audience?

**Juergen:** Thank you, Gaurav, for having me. My final thought would be this. In today's digital landscape, security isn't just an IT concern, it's a business priority. With SAP BTP security services, organizations get a comprehensive built in security framework that supports their security policies, helps them meet compliance requirements, and ultimately allows them to innovate securely.

The combination of identity management, secure connectivity, data protection, and compliance services makes SAP BTP a strong foundation for any organization looking to succeed in the cloud.

**Gaurav:** Very well said, Juergen. And [00:29:00] I'm sure that with these inputs from you, our listeners must have definitely gained knowledge on the topic of security and how crucial it is for the enterprises. I would like to again thank you for taking out time from your schedule and enlightening our listeners. Thank you so much, Juergen.

**Juergen:** Thank you, Gaurav, for having me. It was a pleasure talking to you.

**Gaurav:** Indeed, pleasure is ours. I would also like to highlight to our listeners that if you have any further pressing questions around this, please refer the show notes. There we have given some important links to help you get started or give us a shout out on our social media channels. Plus, you can also drop us an email at [platformtalks at sap. com](mailto:platformtalks@sap.com).

**Gaurav:** That concludes our 8th episode of the year 2024. and number 110 of SAP BTP Talk. [00:30:00] I would really like to thank you again for tuning in and staying till the very end. If you were listening to us for the first time and there were terms like HIPAA, UCL, SSL, TLS and so on that were not clear to you, please let us know on our social media channels or drop us an email at [platformtalks at sap. com](mailto:platformtalks@sap.com) so that we can help you understand them. Plus, we are always ears to your feedback. So let us know what you liked, what you didn't, and most importantly, what you wish for in the next podcast. Sharing is caring. If you agree to that, please share the podcast with your tech friends and family. Don't forget to subscribe to the podcast.



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Cheers.

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