# UNV ARE ~~DEAD~~

How to convert your
UNV to UNX like a pro

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# PRE
# FACE

> ## " It is high time you migrate your unv to unx "

**Grégory Botticchio, Director,**
Analytics Product Management at SAP.

SAP BusinessObjects Semantic layer is the core technology developed by Business Objects back in the 1990s. At that time, the objective was to provide the ability for Business Objects users to receive their data, analyze it, and share it in the manner of their choice. To achieve this vision, the Business Objects universe was created.

With the release of BI4.0 in 2011, a new application to create universes was provided: the Information Design Tool, with the ambition to promote its usage to create universes and other things such as shared queries which can be reused in other SAP BusinessObjects client tools.
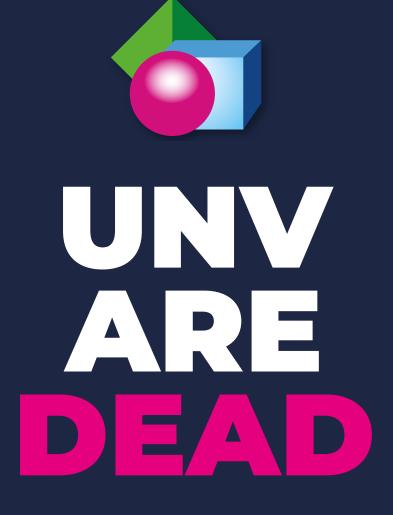
The objective was clear: replace the original Universe Designer tool by providing the same capabilities, and more, and an easy migration path to this new Information Designer Tool.

With the releases of SAP BusinessObjects BI4.1 and BI4.2, we have continuously supported both universe applications. The difference is that the semantic layer innovations were only provided in the Information Design Tool, creating a greater value proposition compared to the Universe Designer Tool. However, with the recent release of the SAP BusinessObjects BI4.3, we decided it was time to streamline and focus our investments on the core SAP BusinessObjects products so that they benefit most of our customers.

As a result, **we intend to stop supporting the Universe Designer Tool and «.unv» type universes in order to focus on the Information Design Tool and «.unx» type universes**. This end of support is scheduled for 2027 and we believe this leaves enough time for our customers to make the inventory of their «.unv» universes and plan the best conversion path for them.

Far from being a trivial exercise, the census of ".unv" universes, determining which ones remain active, the number of associated Web intelligence documents, and the best migration path, can prove to be perilous, especially if they are closely linked to your decision-making processes. This is why this ebook, offered by our partner 360Suite, exists. It is there to help you by offering a methodology and the solutions to make this possible while minimizing risks, with a limited timeframe and budget.

As you will understand, far from being dead, the Universe Designer Tool application and the «.unv» universes are coming to their end of maintenance. Now is the time to consider a conversion to the Information Design Tool application and «.unx» type universes, in order to prepare for the future and to benefit from all the new innovations they contain.

**Grégory Botticchio**

# UNV ARE DEAD

The message is clear: UNV are dead. SAP officially announced that by the end of BI 4.3 in 2027, UNV will no longer exist. This may be in the all too distant future but converting your UNV to UNX simply doesn't happen overnight. Imagine you have 15 years of UNV on your SAP BusinessObjects platform, them alone probably include a few hundred tables with high levels of maintenance meaning a project such as this will take time. UNX was first introduced way back in BI 4.0, so it's not something new. We understand that universes are an important asset to SAP BusinessObjects customers and there will be a reluctance to decommission them, but since the recent announcement, it's time to put your UNV fully to rest.

Therefore, with the upcoming retirement of UNV, we have put together the important steps to take to convert to UNX, tips on how to facilitate the project with the 360Suite solutions, as well as a real-life example of how our customers carry out such a project.

# LONG LIVE UNX

UNV are a thing of the past and now is the time to modernize your SAP BusinessObjects platform by converting to UNX. Not only will it allow you to adopt multiple features to design more advanced universes, but it can also be a requirement if your organization plans to move its SAP BusinessObjects platform to the Cloud, such as Snowflake, which is now supported by SAP.

## SOME OF THE MOST NOTABLE BENEFITS OF UNX ARE:

✔ Any new database support is only added in the Information Design Tool (IDT) (e.g. Snowflake, Google BigQuery).

✔ The IDT has a much more powerful and modern interface compared to the Universe Design Tool (UDT).

✔ Dynamic default values are in the Universe Parameter.

# Make the move to UNX to get access to all these features:

| New Features of BI 4.0 | XI3.1 Functional area | XI3.1(UNV) | BI4.0 (UNX) | BI4.0 Functional area |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Project | | ❌ | ✅ | Project |
| Shared Project | | ❌ | ✅ | Project |
| Data Foundation | | ❌ | ✅ | Universe |
| Context | Universe | ✅ | ✅ | DF |
| Calculated column | | ❌ | ✅ | DF |
| Data Foundation view | | ❌ | ✅ | DF |
| List of Values as standalone and shareable metadata | | ❌ | ✅ | DF/BL |
| Prompts as standalone and shareable metadata | | ❌ | ✅ | DF/BL |
| DF advanced search | | ❌ | ✅ | DF |
| View data | Universe | ✅ | ✅ | DF |
| Comment | | ❌ | ✅ | DF |
| Family | | ❌ | ✅ | DF |
| Business Layer | | ❌ | ✅ | Universe |
| Universe view | | ❌ | ✅ | BL |
| Attribute | Universe outline | ✅ | ✅ | BL |
| Folder | Universe outline | ✅ | ✅ | BL |
| Query | | ❌ | ✅ | BL |
| Navigation Paths | Hierarchies | ✅ | ✅ | BL |

Source: SAP SCN Wiki

On top of the new features available in the IDT, it's also useful to understand the new terminology to use when converting to UNX:

| UDT TERMINOLOGY | IDT TERMINOLOGY |
| --- | --- |
| Classes | Folders |
| Detail Objects | Attributes |
| Hierarchy | Navigation Path |
| Self-restricting join | Filter |
| @Prompt | Parameter |

Converting UNV to UNX may seem like a challenging and daunting project, but it will allow you to modernize your SAP BusinessObjects platform and access new functionalities, to at the end of the day improve productivity in your environment.

# CONVERT YOUR UNV TO UNX IN A FEW SIMPLE STEPS

What was once only possible by using the SAP BusinessObjects Information Design Tool (IDT) is now also possible directly in the 360Suite solutions. Here you'll discover the two different ways to convert your UNV to UNX.

## CONVERTING USING THE IDT

The .unv universe(s) to be converted must be stored in a repository compatible with the IDT. If the .unv universe was created with a design tool version earlier than SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0, you first need to upgrade the universe using the upgrade management tool.
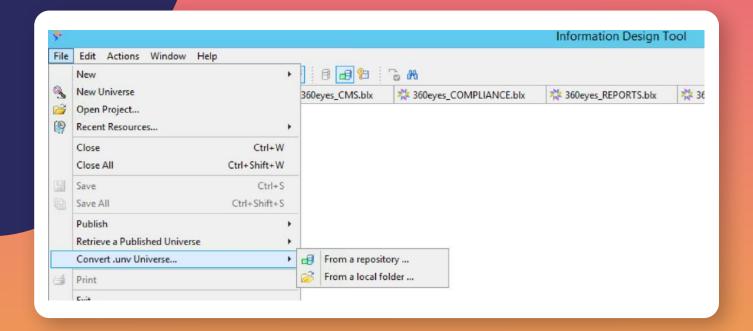More information can be found in the SAP BusinessObjects Upgrade Guide.

**Here we'll explain the steps to convert your UNV to UNX:**

Open Information Design Tool (IDT)

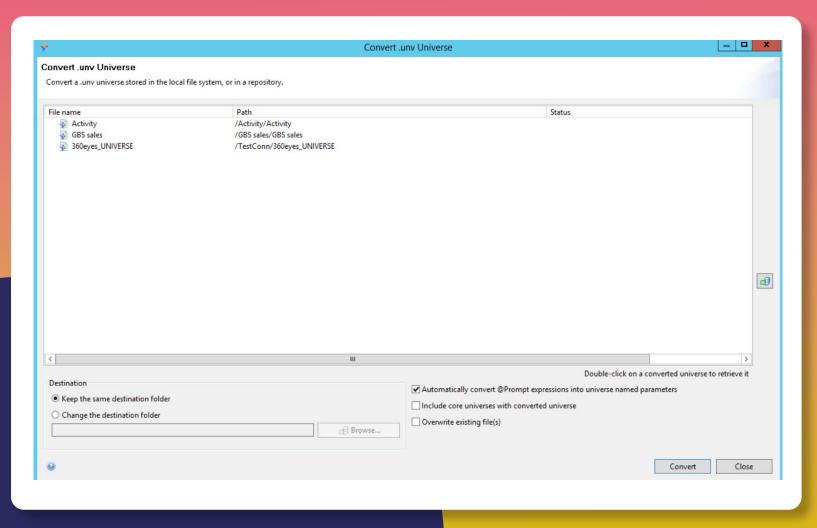Select File > Convert .unv Universe

Select From a repository...



Open a session on the repository where the .unv universe is saved.

A conversion dialog box appears. NB: You can convert a single or multiple .UNV universes to .UNX universe format.

In the left side pane, browse to the folder that contains one or more .unv universes to convert. Select one or more universes, and click the right arrow to move the selected universes to the right-side panel.

Once all Universes to be converted are in the right-side panel, click OK.

A conversion options box appears. The selected universes are listed with the repository file paths. You will have several conversion options, select the conversion option you prefer.
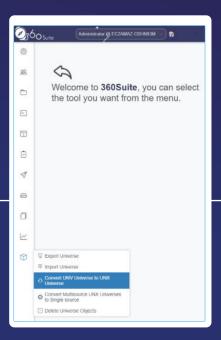
Click Convert to start the conversion.



This conventional conversion process in the IDT is very straightforward -- just remember that verification checks will need to be put in place to check everything in the UNV was converted over to UNX.
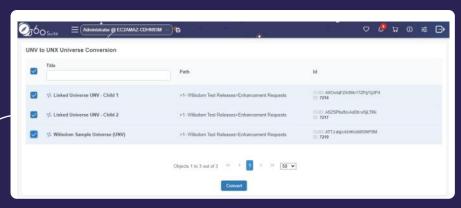
# CONVERTING USING 360SUITE

Converting your UNV to UNX can now be done within the 360Suite solutions. Here we'll explain the steps to take:
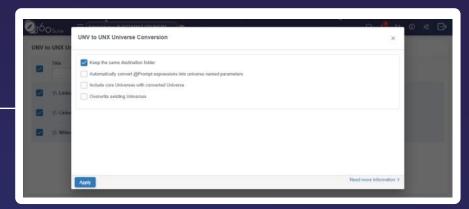


Login to your 360Suite account.

Select the 360Univ product on the left-hand side of the menu.



A conversion box will then appear. Choose the required conversion option in the pop-up window (these are the same as in the IDT).



Click Apply.

Select the UNV you want to convert.

A few steps are all it takes to convert your UNV to UNX. The main benefits are that it can all be done from one web page and is done with just a few clicks.

**Important to note:** Multi-source universes (MSU) will no longer be supported at the end of SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 or even exist in BI 2025. 360Suite solutions also allow you to convert your multi-source universes to single-source universes (SSU). Learn how this works here.

# TIPS AND TRICKS FOR A SMOOTHER CONVERSION

The real challenge for many organizations of converting Universes is due to the number of WebI documents that are pointing towards those Universes. However, there are solutions that can help make the process go a lot smoother, thanks to automation and bulk processes. Here we will provide you the 360Suite solutions available to facilitate the project workload.

**PUT IN PLACE A BACKUP**

**BULK REPOINT WEBI REPORTS FROM UNV TO UNX**

**REGRESSION TEST TO COMPARE THE BEFORE AND AFTER**

**UNIVERSE IMPACT ANALYSIS**

# PUT IN PLACE A BACKUP

First things first, make sure you have a backup in place. During any migration project, anything could happen, good or bad, and so this step is essential.

**360Suite allows you to easily restore your entire platform or any specific individual objects in just a few clicks in case anything goes wrong.**

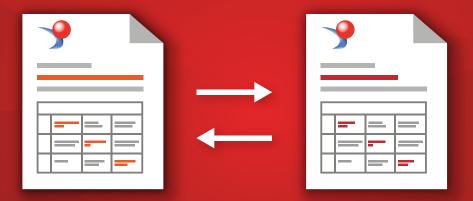Watch how to put in place a backup with 360Plus.

360 Suite

# BULK REPOINT WEBI REPORTS FROM UNV TO UNX

Having all your WebI reports pointing toward the old UNV Universe means that you will have to manually open each document and perform a Change Source in order to repoint each data provider to the new UNX Universe. This can be extremely time-consuming if you have thousands of WebIs. Ensuring you have a reliable backup is essential because once your WebI documents have been repointed you cannot go back, whether you repoint manually, or with 360Suite.

**Our Repoint WebI feature in 360Suite allows you to do this repointing in bulk, with a scheduling option included.**

Watch how to bulk repoint WebI reports with 360Suite.

# REGRESSION TEST TO COMPARE THE BEFORE AND AFTER

Whenever you migrate universes, reports, prompts, etc from an old to a new environment it's imperative to carry out regression testing to check that everything has migrated across correctly. This works the same when converting UNV to UNX. It's especially needed to verify that universe prompt filters are working properly (typically done by generating sample reports) and yielding correct data.

**Our solution** **allows you to do automated regression testing when converting your UNV to UNX.**

**Learn how to carry out automated regression testing with 360Bind.**

360 Suite

# UNIVERSE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Carrying out an impact analysis of your SAP BusinessObjects environment will allow you to better understand what universe objects are used by documents, not just WebI but also Crystal Reports and Deski. If you want to go further and clean up your various UNX, an impact analysis will also show you the objects that are used or not used.

**360Suite allows you to analyze the usage of your documents to avoid repointing those that are not being used.**

| Document Path | Document Cuid | Document Name | Action Count | Last Action Date | Days since last action date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/Mobile Samples/ | AXxv4ZR4kntKr1OJ1Kv9Hs0 | Mobile - Table Demo | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/Mobile Samples/ | AY.sKzGgXcpMge9B1xMPOIU | Geo Analysis Demo | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/Mobile Samples/ | AZx1nITICMdCvyJ6bWUTC5I | Chart Demo | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| /Root Folder/360 Training/ | AT7JdFh6dR5Arw876Op8Krs | Sales Analysis_42 | 5 | 3/23/23 | 22 |
| /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | AXb0jR1xevFLIX5hpPUGu.4 | ZZ_Sales Analysis Dashboard | 2 | 3/23/23 | 22 |
| /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/Report/Comp | Ae7KJZkHnMdMIEENKFg5GN8 | 360eyes REPORT - 30 Compare documents | 1 | 3/30/23 | 15 |

360 Suite

**Example of document usage report in 360Eyes.**

# Example of unused Universe objects using 360Eyes:

| Universe Name | Document Path | Document Name | Action Count | Last Action Date | Days since last action date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | /Root Folder/360eyes reports/zz_Samples: GRC Reports/ | GRC Sample - User activity | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/Report/Impac | 360eyes REPORT - 51 Impact Analysis (SQL Data Source | 1 | 3/30/23 | 15 |
| eFashion.unx | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Activity Follow-up Dashboard | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Charting | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Fold Unfold | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Input Controls | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Multiple Data Sources | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/ | Sales Analysis_42 | 5 | 3/23/23 | 22 |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/ | ZZ_Sales Analysis Dashboard | 2 | 3/23/23 | 22 |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/360Bind/Sou | Exercise 2 - Sales Analysis | 37 | 3/30/23 | 15 |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/360Bind/Targ | Exercise 2 - Sales Analysis | 30 | 3/31/23 | 14 |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/360Bind/Targ | Sales Analysis Dashboard | 11 | 4/3/23 | 11 |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/360Bind/Sou | Sales Analysis Dashboard | 47 | 4/3/23 | 11 |
| | /Root Folder/360 Training/Classroom Resources/360Bind/Targ | Sales Analysis Dashboard | 16 | 4/3/23 | 11 |
| Monitoring TrendData Universe | /Root Folder/Monitoring Report Sample/ | MonitoringTrend Data-Sample | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| NO UNIVERSE | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/Mobile Samples/ | Chart Demo | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |
| | /Root Folder/Web Intelligence Samples/Mobile Samples/ | Drill Demo | 0 | NO ACTION | NO ACTION |

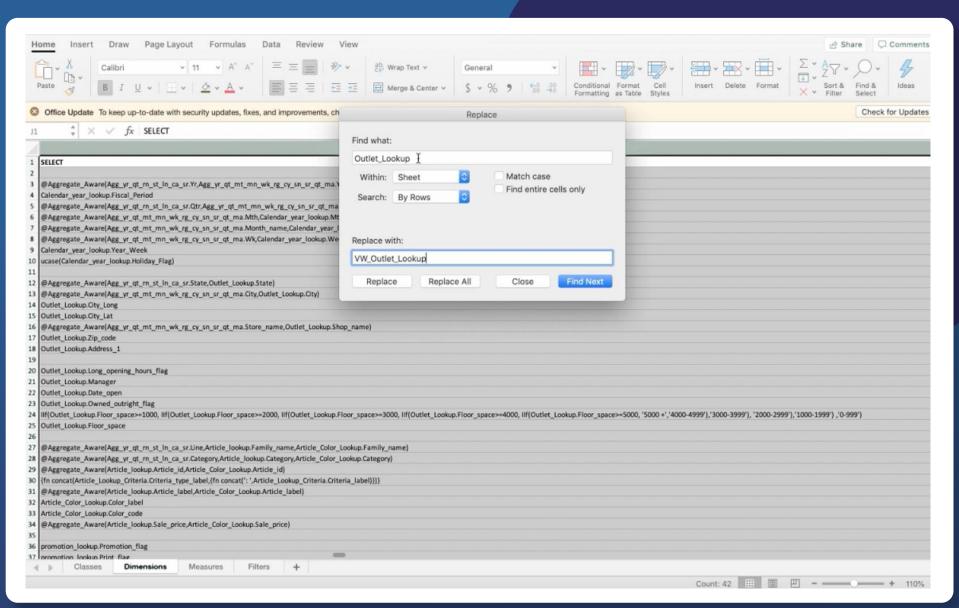360 Suite

# BULK UPDATE UNIVERSE OBJECTS

Looking to better organize your documents and universes? Keep your SAP BusinessObjects platform organized with our **time-saving solution** **that helps organize and document your universes** in the business layer, in particular, bulk updating your universe objects, including:

- Bulk update object descriptions

- Tag objects containing sensitive content
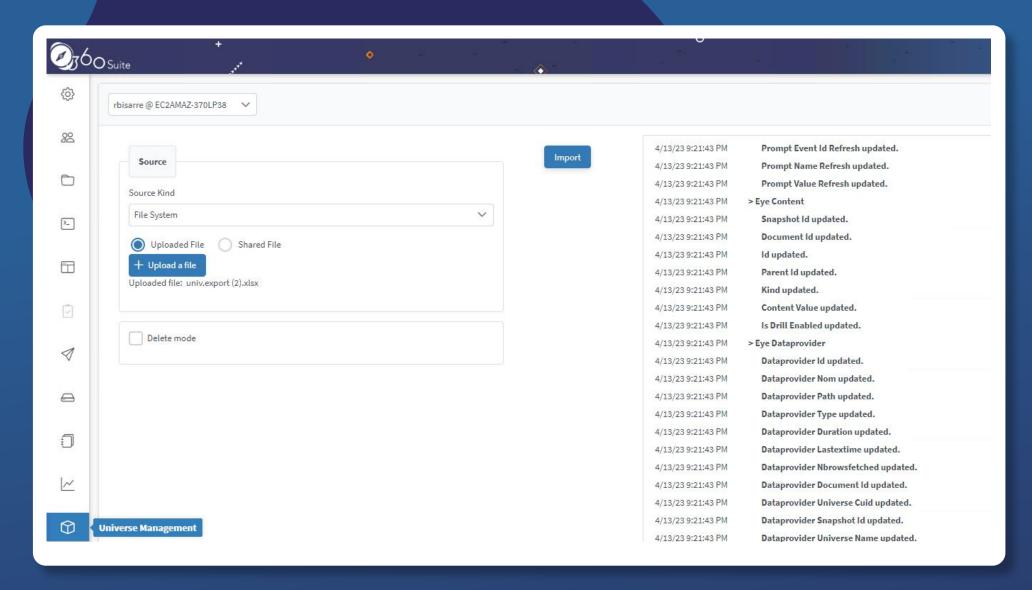
- Change Object Select

- Update object properties



Before Modification

Import

Export

After Modification

360 Suite

Example of replacing a table to a view in excel:

The results log in 360Univ after
bulk importing updated descriptions:

# HOW ARE 360SUITE CUSTOMERS CONVERTING UNV TO UNX?

One of our customers duplicates a set of Universes on a weekly basis, copying them to different folders and replacing the existing Universes. This changes the CUID of the Universes, affecting any WebI documents pointing to those Universes. It used to be a manual process for them to repoint documents to the updated/new Universes.

Fortunately, by implementing 360Suite, they have been able to automate this process, doing the updates in bulk, thus reducing the time it takes to update their documents. It has also allowed them to create a seamless process when replicating Universes. This feature also helps to mitigate the risks of missing one Universe or a set of WebI documents, therefore ensuring user confidence.

360 Suite

# MAKE THE MOVE TO UNX TODAY

We can't keep saying it enough, it's time to move your UNV to UNX today. SAP has announced that UNV will retire in the next few years and it's now as important as ever to start planning your UNV to UNX conversion project. With the help of the 360Suite solutions, you can save time and money, and have complete reassurance that the conversion will go smoothly.

If you need help converting your UNV to UNX, get in touch and one of our experts will help you out.

360 Suite

# 360 Suite

360Suite is a suite of **agile governance solutions** for SAP BusinessObjects developed by Wiiisdom.

At Wiiisdom, we transform your **Analytics landscape** into a **reliable** place to make **better, trusted decisions** every day and maximize your data assets.

360Suite is a set of solutions to ensure **quality, reliability, performance, and efficiency** of SAP BusinessObjects through testing, auditing, monitoring, cataloging, and scheduling methodologies. 360Suite is designed for large organizations looking to **mitigate data risks**, automate operations, and is the solution of choice for any migration project.

Visit https://wiiisdom.com/360suite/

# USEFUL RESOURCES

- **MSU Are Dead – Convert your SAP BusinessObjects Multi-Source Universes**

- **Repoint Your WebI Reports With Ease Thanks To 360Suite**

- **Webinar: Convert Your UNV Universes To UNX Like A Pro**

- **Best Practices Before Migrating SAP BusinessObjects**

- **Conversion Of The Relational Universes In BI 4.x, From UNV To UNX (SAP)**

- **Convert UNV to UNX (AZBOCUG - Conférence Infosol)**

- **UNV To UNX Universe Conversion Steps (SAP)**