

2025 SAP ECC to S/4HANA Migration Strategic Book

THE COUNTDOWN TO 2027

Why Moving from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA
is Crucial for Future-Proofing Your Enterprise



DATALINK
DYNAMICS

Each day you spend maintaining your SAP ECC, you lose up money, time, and opportunity to be more productive!

Data is the cornerstone of enterprise success, shaping critical strategic decisions made at the highest levels. With the rise of Artificial Intelligence, IoT, and predictive analytics, this data becomes even more vital, driving innovation, differentiation, and growth for businesses.

However, where data is stored and how it is processed are equally critical elements in this equation. Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems like SAP ECC and S/4HANA play a pivotal role in enabling organizations to manage, process, and leverage their data effectively.

While SAP ECC has served enterprises well for decades, its mainstream support will end by 2027. This upcoming deadline forces organizations to make a crucial choice: transition to SAP S/4HANA or explore alternative solutions.

Remaining on ECC beyond 2027 could result in significant operational risks, including costly extended support plans, increased inefficiencies, and potential system vulnerabilities.

For businesses, this decision transcends a mere software upgrade—it's about future-proofing operations in a rapidly evolving, digital-first marketplace. Acting promptly ensures a smoother transition, minimizing disruptions and positioning enterprises to capitalize on long-term opportunities while avoiding last-minute complications.



Data is the new oil, even for oil companies! Maintaining and analysing this data unlocks the future potential for organizations.

Key Market Drivers Fueling the Transition to SAP S/4HANA

End of support for ECC

SAP's announcement of ending mainstream maintenance for ECC by 2027 creates a strong push for organizations to transition to S/4HANA to maintain access to updates, support, and innovation.

Digital Transformation

Enterprise are looking to adopt cutting edge technologies like IoT, ML, AI. SAP S/4HANA leverages its advanced in-memory database and integrated intelligent capabilities to facilitate seamless adoption of these technologies. It also natively integrates with advanced tools like SAP Analytics Cloud, IoT platforms, and blockchain, providing a unified ecosystem for innovation and growth.

- • • As of the second quarter of 2022,
- • • German software company SAP SE
- • • reported a total of 20,000 subscribers for its S/4HANA enterprise resource planning (ERP) package.
- • • Source: [Statista](#)

Advanced Data Processing

Enterprises are managing massive and growing data volumes, further amplified by IoT devices. SAP S/4HANA, with its advanced in-memory computing and high-performance analytics, empowers businesses to process and analyze these datasets efficiently, delivering actionable insights.

Compliance regulations

S/4HANA is designed to align with evolving global compliance standards, such as GDPR, enabling organizations to manage risks and regulatory requirements more effectively.

Cloud Adoption

S/4HANA provides flexible deployment options, including on-premise, private cloud, and public cloud configurations, tailored to meet the diverse and evolving requirements of businesses.

Enhanced Business Processes

SAP S/4HANA is designed to optimize business operations with its intuitive user interface, streamlined data models, and refined workflows.

Potential business implications of remaining on SAP ECC

Depending on the complexity of current ERP system, the migration to S/4HANA may take somewhere around six months to two years. Meaning if you haven't started thinking about migrating to S/4HANA you already are late and might run the risk of not completing the migration in time.

Moreover, with increased number of enterprises looking for migration services, this niche skill may demand a premium, resulting in increased overall migration cost.

With SAP spending more money and resources on new S/4HANA, chances are very high that ECC would soon turn into a legacy system with out-of-date features that can't keep up with new age business challenges and customer behaviour.

The SAP workforce would eventually move to upgrade their skill and switch to latest S/4HANA, therefore reducing the pool of talent that would support the ECC system.

ECC systems would be incompatible with the new age technologies, sooner than later. Keeping up with the changing technology ecosystem will not only be difficult but extremely costly.



Legacy ECC systems are expensive to maintain, lack agility, and are incompatible with newer technologies, driving businesses toward S/4HANA's cost-efficient and future-ready platform

Leveraging SAP S/4HANA, a leading global technology company achieved a *50% reduction in order management costs* and a *90% decrease in IT expenses* compared to similar-sized organizations.

Source: SAP

SAP ECC vs. SAP S/4HANA: A Business Perspective

Aspect	SAP ECC	S/4HANA Advantage
System Architecture	Monolithic and on-premise focused	Cloud-ready with hybrid deployment options, supporting digital transformation and scalability
Data Model	Complex structure with redundant tables, requiring reconciliation	Simplified Universal Journal enables real-time analytics, faster processing, and reduced storage costs.
User Experience	Traditional GUI interface with limited customization	Modern SAP Fiori interface enhances usability and productivity with intuitive, role-based access
Performance	Batch processing limits real-time data access and insights	In-memory HANA database enables real-time data processing and faster decision-making
Analytics and Reporting	Limited real-time reporting with dependency on separate tools	Embedded analytics with real-time insights, eliminating the need for external reporting tools
Integration	Relies on middleware for connecting systems, often complex	Seamless integration with other SAP solutions and third-party systems, enabling a unified digital ecosystem
Processes and Automation	Manual-intensive processes with limited automation capabilities	Advanced automation with AI, machine learning, and RPA to streamline operations and enhance productivity
Data Management	Higher data redundancy and inefficiencies in processing large volumes	Efficient data handling with simplified structures, improving accuracy and operational efficiency
Maintenance and Upgrades	Complex and time-consuming with high costs for upgrades	Simplified upgrades and lower TCO with a streamlined platform
Support Timeline	Mainstream support ends by 2027, requiring extended support fees for continued use	Future-ready system with ongoing support and innovations to align with evolving business needs and technology advancements

Determine the Optimal Migration Strategy for SAP S/4HANA Transition

Choose from these three approaches that aligns with your business needs

	Greenfield	Brownfield	Hybrid
Overview	This approach involves implementing SAP S/4HANA from the ground up, allowing organizations to design processes without being constrained by legacy systems	In this strategy, organizations upgrade their existing legacy ERP system to SAP S/4HANA, keeping much of the current infrastructure, processes, and customizations intact	A hybrid approach is a combination of both greenfield and brownfield strategies. This option strikes a balance between continuity and modernization
Advantage	Businesses aiming to re-engineer workflows, remove outdated processes, and start fresh	Businesses that want to maintain their existing processes with minimal interruption and don't want to overhaul their current operations	Businesses that want to optimize key business areas while ensuring that legacy processes that still work efficiently are preserved
Challenges	Time-consuming and resource-intensive, requiring extensive planning, system design, and employee training to ensure smooth adoption	This approach may result in the retention of inefficiencies and outdated practices from the legacy system, potentially limiting the full benefits of S/4HANA's capabilities	Selecting the right data and processes to migrate is critical, as improper choices can lead to complications or inefficiencies in the future

Choosing the Right SAP S/4HANA Deployment: On-Premise, Private, or Public Cloud

When moving to SAP S/4HANA, businesses can opt for on-premise, private cloud, or public cloud deployments. Each choice impacts implementation and varies in security, scalability, and customization.

On-Premise Deployment

Advantages

- Full control over data and systems, high security tailored to specific needs, and compliance with strict regulations.

Challenges

- High upfront costs for infrastructure
- Requires in-house maintenance
- Longer implementation time

Private Cloud Deployment

Advantages

- Enhanced security with dedicated resources, customizable infrastructure, and improved performance.

Challenges

- Limited scalability tied to organizational hardware
- Higher costs than public cloud
- Requires technical expertise

Public Cloud Deployment

Advantages

- Cost-effective pay-as-you-go model, rapid deployment, virtually unlimited scalability, and provider-managed updates.

Challenges

- Limited customization options
- Shared infrastructure may raise data privacy concerns
- Regulatory compliance challenges

How DataLink Dynamics Supports a Seamless Transition to SAP S/4HANA



At DataLink Dynamics, we understand the complexities involved in migrating to SAP S/4HANA. With over two decades of experience, our team has successfully partnered with top SAP implementation experts and delivered complex, high-impact projects across the globe. We specialize in SAP Data Migration, Data Warehousing, Data Integration, and Data Quality Analysis, offering a comprehensive, end-to-end approach to ensure a seamless transition.

Our proven methodology, refined through real-world experience, guides clients step-by-step, ensuring not only a smooth migration process but also the optimization of business operations. We prioritize a client-centric approach, handling all the intricate details of the migration, allowing your team to focus on innovation and growth.

Whether you're pursuing a greenfield, brownfield, or hybrid migration strategy, DataLink Dynamics is equipped to help you navigate the challenges and unlock the full potential of SAP S/4HANA, setting your business up for long-term success.

Choose DataLink Dynamics for a migration experience that's efficient, reliable, and transformative. Let us handle the technical complexities of Data Migration while you focus on what truly matters—growing your business.