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## Podcast SAP CodeTalk – Mamikee Kanneh Transcription

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**Mamikee:** Welcome back to another SAP Code Talk. I'm here with Sebastiano, an SAP champion, who's going to talk a little bit about his journey within BTP and just within the community. Sebastiano, would you mind introducing yourself?

**Sebastiano:** Yes, of course. Thank you for inviting me—it's an honour. I'm Sebastiano, currently specialised in BTP. My story started with SAPUI5 and Fiori, then I moved into CDS and HANA DB, and eventually full-stack ABAP. I've been working with SAP for about seven years, and I'm truly enthusiastic about the SAP community and technology in general.

**Mamikee:** Nice now as someone who has worked hands-on with BTP in hackathons and client projects how do you explain the value of SAP BTP to new developers or like customers who are just starting their cloud journey?

**Sebastiano:** Okay, for sure. Thank you for the question. I've been thinking about that in particular because I'm focused on sharing knowledge with new people in SAP—those who are just starting. I want to say to them that sometimes SAP can seem like a straight path, like a very vertical path. But with BTP, especially for new developers, you don't have to think like that. For example, you can start a CAP project or use technologies like Node.js and Java—these are new technologies. You can also use Python in BTP to create your models, your AI models, etc. And that's cool! And for customers—everything new is happening in BTP. Your S/4HANA is solid, your ERP is solid. But everything SAP is doing that's new—like AI, machine learning, cloud computing, all this new technology—it's being built using S/4HANA and also BTP. So you need to use BTP to expand your technology and move forward into the new innovations.

**Mamikee:** Yeah, and I completely agree. It's new technology, and with BTP, it allows you to be able to run smoother, especially with all the cloud going on now. So now, I know that you had mentioned you do some mentoring junior developers, especially those that are new to SAP BTP. Now, what are the technical foundations do you recommend that they master first, and why?

**Sebastiano:** Okay, my suggestion is to start with what's currently the hot topic—CAP. With CAP, you can create front-end applications, and you can also build a strong foundation for your back end. The language we usually use is Node.js. It's a technology you can use for everything. For example, on Cloud Foundry, you can implement an application using Node.js. It's actually my favourite language because Node.js is JavaScript—and that's that. I think you should start there. Another piece of advice I want to give to everyone approaching SAP BTP—something that helped me a lot—is to learn and understand what “Destinations” are. A destination in BTP is what allows you to connect to external systems, services, etc. So learn what a destination is and use CAP. And of course, go to the SAP Developer site. It's really well made. There are step-by-step guides that help you create your first app—not just a “Hello World,” but your first full CAP project. It's amazing.

**Mamikee:** Yeah, um, I've played around with CAP, and I can say it's one of those tools that someone who's learning and getting into the BTP ecosystem—or even the broader SAP ecosystem—would really be interested in. So, as we know, SAP BTP evolves really fast. Which services or tools within SAP BTP—like Workflow, Business Rules, or CAP—do you think are underrated and should get more attention from developers?

**Mamikee (cont.):** Yeah which do you think like they are underrated or and should get more attention from developers like workflow business rules or CAP?

**Sebastiano:** Let me think about that. I think for underrated services—okay—I'm actually preparing a speech for one of the upcoming SAP Inside Track events about this. I'm not an AI expert, okay, but I'm using AI, I'm learning it, and right now with SAP, I cannot create AI models from scratch. But if you search, there are two services—Document Information Extraction and, I think, Attribute Extraction. I might be mixing up the names a bit. The point is, you don't need to know AI to use AI in BTP. These services already have AI built-in. You just use the API, and SAP has already done the heavy lifting for you. They're plug-and-play, and honestly, they're really, really good. We're using them in our project and they're incredible. Another service that I think is underrated is creating Business Rules using SAP Build Process Automation. For older developers, it's similar to BRFPplus. At the same time, you can create what we used to call customizing tables in BTP, and then use the API to retrieve the information. If you're an advanced user—or as we say, an SAP citizen—you can even upload an Excel file and retrieve the data from there. I think that's really cool.

**Mamikee:** Nice. Now, earlier you mentioned that you worked a little bit with ABAP. How do you feel with ABAP in cloud? How do you feel with that within the BTP system and everything?

**Sebastiano:** Okay. I just want to clarify something because people often get confused. When you say ABAP Cloud, a lot of people assume you mean ABAP on BTP, okay? But not all the time—ABAP Cloud can also be used in your S/4HANA system. It's more of a way of thinking, a new way of developing. Everyone is learning how to do it. Don't be afraid to make mistakes at the beginning. Just start coding. Maybe you have a hundred or a million custom functions—start with one simple one. Try to translate it into ABAP Cloud using the trial system and apply the clean-core approach with the new framework.

**Mamikee:** Yeah, yeah. Now, looking ahead, what skills or mindsets should any up-and-coming SAP developer build to stay relevant—not just technically with BTP, but also in how they contribute to teams and the wider ecosystem?

**Sebastiano:** Okay, okay, I like this question. Let's not talk only about technology, let's talk about what we're actually doing. You know what? I'll take an example from my own story. I studied computer science, but I didn't like development at first. I didn't want to be a developer. So I moved into consulting. And consulting helped me fall back in love with development, because working in the field is very different from studying. One of the first turning points for me was going to an SAP Inside Track. There, I met people from different companies and backgrounds, but also people who were really enthusiastic about SAP. One of the most important skills you need is communication. Not just being a good speaker but building a network. Be curious. Don't be afraid to message someone on LinkedIn or in the SAP Community. Ask questions. Love what you do, or at least like it enough to be curious. Those are the key skills. Be curious, share, and ask. Don't be afraid to ask. You'll often find great people in the community who will help you. And you'll learn a lot. That's my advice.

**Mamikee:** Now, you being an SAP Champion, you've obviously contributed a lot to the SAP Community Forums and everything like that. For someone who's just getting into the community and trying to find answers or figure out where to start, what advice would you give them? You're a pretty extensive contributor, so how would you help someone get curious and active in the SAP community?

**Sebastiano:** Okay, this question is really connected to what I was saying before. When I went to my first SAP Inside Track, I met a lot of people who were genuinely excited about what we were doing. That's when I started to learn more about the community. At first, I used the SAP Community to learn new things. When I searched for answers, I started seeing certain names pop up again and again. People like DJ Adams—he's one of my heroes. All the SAP Developer Advocates are great, but the passion DJ puts into sharing knowledge really inspired me. (And yes, I've told him that!) So here's what you do: when you learn something or see something interesting, share it with your colleagues. That's how it starts. I have a group chat with my team where we share every useful blog post we come across. Then you can start sharing on LinkedIn. Write your first blog post. It's fun, maybe you document something you did or something you discovered. That's where it begins. From there, step by step, people start to recognize what you share. But

most importantly, you're learning from others too. It becomes a two-way street, conversations start, ideas get exchanged, and you're always learning something new. Maybe you did something in your project, and someone else solved a different challenge. That exchange is the real value. For me, that's the key or the trick.

**Mamikee:** Absolutely, I totally agree. Being able to have those conversations with other people in the community is so helpful. You get to meet new people, find out about upcoming events, and just be a part of the SAP Champions network. SAP Inside Track is such a great way to get involved. And I love your story—how you went to SAP Inside Track, got acquainted with others, and then just kept going from there. That's amazing. So, I have one last question—and this one's just for fun. If there was a fruit that you couldn't live without, what would it be? Like, what's that one fruit you just couldn't go without?

**Sebastiano:** That's nice—that changes all the time! Someone actually asked me this question once during a trip, and it's changed a few times since then. But I would say... banana. Because I'm a runner, okay? And before every race, they give you bananas to help you stay strong and energized during the run. Yes I love running. So banana would be the fruit I couldn't live without.

**Mamikee:** That's a good that's a good one banana I always hear people say like grapes or mangoes, but banana is a good one too.

**Sebastiano:** Simple

**Mamikee:** Simple exactly simple well thank you so much Sebastiano for allowing us to have you here for our SAP Code Talk and being one of our guests and we're excited to you know see what else you're up to. And I'm really excited to be a part of whatever you have going on or be able to see all the stuff that you've got going on within the SAP community. And thank you again for allowing us to have you as a guest for our SAP Code Talk.

**Sebastiano:** Thank you. Thank you so much. Bye.