No. 06

SAP BTP

Securing SAP BTP

SAP Business Technology Platform security, explained for beginners



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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this book

What this book covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP) is where many organizations now build extensions, run integrations, connect cloud and on-premise systems, and try out AI services. It is also a new security surface. Accounts, identity providers, role collections, destinations, connectors and credentials all need the same care that SAP security teams have long given to ABAP systems — but they work differently.

This book explains **how SAP BTP security works**, in plain language, for beginners.

Who this book is for

- **SAP security and GRC professionals** who know classic ABAP security and now need to secure BTP.
- **Basis and platform administrators** who set up and run BTP accounts.
- **Developers and architects** who build on BTP and want to get the security basics right.
- **Auditors** who need to understand what to look for in a BTP landscape.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–3): what SAP BTP is, the account model, and shared responsibility.
- **Part II — Identity and access** (Chapters 4–6): identity providers, authorizations and role collections, and platform administration.

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- **Part III — Connectivity, applications and operations** (Chapters 7–11): connectivity and the Cloud Connector, application security, audit logging, data protection, and governance.
- **Chapter 12** has checklists you can use straight away.

Conventions

TIP

Practical advice you can apply straight away.

IN SAP

Product-specific details.

WATCH OUT

Common mistakes and risks.

Diagrams are original. Screens marked **Illustration** are simplified drawings, not SAP software, and values in them are examples. People and companies are fictional.

A NOTE ON A FAST-MOVING PLATFORM

SAP BTP changes constantly: services are added, renamed and retired, and cockpit screens and defaults change. Use this book for concepts and good practice, and always confirm details in SAP's current documentation — in particular SAP's published **security recommendations for SAP BTP**.

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PART I

Foundations

What SAP BTP is, how its account model is structured, and who is responsible for which part of security.

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CHAPTER 1

What SAP BTP is

Before securing a platform, you need a mental map of what it contains. This chapter gives you that map.

SAP Business Technology Platform is SAP's cloud platform. It brings together services for **application development**, **integration**, **data and analytics**, and **AI**, together with the runtimes and security services those need. Organizations use it to:

- **extend** SAP applications such as SAP S/4HANA without modifying their core;
- **integrate** SAP and non-SAP systems, in the cloud and on premise;
- **build** new applications and automations, including low-code apps;
- run **analytics** and **AI** scenarios close to SAP data.

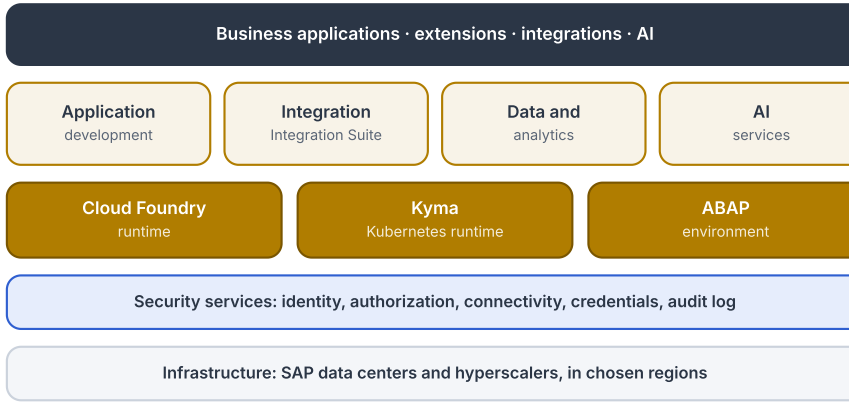


Figure 1.1 A simplified view of SAP BTP. Business scenarios use services, which run in environments on top of shared security services and infrastructure.

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Environments

Applications on SAP BTP run in **environments**, each with its own tools and security model details:

Environment	What it is	Typical use
Cloud Foundry	An open-source application runtime	Many SAP and custom applications, including those built with the SAP Cloud Application Programming Model (CAP)
Kyma	A Kubernetes-based runtime	Containerized and event-driven extensions
ABAP environment	ABAP in the cloud (often called "Steampunk")	Cloud-ready ABAP extensions and apps

Older landscapes may still use the **Neo** environment. SAP has announced that the Neo environment reaches end of life on **31 December 2028** and recommends moving to the multi-cloud environments. Neo has its own security concepts, which this book does not cover in detail.

Services you will meet in this book

Area	Examples
Identity	SAP Cloud Identity Services (Identity Authentication, Identity Provisioning)
Authorization	Role templates, roles and role collections; the authorization and trust management service (often called XSUAA)
Connectivity	Destination service, Connectivity service, Cloud Connector
Credentials	Service keys, Credential Store
Monitoring	Audit Log service and Audit Log Viewer; alerting services
Business services	SAP Integration Suite, SAP Build, SAP Build Work Zone, SAP HANA Cloud, AI services

Why BTP security is different

If you come from classic SAP security, a few things will feel new:

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- **No single user master.** Users live in identity providers; BTP trusts them and assigns authorizations.
- **Two kinds of users.** People who *administer* the platform and people who *use* applications are managed differently (Chapter 4).
- **Everything is connected.** Destinations and connectors link cloud apps to on-premise systems — and can become shortcuts into them.
- **Credentials are everywhere.** Service keys, client secrets and certificates replace many passwords, and need their own lifecycle.
- **Responsibility is shared.** SAP runs the platform; you configure and use it securely (Chapter 3).

TIP

Start every BTP security review by drawing three things: the **account structure**, the **identity providers** and the **connections** to other systems. Most risks show up on one of these three pictures.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- SAP BTP combines **development, integration, data, AI** and **security services**.
- Main environments: **Cloud Foundry, Kyma, ABAP**; **Neo** reaches end of life at the end of 2028.
- BTP security centers on **identity providers, role collections, connectivity and credentials**.
- Responsibility is **shared** between SAP and you.

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CHAPTER 2

The account model

The account structure is the first security decision on SAP BTP. It decides where boundaries, administrators and credentials sit.

SAP BTP organizes everything in a hierarchy of **accounts**. Getting this structure right early prevents many later security problems, because most settings — trust, role collections, destinations, administrators — belong to a specific level.

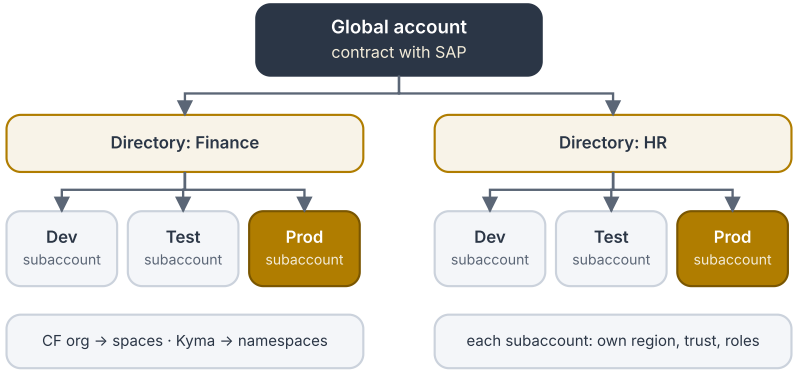


Figure 2.1 A typical account model. The global account holds the contract; directories group subaccounts; each subaccount is where applications and services run.

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The levels

Level	What it is	Security relevance
Global account	The top level, tied to your contract with SAP	Global administrators can create subaccounts and manage entitlements
Directory (optional)	A grouping of subaccounts, for example by business unit or project	Can have its own administrators and entitlement pools
Subaccount	Where you enable environments, subscribe to applications and deploy apps; located in a chosen **region**	Trust configuration, role collections, destinations, users and audit logs are largely managed here
Cloud Foundry org and spaces / Kyma namespaces	Further structure inside a subaccount's environment	Developers and deployments are scoped here

SAP's learning material stresses that each subaccount operates **independently** — an important consideration for security, member management and data. Role collections, for example, are **account-specific**: a role collection in one subaccount does not exist in another.

Separating stages

A common and recommended pattern is to separate **development, test and production** into different subaccounts:

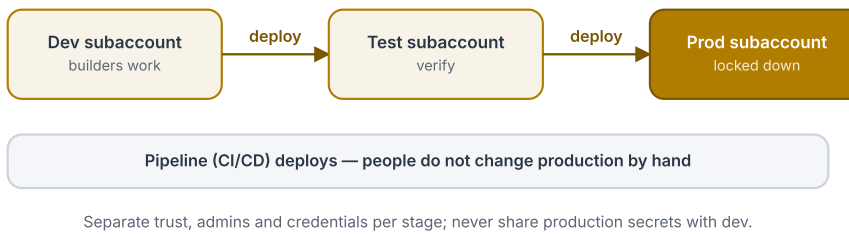


Figure 2.2 Separate subaccounts for each stage, with changes deployed through a pipeline rather than by hand.

Separation lets you:

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