

Making the Most of Your SAP Upgrade



High performance. Delivered.

Accenture research shows that high performance organizations look to their enterprise systems to deliver the distinctive capabilities that allow them to stand out from the competition.

• Consulting • Technology • Outsourcing

Elton Doi
Senior Director, Accenture Rapid
Upgrade Solution

The need to upgrade presents organizations with an opportunity to consider how they can get more value from their SAP-based systems.

Beyond technical and functional benefits, upgrades provide the opportunity for re-invention and lay the foundation for a service-orientated approach, opening up new business and IT opportunity.

Approached strategically, upgrades can deliver future fitness, maintenance and cost reduction, process capability and strategic business effectiveness.

And yet a survey of Accenture's top 50 SAP clients revealed that technical considerations and new functionality are the main reasons to upgrade.

All of our clients are facing the upgrade question. And it is something that our clients go through every five years or so as part of the SAP life-cycle. Many companies take the technical operative approach because they want to minimize the amount of risk, minimize the amount of duration for their project. The challenge with the technical upgrade is that you may not get a lot of business value. We advise our clients to take a longer term view, and to actively look for ways to add business value to their upgrade projects.

We see an SAP upgrade project as an opportunity on your SAP roadmap. And so it is not a technical exercise, it is more than a software installation and a technical upgrade. It's an opportunity to deliver value to your business to establish new capabilities for your company, fast and sooner than your competitors.

We're helping a lot of companies add business value to their upgrades, for example looking at new capabilities around self services, around analytics, around integration, services-orientated architecture and making sure at the end of their upgrade project, they're a step ahead in their journey to high performance.

Based on extensive experience delivering upgrade projects including many upgrades to SAP ERP, Accenture has invested in a solution designed to help clients see their upgrade in the context of an overall journey rather than a tactical move driven by necessity.

The Accenture Rapid Upgrade Solution:

- Planning workshop
- Proven delivery methodology
- Tools and accelerators

Result: Immediate and substantial business value in line with long-term objectives.

Upgrade planning is a key part of the Accenture Rapid Upgrade Solution.

Our workshops:

- Help groups execute essential upfront planning
- Are tailored to each organization's unique situation, opportunities and challenges
- Consider key impact areas such as customizations, technical landscapes and business downtime constraints

And we have several dozen examples in the past year where we've been able to run this workshop and in one week produced a very compelling set of deliverables for our clients. In our workshop, we work with client needs to understand the environment, some of the business challenges, and some of the dependencies and schedules for the upgrade. The outcome of this planning workshop is a detailed work plan, a work estimate, a timeline, a resource plan and a business case. Together all these deliverables help our clients get started very quickly on realizing the benefits of their upgrades.

Our methodologies, tools and accelerators – based on our collective experience across all upgrades projects are also key to minimizing risk and ensuring reliable and cost-efficient delivery of upgrades.

Dan Murphree
Texas Instruments

Accenture brings a terrific methodology on how to implement projects. They bring the knowledge of SAP, they bring the project management expertise, and so for both the initial implementation of SAP and the upgrade last year, we were able to accurately predict how long the project was going to take, what it would cost and we're able to go live with no business disruptions.

SAP upgrade success maximized with Accenture:

- 23,500+ skilled SAP practitioners globally
- 100+ SAP industry and cross-industry assets
- 14 SAP Pinnacle awards
- 3 decades of working with SAP

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