

No. 52

S/4HANA CLOUD PUBLIC EDITION

SAP S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition Security

Business roles, catalogs, restrictions and upgrades instead of PFCG, explained for beginners

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SECTRAININGNOW SERIES · NO. 52

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Business roles, catalogs, restrictions and upgrades instead of PFCG, 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 S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition is SAP's software-as-a-service ERP. It runs the same business processes as other S/4HANA editions, but customers cannot build roles freely with PFCG and authorization objects. Instead, access is built from **business catalogs** delivered by SAP, combined into **business roles**, and limited with **restrictions**. SAP upgrades the system twice a year, and catalogs change with each release.

Security specialists from classic SAP often find this model both simpler and frustrating. This book explains, for beginners, **how to secure S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition**: identity and users, the building blocks of authorization, business roles and restrictions, IAM apps, the three-system landscape, upgrades and deprecated catalogs, communication arrangements, extensibility, segregation of duties, monitoring and a worked example.

Which versions this book covers

- **SAP S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition** releases **2502**, **2508**, **2602** and **2608**.
- The **three-system landscape** (development, test, production, with a starter system during implementation).

SAP publishes IAM changes for every release in **SAP Note 2975653** and related release-specific notes. Check them for your release.

Who this book is for

- **SAP security analysts** moving from on-premise to the public cloud.

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- **Public cloud administrators** and **key users**.
- **Implementation partners** designing roles.
- **Auditors** reviewing cloud ERP access.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–4): the public cloud model, comparison with classic SAP, identity and users, and the landscape.
- **Part II — Business roles** (Chapters 5–11): building blocks, templates and roles, restrictions, IAM apps, application jobs, limits of the model, and role design.
- **Part III — Changing over time** (Chapters 12–15): upgrades, deprecated catalogs, transports, and testing.
- **Part IV — Integration and operations** (Chapters 16–22): communication arrangements, extensibility, SoD, monitoring, licensing, privacy, and a worked example.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP
Practical advice you can use 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 screens. Companies, roles and users are invented.

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PART I

Foundations

These chapters introduce the public cloud security model, compare it with classic SAP, and explain identity, users and the system landscape.

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CHAPTER 1

The public cloud model

In the public cloud, SAP designs the building blocks and customers assemble them.

Fit to standard

The public edition follows **fit-to-standard**: companies adopt SAP's standard processes with limited customization. Security follows the same idea. SAP delivers catalogs and role templates matching its processes; customers choose, combine and restrict them.

What customers control

- **Users** and their **business roles**.
- **Restrictions** on roles, such as company codes.
- **Activation** of apps within catalogs (IAM apps).
- **Communication arrangements** for integrations.
- **Extensions** they build.

What SAP controls

- The content of **business catalogs** and **role templates**.
- **Releases**, including changes to catalogs.
- The **infrastructure** and operations.

KEY IDEA

You cannot build any role you want. You can choose well, restrict well and review often. That is enough for strong security if done carefully.

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CHAPTER 2

Comparison with classic SAP

Classic SAP security knowledge helps, but some habits must change.

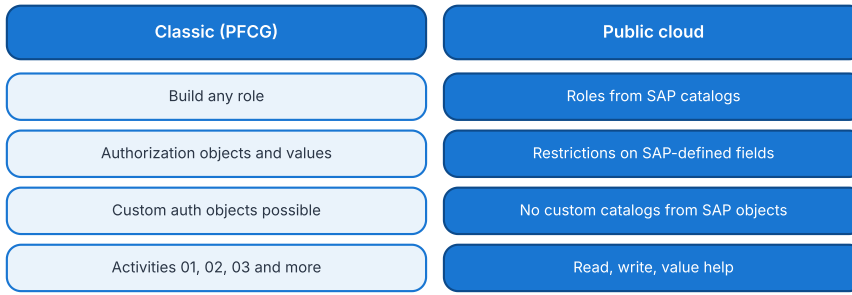


Figure 2.1 Classic SAP versus the public cloud model.

What is different

- **No PFCG**: roles are built from catalogs.
- **No custom authorization objects** in the SAP core. Security commentators note that custom authorization objects cannot be created at all in the public edition.
- **Restrictions** replace field values in authorization objects, with access categories **read**, **write** and **value help**. Community explanations compare these to the activity field in classic SAP.
- **No splitting of write**: community guidance notes that you cannot separate create, edit, post and delete within write access.

What stays the same

- **Least privilege** and **segregation of duties**.

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- **Organizational restrictions** such as company code and plant.
- **Reviews** and **testing**.

WATCH OUT

Do not try to rebuild your old ECC roles one by one. Start from SAP's role templates and your processes, then restrict.

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