

No. 27

SAP ARIBA

SAP Ariba Security

Users, groups, single sign-on and integration for SAP Ariba and SAP Business Network

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SECTRAININGNOW SERIES · NO. 27

SAP Ariba Security

Users, groups, single sign-on and integration for SAP Ariba and SAP Business Network

oJAYo
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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 Ariba runs sourcing, contracts, buying, invoicing and supplier management in the cloud, and connects companies with their suppliers through **SAP Business Network**, formerly known as Ariba Network. Because SAP operates the software, many people assume security is "SAP's job". It is only partly true. Who can log on, what they can do, how the site connects to your ERP and which suppliers you trade with are all decisions you make, and mistakes there are yours.

This book explains **how to secure SAP Ariba from the customer side**, for beginners: users, single sign-on, groups and permissions, provisioning, delegation, supplier relationships, integration and APIs, monitoring and segregation of duties.

Which versions this book covers

- **SAP Ariba** solutions as they stand in 2026, including **next-generation SAP Ariba**, which SAP News described in March 2026 as now available, built on **SAP Business Technology Platform** with a Fiori-based launchpad and AI capabilities, rolling out incrementally through 2026 and into 2027.
- **SAP Business Network** for supplier collaboration.
- **SAP Integration Suite, managed gateway for spend management and SAP Business Network**, the integration service formerly called SAP Ariba Cloud Integration Gateway.

SAP Ariba is a cloud service that changes every quarter. Names of screens and settings move. This book focuses on **concepts and controls** that stay stable, and points you to SAP's documentation for exact menu paths.

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Who this book is for

- **Security and identity teams** that must connect Ariba to the company's identity provider and governance processes.
- **Ariba administrators** in procurement who manage users and groups.
- **Auditors** reviewing source-to-pay controls.
- **Integration teams** that connect Ariba to SAP S/4HANA or SAP ERP.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–3): the solutions, the shared responsibility model and next-generation SAP Ariba.
- **Part II — Identity and access** (Chapters 4–10): users, sign-on, groups and permissions, provisioning, delegation, data visibility, and data protection.
- **Part III — Suppliers and integration** (Chapters 11–13): SAP Business Network, ERP integration and APIs.
- **Part IV — Operating** (Chapters 14–18): monitoring, segregation of duties, incident readiness, a worked example and checklists.

Conventions

TIP
Practical advice you can apply straight away.

IN SAP
Product-specific details and names.

WATCH OUT
Common misunderstandings.

KEY IDEA
The one thing to remember from a section.

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A note on screens and examples

Screens are **simplified illustrations**, not copies of SAP Ariba screens. Group names mentioned are examples of SAP-delivered groups; the exact list and their permissions depend on your solutions and release. Company and user names are invented.

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PART I

Foundations

These chapters describe what SAP Ariba covers, who is responsible for which part of its security, and what changes with next-generation SAP Ariba.

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CHAPTER 1

What SAP Ariba is

SAP Ariba covers source-to-pay in the cloud and links buyers with suppliers.

The solutions

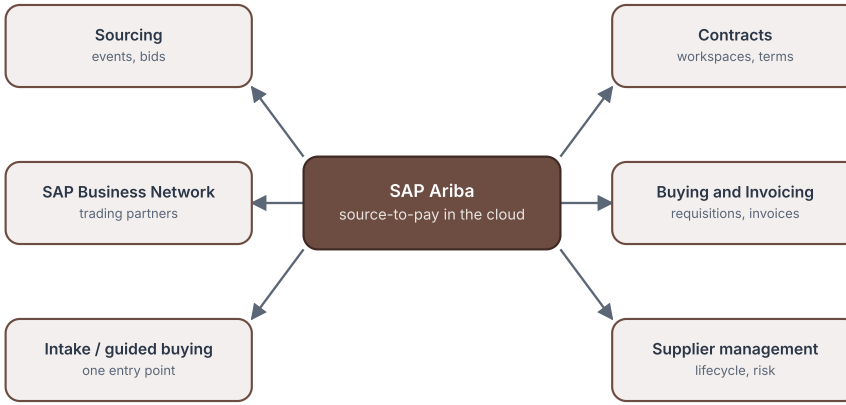


Figure 1.1 SAP Ariba solutions and SAP Business Network.

- **SAP Ariba Sourcing** — requests for information, proposals and quotations, and auctions.
- **SAP Ariba Contracts** — contract workspaces, authoring and approvals.
- **SAP Ariba Buying and Invoicing** — requisitions, purchase orders, receipts and invoices; **guided buying** provides a simpler experience for casual users.
- **SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance** and related supplier management capabilities — registration, qualification, risk and performance.
- **SAP Ariba Intake Management** — a single entry point for procurement requests, generally available with next-generation SAP Ariba.

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- **SAP Ariba Category Management** — planning by spend category.
- **SAP Business Network** — the network where suppliers receive orders, send confirmations and invoices, and collaborate with buyers.

Sites and realms

Each customer gets its own **site**, often called a **realm**, usually with a **test** and a **production** site. Larger companies may have **parent and child realms**, for example one per region. Security settings, users and groups are managed per site, so a setting tested in the test site must be repeated or deployed to production.

What is at stake

Ariba holds supplier bank details, negotiated prices, bids from competing suppliers, contracts and invoices. Typical risks:

- **Fraudulent suppliers** or changed bank details leading to payments to criminals.
- **Leaked bids** that give one supplier an unfair advantage.
- **Unauthorized commitments** through requisitions or contracts approved outside policy.
- **Over-privileged administrators**, often consultants who kept access after the project.
- **Weak integration credentials** that expose purchasing data through APIs.

KEY IDEA

SAP Ariba is a cloud service, but **identity, permissions, approval rules, supplier relationships and integration credentials** are the customer's responsibility. Most real incidents happen there.

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CHAPTER 2

Shared responsibility

Security in a SaaS solution is shared. Knowing the split tells you where to spend your effort.

Who does what

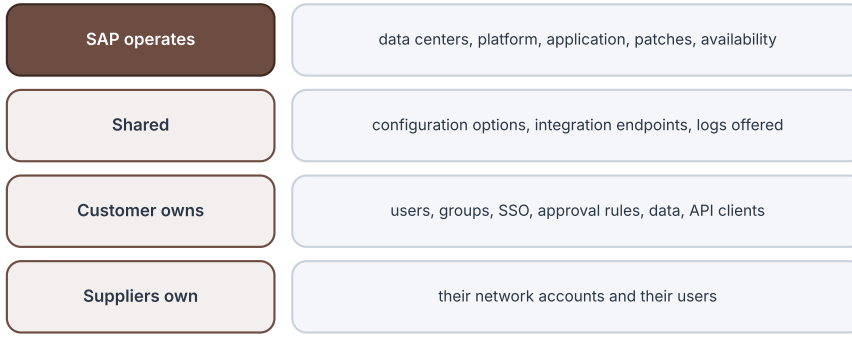


Figure 2.1 Shared responsibility in SAP Ariba.

SAP operates the data centers, the platform and the application. It patches, monitors availability, protects the infrastructure and publishes certifications and audit reports through its trust center.

You, the customer, decide:

- which users exist and how they sign in;
- which groups and permissions they have;
- which approval rules apply;
- which suppliers you trade with;
- how your ERP and other systems connect, and with which credentials;
- what data you load, and how long you keep it.

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Suppliers manage their own accounts on SAP Business Network and their own users.

What this means in practice

Question	Owner
Is the platform patched?	SAP
Is multi-factor authentication enforced for our users?	Customer (through the identity provider)
Who has administrator rights in our site?	Customer
Are bids sealed until the deadline?	Customer configuration of the event
Are API secrets protected?	Customer
Is a supplier's user still employed by the supplier?	Supplier

WATCH OUT

SAP's certifications cover SAP's part. They do not prove that **your** users, groups and integrations are set up well. Auditors will ask for your own evidence.

Getting SAP's evidence

SAP publishes security and compliance information, such as certifications and audit reports, through its **trust center**. Ask your SAP contact or check the trust center for the reports relevant to SAP Ariba and SAP Business Network, and file them with your vendor risk documentation.

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