AN INTRODUCTION TO POWERCONNECT FOR SAP

FACILITATE VISIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND CONFIDENCE

ACROSS SAP LANDSCAPES

RHONDOS

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Machine data is one of the fastest growing and most complex areas of Big Data. It's possibly the most valuable, containing a record of all user transactions, customer behavior, machine behavior, security threats, fraudulent activities, and more. Specifically, what makes SAP data so valuable?

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PowerConnect for SAP is the only product on the market certified by SAP that can collect and organize machine data from SAP and ingest that data with timestamps into your big data platform of choice. The PowerConnect agent is imported into the SAP NetWeaver layer of each SAP application to be monitored – out-of-the-box data extractors can then send operational data in real-time to your data platform of choice for instantaneous visualizations and alerts.
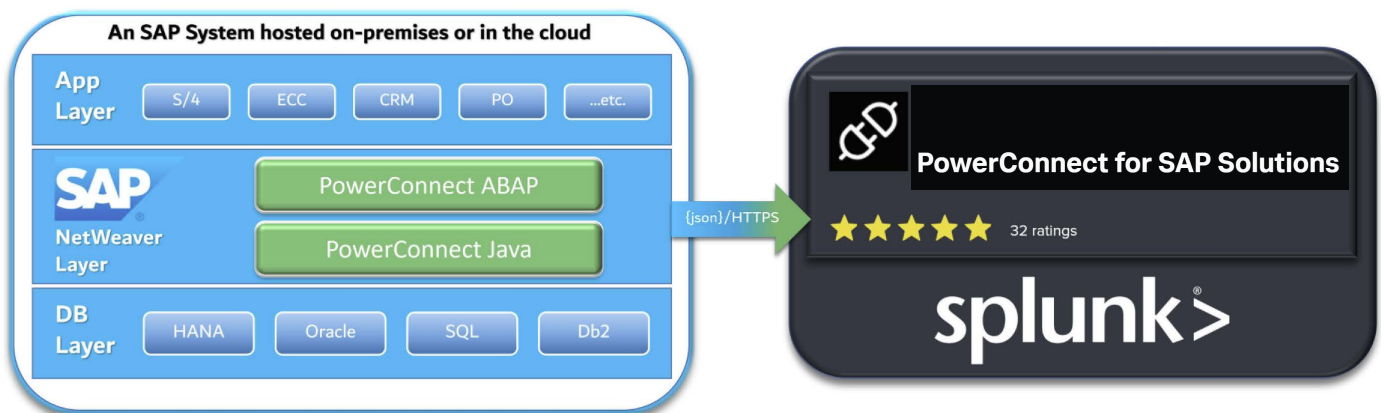

Figure 3. Architecture diagram of the PowerConnect agent

ENABLING UNPRECEDENTED VISIBILITY

SAP data is notoriously difficult to access and analyze. This is partly due to SAP being a closed system, meaning it is difficult to extract data from SAP and integrate it with other systems. The current state might look like a Basis team leveraging Solution Manager and various SAP add-ons. As a result, companies are left with a black box of data that they are unable to fully understand or utilize.

The RHONDOS team are experts as it relates to leveraging PowerConnect for SAP to enable comprehensive monitoring across landscapes. This includes business process monitoring, technical monitoring, SAP CPI monitoring, interface monitoring, SAP security, Fiori user experience, SAP database monitoring, and third-party integration monitoring, and more.

The result? Securing and observing SAP like never before.

SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

What if a password of an SAP user is stolen? Someone uses debug/replace to bypass authorization checks and create a new user? PowerConnect provides the ability to look at SAP data from a time-based perspective and use both historic and real-time insights to correlate events within different datasets to facilitate much improved security postures.
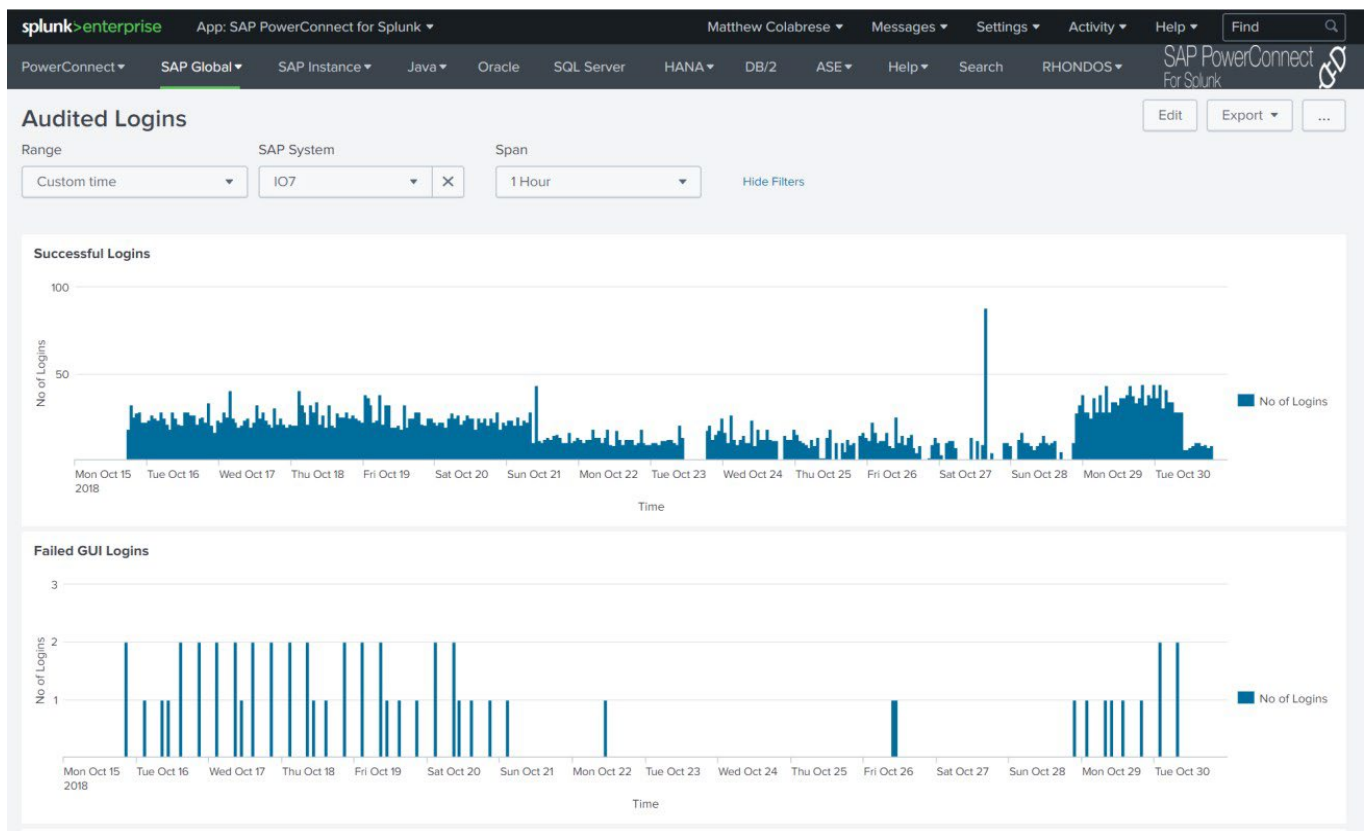

Figure 4: Audited Logins dashboard available out of the box with PowerConnect

APPLICATION PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Is there a long-running table lock slowing down SAP HANA, or is it an intensive batch job?

Finding immediate answers to questions like these to reducing root cause analysis or MTTR by 70% are possible after reducing reliance on Solution Manager with PowerConnect.

Figure 5: SAP Infrastructure status dashboards available out of the box with PowerConnect
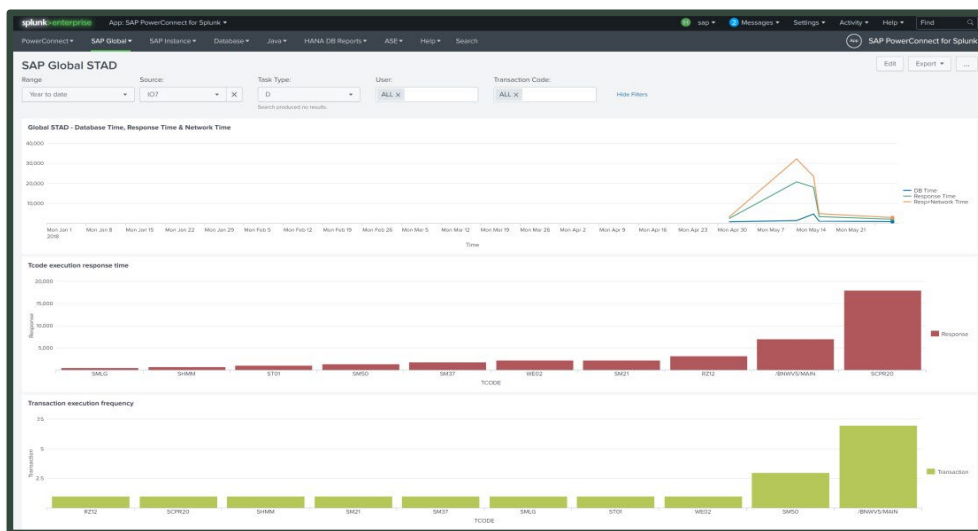

Figure 6: SAP Global STAD dashboard for transaction code response time available out of the box with PowerConnect

BUSINESS PROCESS MONITORING

How many sales orders are being processed right now as compared to the same time last week? Last month? Which BW process chains are slowly creeping up in runtime — is this runtime issue an infrastructure issue, or is it the result of a recent production change?

Far from providing insights only on the technical side, with PowerConnect, quickly answer business intelligence questions that traditionally took hours or even days to resolve.
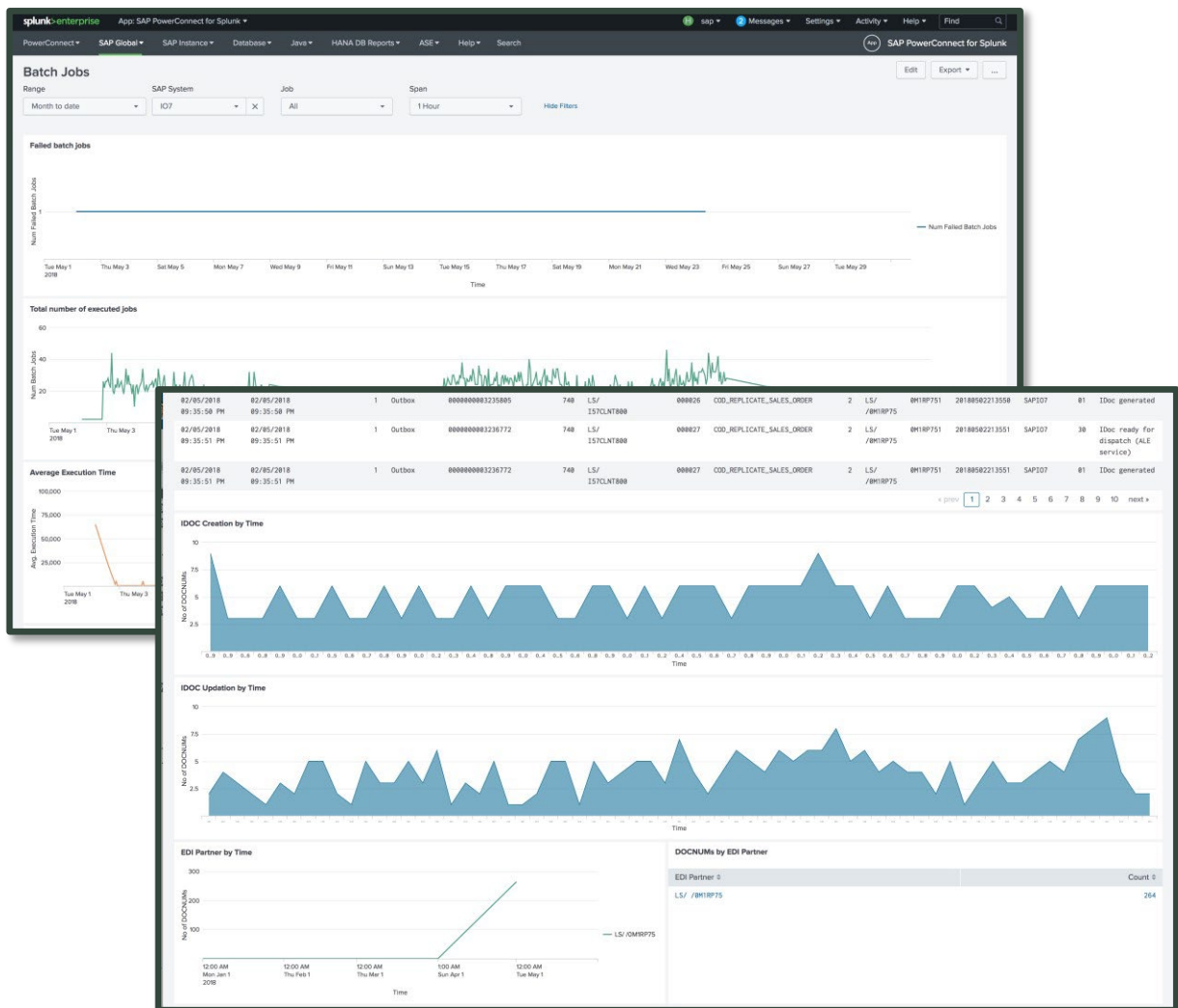

Figure 7: Batch jobs and IDoc dashboards available out of the box with PowerConnect

ACCOUNTABILITY

Multifaceted visibility into SAP operations gives the availability and flexibility of the data captured to allow an organization to define and measure KPIs that reveal the 'quality' of their data as it relates to the areas uniquely important to their business. For example, if PowerConnect were leveraged for a cloud migration, it would enable the Migration Project Manager to hold their System Integrator accountable at levels previously impossible, ensuring that the result of the migration project will deliver high value to the business.

Below is a diagram outlining three simplied value phases that are enabled with PowerConnect for cloud migration monitoring.

During

- Identify KPIs
- Establish Benchmarks
- Targets for Improvement

Before

- Measure Performance
- Validate Interfaces
- Compare Reliability

- Security Events
- Process Monitoring
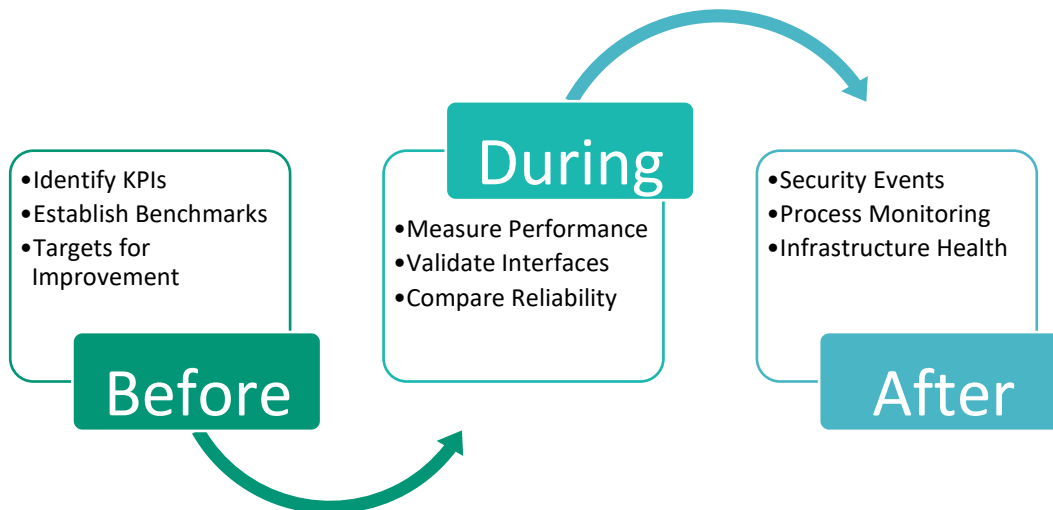- Infrastructure Health

After

Figure 8: Three phases of value during SAP migration

BEFORE

Naturally, the sooner that your big data platform is ingesting data from your on-premises SAP environment, the sooner the benefits of the visibility described in the previous section. However, RHONDOS can also contribute to the blueprinting phase of a cloud migration by providing new ways to identify KPIs, establishing benchmarks for system performance during specific business events (Mondays between 8:00-9:00AM, an important holiday season, a month-end closing window), and setting target areas where cloud hosting should yield dividends.

DURING

As the cloud migration begins, PowerConnect customers can leverage dashboards, KPIs, and alerting rules built for their on-premises environment to analyze their new fledging test systems on the cloud. This information is valuable enough from a standalone perspective in its ability to identify performance or security issues in the new deployment before an issue arises. With a trove of historical and real-time data already available to view on-premises operations of SAP, this information can be viewed in standalone format, or in a side-by-side glass table for comparison against traditional operation. Filters can be added to select each SAP system being migrated, or a drop-down menu for different time periods (like week-over-week or month-over-month style) views. These possibilities to validate and analyze migration projects in real-time facilitate accountability and drastically reduce testing and evaluation efforts.
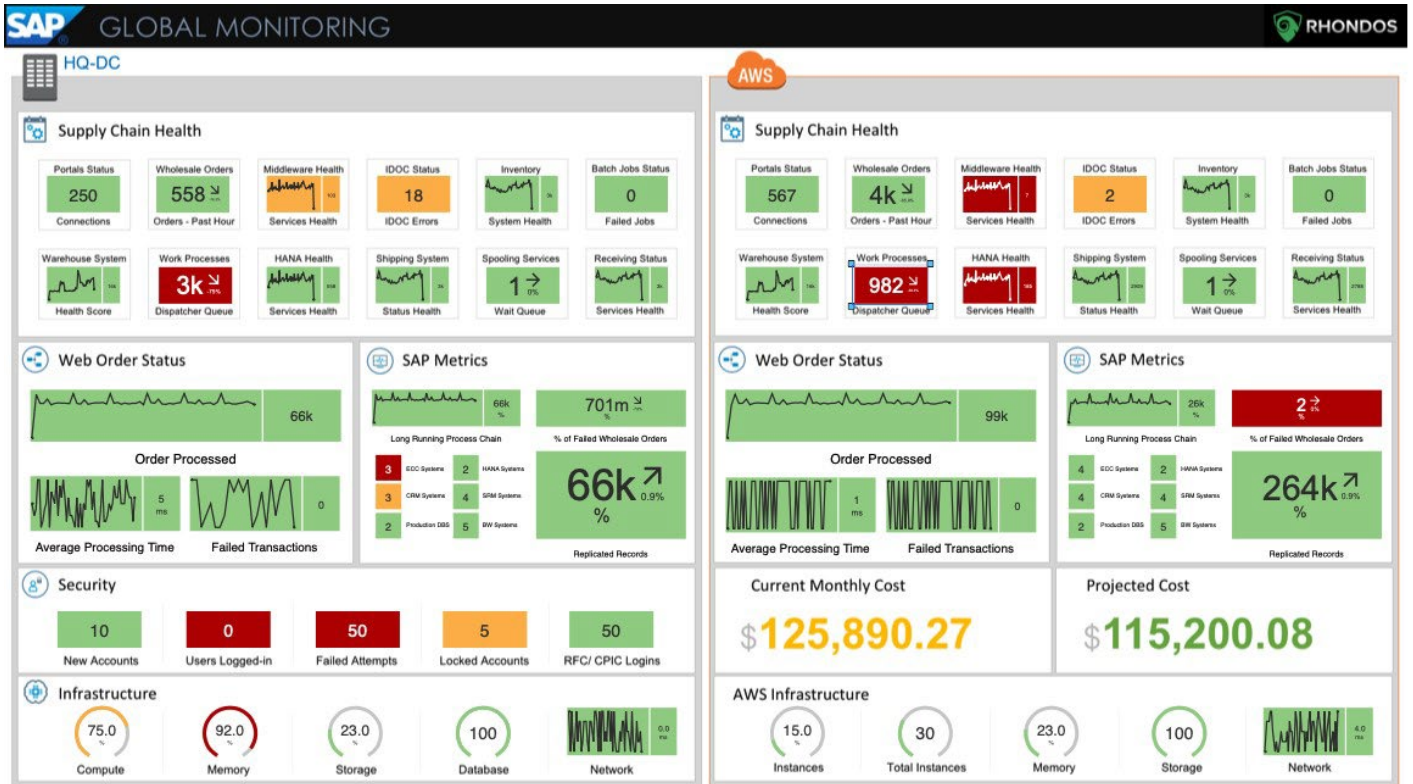
Figure 9: Sample Glass Table to show comparisons of on-premises data with cloud data

AFTER

Best of all, once SAP is successfully live on cloud, PowerConnect customers have access to all the operational visibility that our out-of-the box data extractors and dashboards also provide on-prem, all within your data analytics platform of choice!
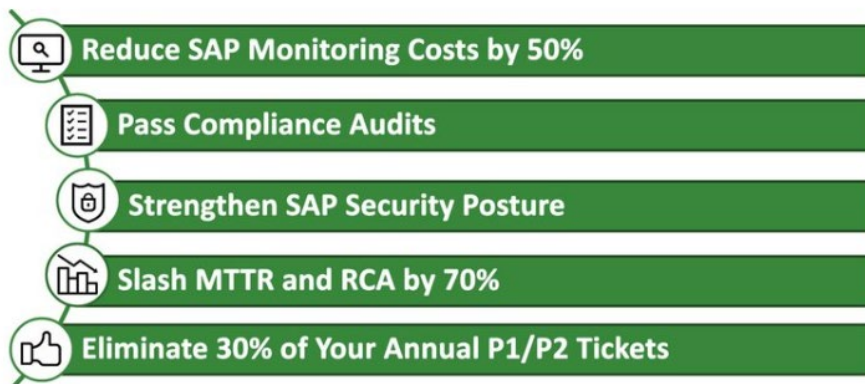
WHY RHONDOS?

RHONDOS is the dominant system integrator for delivering time-stamped SAP solutions.

With RHONDOS, you can expect to maximize the ROI of your SAP performance monitoring and cybersecurity efforts.

- Reduce SAP Monitoring Costs by 50%
- Pass Compliance Audits
- Strengthen SAP Security Posture
- Slash MTTR and RCA by 70%
- Eliminate 30% of Your Annual P1/P2 Tickets

Certifications

Product Investments
6+ years and counting as well release of new feature pack every 3 months

splunk>partner+

Microsoft Azure

24X7 Support

amazon web services | Partner Network
ADVANCED CONSULTING PARTNER

SAP® Certified
Integration with SAP S/4HANA®

Customers & Use Cases

"RHONDOS has been a valuable partner for improving our SAP application monitoring. Working with them for the last three years has saved us millions and helped us modernize our supply chain significantly."

- **Fortune 500 CIO**

"We had that a-ha moment where we realized that what this tool provides is much more than what Solution Manager can do."

- **SAP Basis Manager, Fortune 500**

"PowerConnect [with Splunk] gives us greater insight into the internal operation of SAP, both forensically and in real-time. We have access to live performance metrics and a high level of granularity in detail spanning months or years on demand."

- **Enterprise Infrastructure and Operations Manager, PACT Group**

Hundreds of high value use cases in each subject area

Security	Compliance	Performance	Business	Migration
• Login Access Monitoring	• Track Change Requests	• Root Cause Analysis	• E2E Process Monitoring & Validation	• Track all key areas before, during, and after migration
• Insider Threat	• User Activity Reporting	• End-User Experience	• Correlate data Cross-System	• Accelerate projects thru fast MTTR
• User Behavior Analytics	• SOX Audit	• Key Statistics	• Supply-Chain & Customer Analytics	
• Correlation to other events	• Firefighter Correlation	• Correlation to infrastructure		

Professional Services for Immediate and Ongoing Success

RHONDOS On Demand Comprehensive Services
Monthly Hours for Support Services from Accredited SAP Consultants

Up-Level Admins

Additional training

Refresher courses

Search tweaking

Alert Adjustments

Facilitate Adoption

Create powerful new use cases based on increasing demand

Expand beyond the initial scope

Flexible Delivery

Leverage a pool of skilled consultants

Minimum 30-minute calls for help/support

Schedule at will

Advanced Support

Troubleshooting custom objects

Make continuous improvements

Additional Reading

- SAP monitoring and RHONDOS essentials
- SAP Zero Trust Framework
- Getting the most value out of Splunk ITSI and SAP
- HANA Replication Monitoring

To learn more about how PowerConnect for SAP enables monitoring with full confidence, reach out to the RHONDOS team at info@rhondos.com.