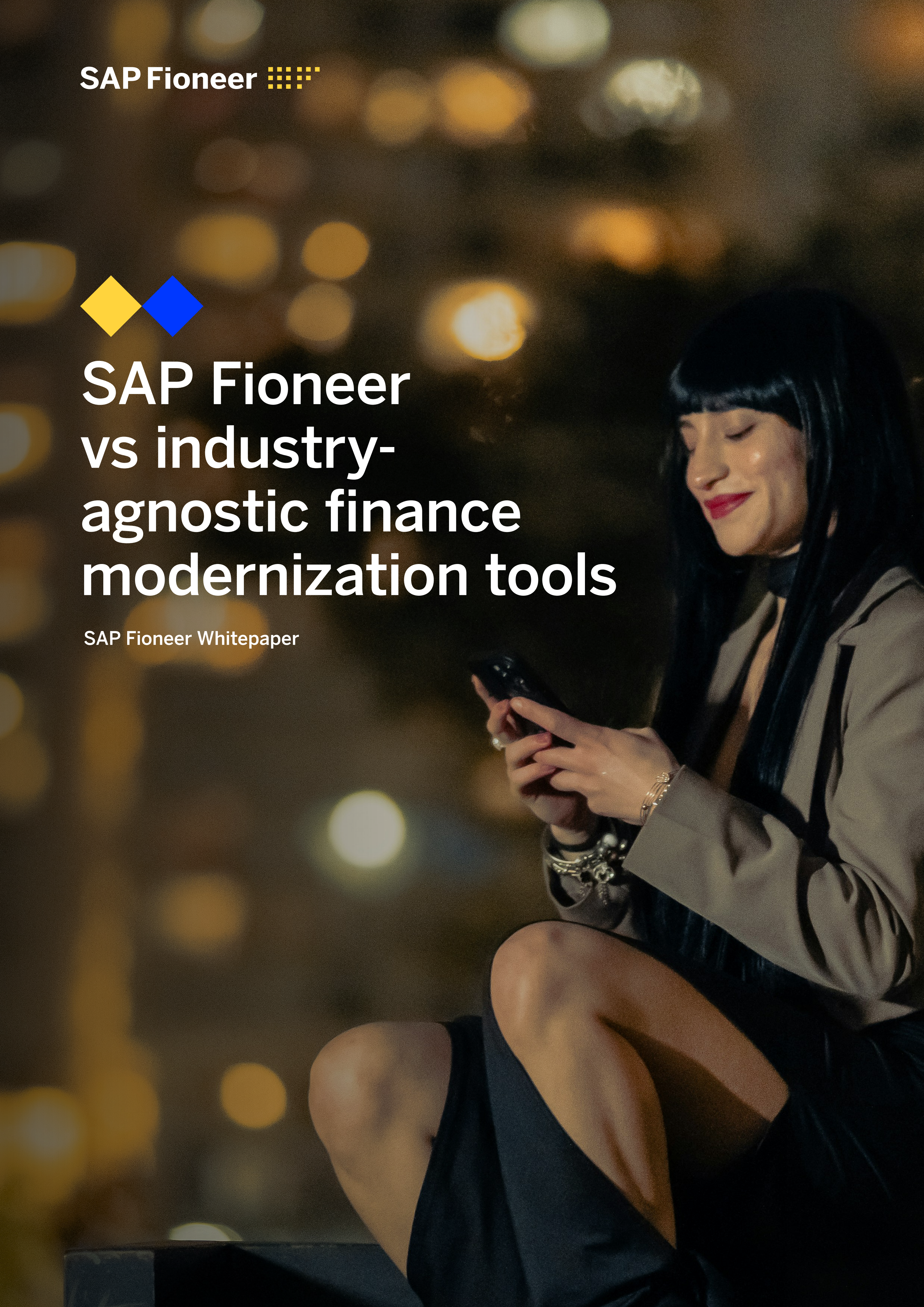

SAP Fioneer

SAP Fioneer vs industry-agnostic finance modernization tools

SAP Fioneer Whitepaper

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Executive summary

Insurers and banks evaluating finance modernization tools must choose between industry-agnostic platforms and specialized banking solutions.

While many generalist systems claim flexibility, they lack the built-in financial logic and industry-specific capabilities required for complex, regulated environments.

Recent studies[1] in financial services solutions show that purpose-built software platforms tend to perform better on compliance fit, domain workflows and time-to-value than horizontal solutions.

This paper outlines where generalist tools fall short and details the specific banking and insurance capabilities of SAP Fioneer's Finance Platform that deliver efficiency, compliance and readiness for future demands.

Generalist platforms lack critical banking and insurance capabilities

Industry-agnostic solutions are effective at offering broad applicability. This includes ease of use, collaborative functionality and integration with third-party vendors. Some excel in their extensibility capabilities while others are stronger in customization and comprehensiveness in financial management. Many also offer cloud-only solutions, making implementation faster.

However, generalist platforms cannot support all areas that are essential to banking and insurance.

For example, these systems typically **do not offer integrated accounting and reporting capabilities** and require **separate subledger accounting solutions**. They cannot natively support insurance-specific functions, such as contract-level accounting or actuarial data alignment for IFRS 17, forcing a manual oversight of “breaks”.

While some vendors attempt to close these gaps with bolt-on products, they do not deliver built-in, end-to-end finance capabilities. This leads to manual configurations and customer-led builds, increasing costs and needed resources like headcount and time.

Scalability is another constraint. Horizontal platforms struggle to process the high volumes of financial events typical in large banks and insurance firms, such as daily trading activity or high-frequency premium and claims processing in insurance. Some may lack cohesion because they offer separate tools without integrated data or logic, leading to inconsistency and added complexity.

These systems also **lack embedded business logic.** Users must build core accounting models, regulatory frameworks and reporting structures from scratch, resulting in extended implementation timelines and greater risk of errors.

In contrast, SAP Fioneer offers a purpose-built suite that addresses these core industry needs out of the box.

SAP FIONEER:
BUILT-IN BANKING AND INSURANCE LOGIC AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATION

Below we show how SAP Fioneer's industry-specific finance platform delivers automation, intelligence and scalability at enterprise scale.

Out-of-the-box industry content and built-in logic to automate processes

Unlike platforms that require configuration for every bank- or insurance-specific use case, SAP Fioneer includes pre-built logic and ready-to-use content designed for financial services financial products.

For example, the finance platform includes pre-configured financial product accounting, regulatory reporting like IFRS 9/17 and end-to-end workflows. The result is near plug-and-play capability across financial control, accounting, reconciliation processes, regulatory compliance and management reporting.

Because the platform **enforces data quality at the source**, embeds domain controls and applies pre-configured processes, institutions achieve consistent compliance while reducing manual effort.

A cohesive, modular platform strategy that scales

SAP Fioneer's finance platform is integrated yet modular. Clients can adopt components such as the Financial Products Subledger (FPSL), Financial Services Data Management (FSDM – for banks only) and Financial Control incrementally. This modularity **allows phased modernization while maintaining end-to-end integration.**

The platform scales efficiently and **processes large volumes of transactional data.** Its shared data model enables consistent financial, risk and treasury reporting across the bank. Actuarial functions also benefit from this consistency, since the same harmonized data supports reserving, valuation and solvency calculations.

A consistent data foundation and process control allow CFOs to run finance with greater efficiency and ensure compliance across jurisdictions, while preparing for evolving requirements without rework.

SAP Fioneer enables a single source of truth across the finance landscape—an outcome increasingly important to CFOs managing regulatory and operational risk.

Faster, lower-risk implementation driven by expertise

While the platform's pre-built content and alignment with banking and insurance enable faster implementations, industry expertise is one of SAP Fioneer's key differentiators.

Employee attrition has reduced banking and insurance knowledge in some modernization platforms while other vendors rely heavily on partners and generalist consultants. But this increases implementation variability.

Instead, SAP Fioneer's delivery teams are staffed with **professionals who understand the mechanics of banking and insurance operations and regulatory reporting.** These subject-matter experts reduce reliance on external partners and lower the risk of misconfiguration.

SAP Fioneer also maintains **scalable delivery hubs across the globe**, enabling cost-effective deployment without compromising on expertise.

Deployment flexibility to meet regulatory demands

Competing vendors often lack deployment adaptability. Some are cloud-only and not fully matured solutions while other vendors favor cloud to support their commercial models.

SAP Fioneer **supports on-premise, cloud and hybrid deployments.** This flexibility is critical for institutions operating in jurisdictions with strict data residency laws.

Deployment flexibility is also a strategic advantage in regulated markets. It allows institutions to meet local compliance requirements, **avoid vendor concentration risk** and maintain control over sensitive data and infrastructure. Recent studies show that financial firms are increasingly using hybrid/multi-cloud deployments to balance resilience, regulatory compliance (e.g., DORA) and innovation without sacrificing governance.

Data transparency and traceability built in

Industry-agnostic vendors' drill-down functionality might be limited as some rely on external integrations or multiple standalone modules to achieve traceability.

SAP Fioneer's Financial Control supports general-ledger-integrated, drill-down capabilities. Users can trace reported values directly to source transactions in the subledger, enabling strong audit trails and data governance.

With native integration and real-time data access, SAP Fioneer offers an advantage in audit and compliance scenarios. Finance teams have better data lineage and built-in controls gaining both transparency and the process discipline needed for audit readiness and long-term operational efficiency.

Innovation in AI integration

SAP Fioneer's Finance Platform also incorporates **AI-powered modules tailored for finance operations,** reducing the need for external tools and integrations.

AI-readiness is an emerging requirement in finance platforms. SAP Fioneer is making significant investments in AI integration, particularly around **agentic models that interact across data layers and workflows.**

While all major vendors now position AI as a core feature, the differentiator lies in how deeply AI is embedded in the architecture. SAP Fioneer's integration of AI agents enables real-time decision support and operational efficiency. For example, it allows banks and insurers to surface anomalies in reconciliation workflows or guide premium recognition adjustments.

Cost justified by value delivery

SAP Fioneer is sometimes viewed as a premium solution. In many cases, this **reflects the scope and complexity of implementations rather than the platform itself.** When properly sized and aligned to business goals, the platform's embedded content, faster time to value and reduced rework often outweigh the higher upfront investment.

Banks and insurers have seen value in avoiding custom builds. As Jyoti Basant at Rabobank stated, ***"Why build it from scratch when you can have the knowledge and experience from a provider like SAP Fioneer?"***

Peter Grebeci at Erste Group added, ***"With SAP S/4HANA, we are prepared for the future of banking and positioned to deliver on our promise of making life easier through intelligent and adaptable technologies."***

In practice, **fewer expert consultants with the right knowledge can accomplish more than larger teams without specialized skills.** The cost-to-value ratio improves significantly when content and expertise are both embedded in the solution.

Beyond immediate gains in efficiency and control, SAP Fioneer's platform delivers better data, stronger controls and standardized processes. These advantages translate into measurable efficiency, compliance at scale and a foundation that is ready for future demands.

SAP Fioneer: A single, native path to finance modernization

CFOs in banking and insurance need embedded financial logic, proven regulatory content and the scale to process millions of events with full lineage. While horizontal platforms can be extended to approximate this, this can happen only with bolt-ons, custom builds and ongoing manual controls, raising both cost and risk.

SAP Fioneer takes the opposite path. It's a modular platform purpose-built for financial services with its subledger, data management (for banks) and financial control components at its core while offering pre-configured banking and insurance content, drill-through auditability and deployment options that respect residency and resilience mandates. Delivered by domain experts, modernization programs reach value faster with greater control.

With SAP Fioneer's Finance Platform, institutions are ready for financial, regulatory and ESG requirements today and as they evolve.

Discover the depth of SAP Fioneer's industry-specific finance platform. Book a demo or contact us today.

Sources:

1. https://www.temenos.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/OMDIA-UNIVERSE-Cloud-based-Core-Banking-2023-Courtesy-of-Temenos-1.pdf

SAP Fioneer

About Fioneer

SAP Fioneer provides software solutions for banks and insurance companies: built on rock-solid technology and bold creativity.

In 2021, a group of financial services experts at SAP realized their clients needed a faster, more flexible partner that could move at their pace, adapting to the fast-changing landscape. Joining forces with entrepreneurial investor DEDIQ, SAP Fioneer was born – a start-up with the weight of a global software company behind it.

Get in touch

sapfioneer.com contact@sapfioneer.com