Winterhawk

"Implementing Process Control is almost like doing a blood test or a health check - if you don't test your controls, you are just assuming your system is healthy. You might say you don't feel good today but you don't really have an accurate picture of what's going on."
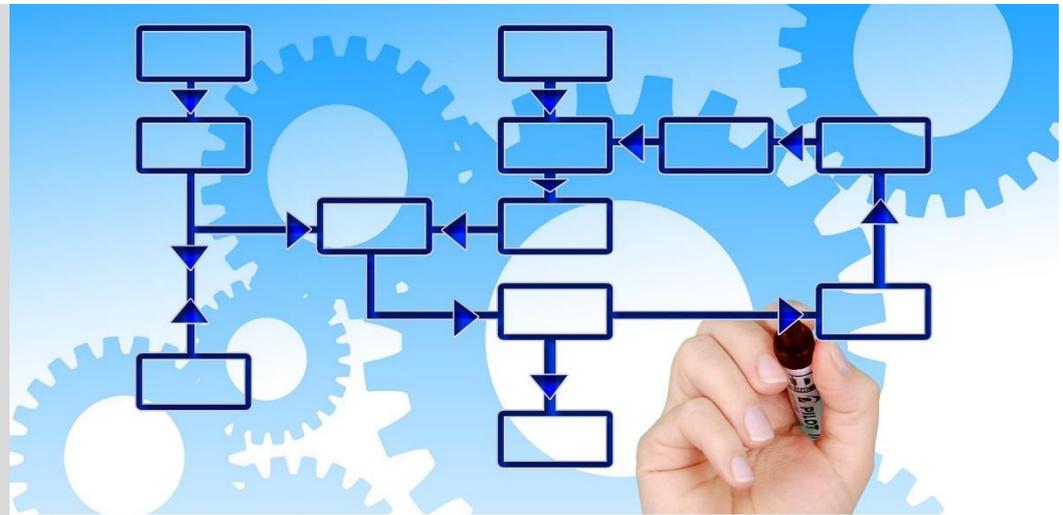
JAMES CHIU
SOLUTION OWNER, SAP

About Winterhawk

Winterhawk is a leading global consulting practice, supporting organisations in SAP Security, SAP GRC services and solutions (more than 20) across a variety of SAP environments including SAP R/3, Fieldglass, S/4HANA, ARIBA, SuccessFactors and Concur.

Winterhawk supports clients in 90 countries. We are proud to be innovative, independent, and cost-effective. Our services are complemented with deep domain expertise, content, accelerators, and toolkits.

Winterhawk is the Global Solution Partner for the United VARs Alliance (Platinum SAP Partners) servicing over 8,000 clients worldwide.

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HISTORY OF SAP SOLUTIONS: SAP PROCESS CONTROL

As part of our SAP solution spotlight series, Winterhawk spoke with SAP's James Chiu (Product Owner) about the ongoing development of SAP Process Control (PC).

What is SAP Process Control?

The SAP Process Control application helps to simplify and automate continuous control monitoring (CCM) across the enterprise. By facilitating the sharing of risk and control frameworks and data, it helps you prioritise control activities, ensure GRC information is always up to date, and achieve sustainable compliance at a lower cost.

What are the origins of SAP Process Control and who were the first adaptors?

It evolved out of a solution called Managed Internal Control (MIC) which was the product of an SAP internal project introduced to address Sarbanes Oxley (SOX). SOX was in the pipeline from 2004 /2005 and to comply with it, SAP built a tool internally and started selling it as MIC.

At this time, if you purchased SAP Enterprise Resource Planner (ERP), MIC was incorporated at no additional cost as it was included as part of the cross-application suite of products.

In 2007, SAP acquired Virsa who had a tool similar to the MIC; the decision was made to continue to invest in MIC but incorporate an automated control monitoring piece from the Versa design which MIC lacked. They wanted to link analytics to their control management tool, so SAP took some of their ideas and built Process Control version 2.5, They named the solution Process Control as it was a more generic name than calling it a SOX tool - plus, there were a large number of companies globally that needed help with their internal controls but didn't have SOX internal requirements.
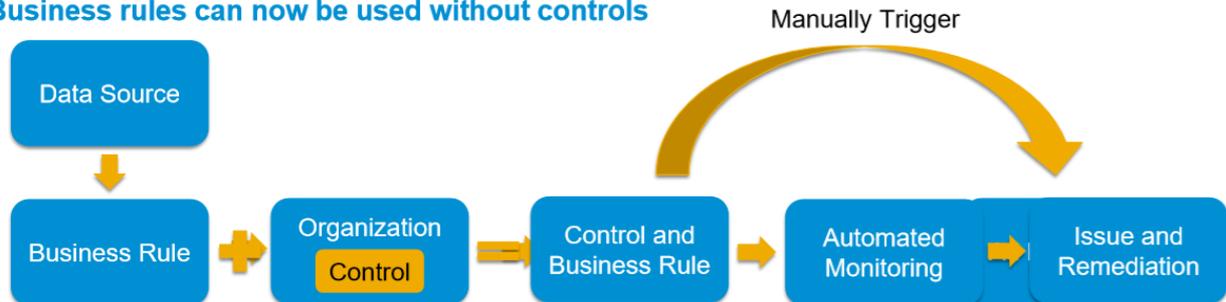
One of version 2.5's earliest customers was Chevron, which was already a big Access Control customer; they took up Process Control right away for global implementation. In 2009/2010, SAP introduced version 3.0 which offered greater integration with other parts of the suite. Further versions followed - 10.0, 10.1 and the latest release, version 12.0.

What's new with SAP Process Control?

New features in version 12 include stand-alone Continuous Controls Monitoring (CCM); this allows you to run the CCM without assigning the business roles to a control, which clients have found very useful. There is also a new look and feel to Fiori, and new Fiori applications being introduced shortly.

Continuous Control Monitor: Standalone Job

Business rules can now be used without controls

Manually Trigger

Data Source → Business Rule → Organization / Control → Control and Business Rule → Automated Monitoring → Issue and Remediation

- The business rule works independently of defined context
- Exceptions are generated based on the business rule
- A responsible user decides how to handle the exceptions by viewing results in the job monitor
- Issues are not created or routed automatically; instead, the user raises ad hoc issues if needed

How does SAP Process Control support the Intelligent Enterprise?

PC connects to the core of the Intelligent Enterprise using the S/4HANA Cloud and S/4HANA On-Premise solutions and can monitor configurations, master data changes as well as transactions. Process Control also contains many functionalities and features to facilitate compliance with the various Data Regulations and Policy Management.

Insights for C-Suite Executives

Compliance with SOX, and similar regulations around the world, is a regulatory requirement. CEOs and CFOs do not want to have material weaknesses in any of their internal controls framework so it is essential for these executives to comply and recertify every year.

What's the future of SAP Process Control?

One of the biggest opportunities for customers is the move to S/4HANA, which some larger customers may opt to complete in phases. SAP is working with them to guarantee that PC continues to monitor their ERP systems during the course of their migration projects, while continuing to ensure that the core of the Intelligent Enterprise complies with all their required regulations and that good internal controls are in place.

SAP is discussing Robotic Process Automation (RPA) with customers, how PC can monitor the transactions produced by these RPAs. There are also customer consultations on connectivity with cloud solutions such as Ariba, Concur, as more and more organisations are rolling them out.

Get in touch

SAP Process Control helps protect organisations from internal fraud and non-compliance against a range of regulations and improves organisational efficiency when integrated with your business processes.

For rapid deployment or support services, speak to the experts at **Winterhawk**.