

Retain the best and transform the rest!

**Don't wait for the 2027
deadline; innovate your
Approach with SAP
S/4HANA Migration.**



INTRODUCTION

The 2025/2027 deadline by SAP for existing customers to migrating from its SAP ECC to S/4HANA is a hot topic at events around the world today. However, the much-publicized topic around the SAP community has been slow in terms of actionable output and results.

With a well-defined deadline only a few years away, customers worldwide are confused with what migration process to choose. Further, with doubts over the modes of migration and issues that they might face with their operations, business owners are trying to avoid migration till the last moment. Interestingly, there are three different migration options for SAP S/4HANA migration, allowing organizations to adopt S/4HANA as per their current readiness.

This white paper will guide you through the different possibilities of SAP S/4HANA migration & explore how an early migration can save your time, efforts, cost, and help increase revenues.

THE POSSIBLE METHODS OF ADOPTION

The modes of operation and planning place individual organizations at different stages of the SAP S/4HANA migration race. The users of the SAP platforms have divided their pathway to the HANA migration into three different groups. Some have decided to board the station from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA, with a completely fresh start (implement the Greenfield approach). Others desire a complete movement of their current system to the new one, also called the Brownfield approach, to save their existing business process from any form of change or hindrance. Lastly, users who want to retain the best processes and still be able to transform the existing systems are opting for the BLUEFIELD™ migration approach.

OPTION 1: No-Change to existing way of working

“Oh, I don’t know... it’s a far-off horizon for me, why bother so early!”

If you are one such customer, the chances are that you consider the deadline to be a long distance away down the road. However, if you come to look at it, it’s only a few years away! Under such a situation, you have to have the system and the services up and running; properly tested and stabilized, well before the specified deadline. However, when it comes to the legacy systems’ technical and hardware resources, getting obsolete you might want to think about upgrading anyway.

In such a situation, Brownfield migration is your best chance of migrating to SAP S/4HANA without changing the current operations and retaining the investments in the current system. With the Brownfield system conversion, your business operations would now utilize the functionalities of the S/4HANA platform. Overall, the brownfield migration is more like a technical system conversion.

OPTION 2: Best-of-Breed:

“If we retain the best practices and upgrade, we will have to run a diagnostic regularly to check if all systems are working fine.”

This instance here is a clear depiction of how unsecure your current operations are, where you have no clue on what changes to the core SAP system and which patch upgrade will impact your external systems.

This instance calls out for the most widely used migration method for the S/4HANA cloud setup, the BLUEFIELD™ an automated software centric selective data transformation approach. When your organization runs multiple levels of operations, including with the third-party vendors. The BLUEFIELD™ migration methodology allows you to minimize risks by retaining your customizations and solutions in the upgraded ecosystem. It also provides the safest possible approach for adoption of the new SAP S/4HANA platform, allowing you to minimize a lot of the risks like losing data or important functionalities as you transfer to a new system.

OPTION 3: New-Beginning

“When we initially began working with SAP, we were okay with the functionalities. However, now that we are moving to an entirely upgraded generation of the S/4HANA, we’d like to blend in with a completely new system that is tailored to meet our changing needs and go-to-market strategy that would help us improve revenues.”

If you share a similar thought, Greenfield migration is the perfect option for you.

You need to implement SAP S/4HANA right from scratch in this method of adoption. The upside of utilizing such an approach is the fact that your organization can redefine business processes and take complete advantage of S/4HANA capabilities.

While such migration may not guarantee operational efficiency initially, the process of updates and patches over time will ensure success with the adjustment. However, taking such an implementation route can be a confusing and a resource intensive affair. Going through this re-implementation can be a long route as you need to make significant changes to the database. Further, it becomes a straining task, especially when you consider that you have to train your resources again and the time it will take to adapt to a completely new system configuration.



CONCLUSION

“Create a seamless transition to S/4HANA without straining your project efforts and timelines.”

Today, there's a greater section of the SAP users who want to opt for a migration process that provides them with the flexibility of operations without going through the troubles of losing the database or putting a budget constraint on their operations. Keeping such situations and flexibility in mind, BLUEFIELD™ migration emerges as the best option.

Transformation companies like Accely that add an edge to your SAP S/4HANA migration, work closely with the guidelines given by SAP to drive business transformations. Perhaps, it's time to stop talking of the deadline and embrace this change; for if there is anything that is constant, it's change!



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