Focused Build FAQs

Focused Build - General questions

Which target groups does Focused Build address?

- Customers with significant amount of development
- Customers implementing SAP S/4HANA and digital solutions
- Customers with digital transformation
- Customers with complex landscapes
- Customers requesting agile methodologies and tooling (with optional JIRA Integration)

Who is a Focused Build user?

Only users who actually work with the solution need to be licensed. In Focused Build, users with the following functions are counted individually:

Development & Test Team

- Users of the following transaction types
  - Work Package and Work Item
  - Release
  - Test request
  - Test plan assignment analysis and generation

Project Management

- Users the following functions
  - Projects of Focused Build project types
  - Risks

Solution Documentation

- All users of DropDoc

Dashboards

- All users viewing dashboards
- Solution Readiness Dashboard
- Operational Dashboard
- Test Management Dashboard

Stand-Alone Enhancements

- All transport owners using the following functions
  - Retrofit for BW
  - Stand-alone retrofit
  - Retrofit automation
  - Batch import
  - Test system refresh
  - Ready to test and Reassign tester functions
  - Re-pack functionality

Duplicates are removed. The result is the number of named users that need a license. Named users who execute functions of focused solutions are counted with the standard license auditing processes of SAP. The maximum of required licenses per installation is 100. The maximum of required licenses per installation is 100.

How can I define the number of required users? What is SAP’s suggestion, rule of thumb?
This is hard to answer, as it heavily depends on the scope of the project and the size of the project team. Typically, you can calculate that every active user (see above) working on the project needs a license.

How do customers without a premium engagement license Focused Build?

Customers without a premium engagement (SAP Standard, SAP Enterprise Support, PSLE) get the usage rights for focused solutions through licenses that they buy in SAP Store. The license model is a rental model. Customers buy a license per user for one year. The license is automatically renewed for another year unless it is actively cancelled by the customer.

When do I need a Focused Build license?

As soon as you install and use Focused Build, you need licenses, also for test and validation purposes. In case of problems during the setup, SAP Support is available for customers who have obtained a valid license in the SAP Store (customers without a premium engagement) or via premium engagement services. The component for technical inquiries is SV-SMG-OST. For trial purposes, Focused Build is available in the CAL free-of-charge for a period of 30 days. (See 'Is a demo system available to explore Focused Build?')

Is a demo system available to explore Focused Build?

As a customer you can access a fully configured Focused Build solution in the SAP Cloud Appliance Library (CAL). This enables you to use the CAL during the evaluation phase instead of having to buy Focused Build licenses at this stage. The CAL image includes a SAP internal license for SAP Solution Manager which is valid for 30 days. After this period, customers have to install their own licenses to continue to work with the system. For standard SAP Solution Manager functions, customers can request a customer license from SAP at no additional cost. To continue the usage of Focused Build beyond the 30-days trial phase, customers have to buy licenses in the SAP Store, or, if they have a premium engagement, order the minimum services to receive usage rights (see: How do premium customers license Focused Build?) These rules are valid independent of whether a customer deploys the image in the cloud or if he copies the system into an on-premise landscape.

Is Focused Build only designed for premium engagement customers?

No, Focused Build is designed for all customers. You can think of Focused Build as a pre-configured, turnkey solution that offers all the benefits of an individual consulting solution - at a fraction of the cost involved in consulting solutions. Thus, Focused Build is also very relevant to smaller, and mid-size customers who are looking for a solution but do not want to spend time and effort in building one. Focused Build offers a complete model that they can use.

How do premium engagement customers license Focused Build?

Premium engagement customers (i.e. SAP MaxAttention, SAP ActiveEmbedded, and Value Assurance Package customers) obtain their licenses through a dedicated service. Within this service, specific focused solutions capabilities are configured and activated, depending on the customer’s requirements. SAP premium engagement customers are entitled to use those capabilities which were activated during the service, as long as they have a valid support agreement. To order a service, contact your technical quality manager at SAP. The following services are currently available to activate Focused Build capabilities:

- Agile Methodology and Tool Coach (Activation of Focused Build Requirement-to-Deploy)
- ALM Rapid Deployment Service for Test Management (Activation of Enhanced Test Management in Focused Build)
- ALM Rapid Deployment Service for Change Control Management (Activation of Enhanced Change Control Management in Focused Build)

For more information, refer to SAP Solution Manager Usage Rights -> SAP MaxAttention and Active Embedded -> Additional SAP Solution Manager Services for SAP MaxAttention and SAP Active Embedded Customers.

Are there any interfaces to third party tools?
All the SAP Solution Manager interfaces are available. Additionally, Focused Build offers an interface to JIRA.

Can SAP Standard Support customers use Focused Build?

Yes, they can. SAP Standard Support customers can use Focused Build as the usage rights for SAP Standard Support customers are not violated. However, functions like the Business Process Change Analyzer, or Component-based Test Automation are not part of Focused Build. They may be used as an extension but are subject to the usage rights of SAP Solution Manager.

What happens with the data / content when a customer stops his focused solution license?

Nothing. The content and data are still available in display mode. The applications (e.g. Dashboards) may not be used without a license, though.

What if the SAP MaxAttention contract expires? Is licensing then required?

Yes. To continue to use the functionality, customers need to obtain licenses in the SAP Store.

How does licensing of Focused Build work for customers in the SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud?

Customers require Focused Build software licenses independent of where their SAP Solution Manager is hosted. They need to order their licenses themselves in the SAP Store. The hoster should provide the SAP Solution Manager installation number and system ID to the customer, since this is needed in the ordering process.

How does licensing of Focused Build work for value added resellers (VARs)?

If you support your customers through your own SAP Solution Manager, please note that the requirement-to-deploy scenario is not a multi-tenancy scenario. Therefore it has to be used as one implementation per customer per SAP Solution Manager system. The licenses for the Focused Build add-on are based on the named users in the project.

Where do I get support?

In case of technical issues, you can create an inquiry with component SV-SMG-OST. Should you have other questions you can contact us at focused.solutions@sap.com

Focused Build - Functional questions

Project Management (PPM)
Is there an integration to MS Project?
Yes, Focused Build uses the standard interfaces available through SAP IT PPM.

SAP Best Practices (SAP Activate, SAP Modell Company, etc.)
Which SAP Best Practice content is available through Focused Build?
Please refer to SAP note 2418929: https://launchpad.support.sap.com/#/notes/2418929

Process Management
Is a BPM tool like ARIS or Signavio integrated?
Yes, integration is possible using the standard interfaces of SAP Solution Manager.

Test Management
How can I....?
This is the solution

Requirement Management
How can I....?
This is the solution

Release Management
How can I....?
This is the solution
How is the completion rate calculated?

If the completion rate is set at work item (WI) level, this is propagated to the work package (WP). If there is more than one WI assigned to the WP, the completion rate is evenly distributed. For example, if one of five work items is set to 100% completed and the other four are set to 0% completed, the WP should display a 20% completion rate.

At WP level the completion rate can be overwritten, but with the next change on WI level the WP completion rate is overwritten again. Therefore, the manual overwriting on WP level does not really make sense.

In SP0 you need to schedule a Charm Action S1_100_COMPL for the WIs, which sets them to 100% and which is carried out in the WP in status ‘completed’. In SP1 this action is automatically carried out.

If no manual completion rates are maintained, it makes sense to automatically set the completion rate to 100% in status ‘Successfully tested’. This way you get a good overview to what degree the WP is completed, without having to maintain any completion rates.

What is a preliminary import?

A preliminary import can be used for functions that have been developed for the next release but are needed earlier. The function is available for work items of type ‘normal’ or ‘general’.

Setup / Configuration
Is there a trouble shooting guide for Focused Build?

Troubleshooting Guide for Focused Build

What are the hardware/technical requirements for using Focused Build?

SAP Solution Manager 7.2, SP3.
Sizing according to the normal SAP Solution Manager sizing. Focused Build does not have special requirements with regards to sizing.

Is a basic setup of Change Request Management (CHARM) required before using Focused Build?

SAP Note 2344472 describes all prerequisites that need to be met before Focused Build can be installed and configured. CHARM does not have to be fully configured, but parts of it. Therefore it is strongly recommended to use an activation service (from SAP or a Focused Solution Circle member) to get the Focused Build scenario set up quickly.

Can we run the Standard Change Control processes together with Focused Build?

Focused Build uses separated transaction types and preconfigured objects in SAP name space. Therefore it is possible to run the requirement-to-deploy processes in parallel with an existing change management process in SAP Solution Manager. Transport management in Focused Build still allows to create and release manual transport requests.

Can we modify the functionality included in Focused Build for SAP Solution Manager? If so, will SAP provide support for the modifications?

Focused Build capabilities are clearly intended to be used as is. The code is not blocked for modifications, but it is not recommended to modify it. Modified code may create efforts when Focused Build updates are provided at a later stage.

If as a customer you copy the FB transaction to the Z namespace, it is as, every other copy of SAP transaction types, treated as custom code, and SAP cannot ensure that all Focused Build functionality works without adaption. In case of problems, the bug needs to be reproduced in the S* transaction types, where SAP would be able to fix it. This means that you would have to take over all provided adoptions to the Z namespace. If the current Focused Build solution does not fully meet your requirements, you should discuss possible workarounds or potential adjustments with your SAP project coach.

New functions with Focused Build 2.0 SP01 (ST-OST 200 SP01)
Which new functions are included in SP01?

An overview of the new functions available can be found here.

Is there a scrum board available in Focused Build?

With SP01 integration of scrum board solutions is possible. Currently our partner BSC solutions offers an integrated solution for the Focused Build process. More information can be found here: http://www.scrum-in-sap.com.

Does Focused Build include templates based on SAP Activate?

New project templates for Focused Build are now available that include the content of the SAP Activate Implementation Roadmap. The new templates are available alternatively to the existing templates, so that as a customer, you can decide whether to use the existing lean templates or the SAP Activate-based templates for Focused Build. The new templates have been added to the central note 2483056 for SP1.

A new SAP Activate Implementation Roadmap will be released in November 2017, and will be merged into new Focused Build templates. Those templates will then also be part of the roadmap download package.