

# SAP IMPLEMENTATION PREPARATION

At Integral 360 we value the advice, insight and collaboration of our partners towards the migration steps and processes for the 2027 SAP S/4HANA conversion. Together we will ensure the diligence and accuracy of functionalities best suited for your teams across all departments.

Migrating data to SAP S/4HANA involves several steps to ensure a smooth transition and maintain data integrity. Here is an outline of the typical steps involved in SAP data migration to S/4HANA:

#### Assessment and Planning

- *Evaluate current data landscape:* Assess the existing data structure, quality, and dependencies.
- Define migration scope: Determine which data objects need to be migrated (e.g., master data, transactional data).
- *Establish migration strategy:* Decide whether to perform a greenfield or brownfield migration, considering factors like timeline, complexity, and business continuity.

#### **Data Preparation**

- *Cleanse and harmonize data*: Identify and address data inconsistencies, duplicates, and errors to improve data quality.
- *Map data objects:* Map source data structures to target S/4HANA data structures, ensuring alignment with S/4HANA data models.
- *Extract and transform data:* Extract data from source systems, transform it according to S/4HANA requirements, and prepare it for loading.

### **Migration Execution**

- Load data into S/4HANA: Use SAP-provided tools like SAP Data Services, SAP LT Replication Server, or SAP Rapid Data Migration for SAP S/4HANA to load transformed data into S/4HANA.
- *Validate data integrity:* Perform data validation checks to ensure accuracy and completeness of migrated data.
- *Execute migration:* Execute the migration process according to the defined strategy, considering factors like downtime, data volume, and performance.

### **Post-Migration Activities**

- *Perform reconciliation:* Reconcile migrated data with source data to identify and resolve any discrepancies.
- *Conduct data validation:* Validate migrated data through end-to-end testing, ensuring that it meets business requirements and performs as expected.
- *Address data gaps:* Address any data gaps or missing information that may have occurred during the migration process.
- *Train end-users:* Provide training to end-users on how to use and navigate the new S/4HANA system, including any changes to data entry or processes.

#### **Optimization and Continuous Improvement**

- *Monitor performance:* Monitor system performance and data quality postmigration, addressing any issues or optimization opportunities as they arise.
- *Implement enhancements:* Continuously improve data processes and governance to optimize data management and utilization within S/4HANA.
- *Plan for future migrations:* Develop a roadmap for future data migrations and system upgrades, considering evolving business needs and technology advancements.

#### **Documentation and Knowledge Transfer**

• *Document migration process:* Document all migration activities, configurations, and decisions made during the process for future reference and audit purposes.

• *Transfer knowledge:* Ensure that relevant stakeholders and IT teams are trained and equipped with the necessary knowledge to support and maintain the S/4HANA system going forward.

By following these steps and best practices, organizations can successfully migrate their data to SAP S/4HANA, leveraging its advanced capabilities to drive business transformation and innovation.

## IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES FOR SAP S/4HANA TRANSFORMATION

# **Greenfield Implementation**

SAP S/4HANA Greenfield implementation refers to the process of deploying SAP's S/4HANA system from scratch, without migrating data or configurations from an existing SAP system. It's like starting with a blank canvas and building the entire system anew. Greenfield implementations offer the advantage of starting fresh, without the constraints of legacy systems. However, they require careful planning and execution to ensure a successful transition to the new SAP S/4HANA environment.

## Agility and Flexibility

The Greenfield approach offers a chance to reassess current business processes, eliminate obsolete practices, and devise new workflows tailored for the digital era. It empowers organizations to rethink their operations and fully leverage the sophisticated features of SAP S/4HANA.

## **Minimal Disruption**

Implementing SAP Greenfield ensures minimal disruption to existing operations since it involves implementing SAP S/4HANA in a separate environment. By avoiding the complexities of migrating existing data and customizations, organizations can streamline the implementation process and reduce the risk of disruption to ongoing operations. This minimizes downtime and ensures a smoother transition to the new SAP landscape, enabling businesses to quickly realize the benefits of the updated system.

#### **Resource Intensive**

Migrating to SAP S/4HANA using the Greenfield approach can be resource-intensive due to the need to establish new systems, processes, and configurations from scratch. This method involves building a completely new SAP environment, which requires significant investment in terms of time, manpower, and financial resources. Organizations undertaking a Greenfield migration must allocate resources for tasks such as data migration, system setup, customization, testing, and training. Additionally, there may be a need for external expertise or consultancy services to ensure a successful implementation.

# **Brownfield Implementation**

The Brownfield approach to transitioning to SAP S/4HANA involves upgrading or converting existing SAP ERP systems to the new platform while preserving existing data, configurations, and customizations. Unlike the Greenfield approach, which starts afresh, Brownfield builds upon the current landscape, aiming to minimize disruption and leverage existing investments.

## Faster Time to Value

This approach typically requires less time and resources compared to Greenfield, as it focuses on system conversion rather than reimplementation.

## **Technical Complexities**

The Brownfield Approach may still entail complexities such as data migration, compatibility issues, and the need to adapt existing processes to fit the new system architecture. Preservation of existing configurations in a Brownfield approach, the goal is to retain as much of the existing configuration, customizations, and data as possible. This involves assessing what can be migrated directly to S/4HANA without significant changes.

## **Custom Code Adaption**

While the goal is to preserve existing configurations and customizations, some adaptations may be necessary due to changes in the data model and functionalities introduced in S/4HANA. This may involve analyzing custom code, identifying what needs to be adjusted, and making the necessary changes to ensure compatibility with S/4HANA.

Despite these challenges, the Brownfield approach offers organizations a pragmatic path to harness the advanced capabilities of SAP S/4HANA while maintaining continuity in operations, minimizing the impact of day-to-day operations and maximizing the value of their existing SAP investments. Organizations can prioritize specific modules, processes, or business units for migration to SAP S/4HANA.

# **Bluefield Implementation**

SAP Bluefield implementation is a methodology designed to facilitate the migration of SAP ECC (Enterprise Central Component) systems to SAP S/4HANA, the next-generation business suite from SAP. The term "Bluefield" is derived from the idea of combining the best aspects of "greenfield" and "brownfield" approaches.

In a Bluefield approach, the existing SAP landscape is analyzed to identify the core processes and data that should be migrated to SAP S/4HANA. Then, instead of starting entirely from scratch (greenfield approach) or simply upgrading the existing system (brownfield approach), the implementation focuses on transforming and optimizing selected processes while retaining existing investments and configurations where appropriate.

The key aspects of a Bluefield implementation typically include:

## System Assessment

Analyzing the current SAP landscape to determine the scope of the migration and identify areas for improvement.

## **Process Optimization**

Evaluating existing business processes and redesigning them to leverage the new capabilities of SAP S/4HANA, such as in-memory computing, simplified data models, and enhanced analytics.

## **Data Migration**

Migrating relevant data from the existing SAP ECC system to SAP S/4HANA, ensuring data quality and integrity throughout the process.

### **Technical Conversion**

Converting the existing SAP ECC system to SAP S/4HANA, which may involve upgrading the underlying technology stack, adjusting customizations, and adapting interfaces.

### **Innovation Adoption**

Leveraging new features and functionalities of SAP S/4HANA, such as machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT) integration, and advanced analytics, to drive business innovation and competitive advantage.

### Change Management

Managing organizational change and ensuring user adoption of the new system through training, communication, and stakeholder engagement.

By combining elements of both greenfield and brownfield approaches, SAP Bluefield implementation aims to deliver the benefits of a new SAP S/4HANA system while minimizing disruption to existing business operations and maximizing the value of previous investments in SAP technology.