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Do you need a certified security concept for the SAP HANA® landscape?

Expert tips for companies using SAP® Solutions



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Introduction

Centralized database and SAP® systems are an attractive target for cyber-criminals, because all mission-critical data and processes converge there.

As such, the switch to SAP HANA® entails new demands of the SAP® security concept.

Florian Lüffe, SAP HANA® Architect and security expert at T-Systems, answered questions from Helge Sanden, Editor-in-Chief of IT-Online-magazin, regarding the security challenges posed by SAP HANA® and SAP S/4HANA® projects and how to find out whether a company's security architecture is still a good match for the new features in SAP HANA®.

Florian Lüffe was one of the guests at the Expert Talk at the **IT-Onlinekonferenz 2020 "Wie machen es andere Unternehmen?" (How are other companies doing it?)**. He reported on the motivations, contents, and findings from his SAP HANA® security customer projects.

“SAP HANA® is not just a database; it is a full appliance, consisting of database, application server, and various interfaces. This requires completely new and different security precautions compared to other classical databases.”

Florian Lüffe
T-Systems International GmbH



Interview

Helge Sanden

Head editor
IT-Onlinemagazin



Florian Lüffe

SAP HANA® Architect
and security expert
T-Systems International GmbH

Mr. Lüffe, how good are SAP® systems secured against cyberattacks?

In general, SAP® systems offer a certain degree of basic security. It is comparable to your desktop workstation. Here the vendor also provides a basic security package. However, companies usually require more than this basic protection, since different user groups reside on the systems that require an authorization concept. The latest vulnerabilities, which can be exploited easily with the 10KBLAZE toolset, clearly show that enhanced security concepts are mandatory for SAP® systems. In particular, the fact that SAP® systems contain almost all business-critical data makes them a very popular target for criminals.

What additional risks arise as a result of migrating to a SAP HANA® or SAP S/4HANA® system?

The changeover to the “new world” brings a completely new cluster into your SAP® landscape. But we must not forget that SAP HANA® is not just a database; it is a full appliance, consisting of database, application server, and various interfaces. This requires completely new security precautions compared to other

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classical databases. In addition to the external security risks, internal aspects such as the user authorization concept and interface authorizations are of course also an important point. Here we deliver the necessary configurations of SAP HANA® directly in our SMART Security Framework.

What are the challenges when it comes to safeguarding the systems?

SAP HANA® security is a complex subject that is especially important, for example, because developers need direct access to the database for a variety of requirements. This direct interaction results in a fine line between necessary authorizations and security-relevant authorizations. For this reason, we build our concept on three pillars: the authorization concept, SAP HANA® configurations, and reporting.

In addition to mastering the technical challenges, to ensure that the people who interact with SAP HANA® are also on board, a workshop is a firm element of our concept, in which we get the customers on board through our road map and address their specific questions directly. Our template solution handles the complexity, while at the same time ensuring a personalized security concept.

How can customers find out whether their current security architecture is still a match for the new features in SAP HANA®?

Since SAP HANA® is a new kind of system, it also requires significant expansion of the current security concept. We support the customer with predefined roles and role templates, which make the start much easier and shorten the implementation period.



What can we expect from you at the IT-Onlinekonferenz 2020?

At the IT-Onlinekonferenz, I plan to provide further insights into our certified security concept "T-Systems SMART Security for SAP HANA® 3.0". This will include conveying our experiences from several customer projects and examining the challenges we faced along the way.

Can you reveal one of your key findings from customer projects ahead of time?

Many customers try to transfer their "old" SAP® authorization concepts directly to SAP HANA®, based on the mindset "it's just the database; I don't have to take care of it." This is no longer the case with SAP HANA®, of course, because although the old ABAP® authorizations seem similar,

it is an entirely different situation. That is why picking up, the right awareness of the customer is always a very important aspect of our SAP HANA® Security projects.

Is a certified security concept necessary?

Let me answer that question in two parts: Yes, you definitely need a security concept, but each customer can decide for themselves whether that concept really has to be certified. But isn't it much more reassuring to use a security concept that has been designed and certified according to the vendor's own criteria – SAP® in this case?

That's why we have had our solution certified by SAP®, to confirm our quality in conformity with the standards for our customers and thus make their choice easier. Nonetheless, it is also important

to look behind the curtains and use events like the IT-Onlinekonferenz to find out about the actual functions and use cases.

What do you think will be the dominant topic in the SAP® community in the next 12 months?

I think the focus will continue to shift toward SAP HANA® 2.0, where there are new challenges, especially in the security environment, due to the new XS Advanced structure. Here the role concept has to be extended again. Furthermore, I foresee that the SAP® Cloud Platform is also becoming more and more relevant. From my own experience, I can say that many of the test cases that have been developed on the platform in recent years are now being used by more and more companies.

This publication was written in collaboration with IT-Onlinemagazin and was first published on the online [IT-Onlinemagazin](https://www.it-onlinemagazin.de) website on December 16, 2019. "IT-Onlinemagazin.de" is a streamlined guide that concentrates on the economic benefits of appropriate SAP®, partner, and add-on solutions. It also provides valuable suggestions and ideas for your own area of business responsibility.

More information

Play it safe with T-Systems Smart Security 3.0 for SAP HANA®

Switching to SAP HANA® and SAP S/4HANA® goes along with new requirements for the SAP® security concept. Business-critical data and processes are now coming together in the digital core and are an interesting target for cybercriminals.

In this interview, Florian Lüffe, SAP® Security Consultant and SAP HANA® expert, reveals how SAP® user companies can secure themselves and their data with T-Systems Smart Security 3.0 for SAP HANA®, now also certified by SAP®.

[More information ...](#)

T-Systems SAP S/4HANA® Readiness Scan

An experienced and responsible partner like T-Systems will accompany you on your path into the digital age with end-to-end expertise – and most importantly, at the speed that is right for you.

To achieve this, we offer a comprehensive end-to-end SAP® transformation package in which we have brought together our best modular solutions in the areas of design, transformation and operation. We offer you a Readiness Preparation Workshop, Technical Readiness Scan and a Findings Workshop.

[More information ...](#)



About the author

Helge Sanden publishes the SAP® community portal “IT-Online-magazin.de” and founded “Forum for SAP®”, the largest SAP® group in XING with over 32,500 members. He has worked in the SAP® world since 2002 – he is an insider in the field, an author, and a speaker. He received a degree in computer sciences, meaning he also understands technology very well. In his publications, he places great value on portraying complex issues in a simple manner and focusing not on technology itself, but rather its practical benefits.



About Florian Lüffe (T-Systems expert)

Since 2015 Florian Lüffe is part of the SAP HANA® Architecture and Security Consulting chapter in the Portfolio Business Unit SAP® at T-Systems International GmbH a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom. He advised several national and international customers on SAP HANA® Security topics and implemented corresponding security concepts. After studying business informatics, he worked as a database expert, developer and architect in the SAP HANA® and SAP® cloud platform area. He is also a certified Blockchain Solution Architect and implemented such projects in SAP® supply chain management projects. In addition to his job, he is currently studying for a Master’s degree in General Management.

About T-Systems

T-Systems is one of the world’s leading digital service providers. It is based in Europe and offers integrated solutions for business customers. The company uses a global infrastructure of data centers and networks to operate information and communication technology. As a leading end-to-end service provider for SAP® solutions, it covers the entire value-added chain of the SAP® lifecycle. And it provides everything from a single source: from secure operation of existing systems and classic IT and telecommunications services to transformation to the cloud and SAP S/4HANA®, and from needs-based infrastructure, platforms, and software to new business models and innovation projects in the Internet of Things.

Further information is available at www.t-systems.com

Contact

E-mail: PU-SAP@t-systems.com
Internet: www.t-systems.com

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T-Systems International GmbH
Hahnstrasse 43d
60528 Frankfurt am Main, Germany