

To the cloud. With confidence. Now.

Why now is the right time for SAP®
solutions on Microsoft Azure

Today's business demands are driving an immediate need for organizations to develop a focused strategy to migrate SAP® applications to the cloud.

Support for SAP ECC is set by SAP to end in 2027. At that time, all firms will be mandated to migrate to SAP S/4HANA®, the newest SAP ERP suite. Even without this compelling event, as support for older software becomes harder to find, the cost of maintaining on premise ERP solutions will remain high with time-to-value staying low. The push to invest in transforming business practices and modern ERP landscapes will only continue to grow as the 2027 date looms closer. It is critical that business leaders, specifically CFOs and CIOs involved in future ERP strategies plan appropriately to prepare for this change, even if your organization is not ready to adopt SAP S/4HANA immediately.

Businesses have already seen the value of the cloud; since 2016 the average cloud budget has spiked by nearly 36% with 73% of organizations having at least one new application in the cloud and enterprises already running parts of SAP in the cloud. COVID-19 has created a new urgency accelerating the move to the cloud. From 20% in the cloud today, businesses are on the way to migrating 80% to the cloud in the next three years.

The resilience, flexibility, scalability, and productivity that the cloud offers combined with the need to reduce operating costs, increase cash flow, and react quickly to new opportunities as well as changes in the market are fast changing how organizations prioritize and run core operational processes in the cloud. Our research indicates that now more than ever, CEOs need to prioritize strategic opportunities that enable their companies to transform quickly, thoughtfully and sustainably.

Source: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insights/cloud/cloud-outcomes-perspective>

The real cloud driver: business benefits and the ability to outmaneuver uncertainty

The cloud can provide significant business benefits including not only total cost of ownership (TCO) reduction and faster time to delivery but also access to innovation. Agility and flexibility are imperative to changing consumer and market demands. An array of cloud-based capabilities, from faster transaction processes and advanced analytics to the Internet of Things (IoT), cloud and infrastructure security, sophisticated identity management capabilities and industry-specific solutions can help businesses not only operate but remain competitive in the digital era.

In these uncertain times, the cloud offers a crucial benefit: in contrast to on-premise solutions, it has exceptional agility and flexibility to handle evolving consumer and market needs.

When businesses are considering whether to move to a private or public cloud platform, it's becoming increasingly clear that the public route offers tangible business benefits to future-proof your SAP investment. For those businesses moving SAP workloads to the cloud and are looking for a public cloud provider, Microsoft Azure is the preferred choice.

To the cloud. With confidence. Now. Speed, security, sustainability.

Used by 90 percent of Fortune 500 companies, there are many reasons why Microsoft Azure can bring out the best of the SAP S/4HANA digital core. Running on Azure saves significant costs in the short term and creates new possibilities for innovation and greater competitiveness in the future.

1. **A flexible, integrated platform supports productivity gains** with Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) and workplace modernization
2. **Scalability** supports increasing volumes of SAP and non-SAP workloads with ease and on demand
3. **Supports security and compliance needs** with enterprise-grade security and built-in privacy
4. **Accelerate innovation** by leveraging artificial intelligence, DevOps and analytics
5. **Sustainable cloud migration** to Azure, which runs on 100% renewable energy and is 98% more carbon efficient than traditional datacenters.

Source: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/overview/what-is-azure/>

The combined power of Accenture, SAP, and Microsoft helps reduce the complexity and minimizes the costs of moving from on-premises to the cloud. Azure is a compelling SAP-certified public cloud infrastructure able to handle the largest SAP HANA® workloads. It's the largest certified public cloud for SAP workloads, with the ability to handle large SAP HANA instances (HLIs) with scale-up for online transaction processing (OLTP) workloads up to 24TB and scale out for online analytical processing (OLAP) workloads up to 64TB today. There is also a seamless transition from bare metal large SAP HANA instances to the new M-Series Version 1 - 4TB Azure Virtual Machines for SAP HANA workloads. In addition, M-Series Version 2 - 6TB and 12TB Virtual Machines are now available.

SAP on Azure benefits



Long-term cost reductions

of 30-50% annually



Enormous reach and reliable architecture

built in, with high availability and Disaster Recovery for business continuity with 99.99% uptime



Robust predictive capabilities

delivered by industrialized SAP solutions that enrich your data



Comprehensive security

that spans across all layers and delivers policy-based, automated enforcement.

Source: <https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/support/legal/sla/summary/>

Which strategy is best for you?

Businesses deciding on their strategy for running SAP applications on Azure need to assess where they are in their current lifecycle and what they believe the future for their SAP platform will be. As they do, it's important to assess their current environment so they can better create a roadmap strategy for SAP application migration.

Time to move

Journey to Microsoft Azure for SAP applications

Today's business demands are driving organizations to move SAP applications to the cloud.



Reduce

Technical migration to Azure, take out the cost, enable future digitization



Renew

SAP S/4HANA on Azure to run efficiently and benefit from new capabilities



Innovate

SAP S/4HANA on Azure combined with SAP Cloud Platform are Machine Learning and Cognitive Learning offerings from Microsoft

Technical SAP Migration

A rapid migration of existing SAP and non-SAP applications to Microsoft Azure allows for on-premise data center and lowering infrastructure costs, freeing up funding for reinvestment in business growth initiatives. Azure services can be provisioned as-a-service and delivered as a managed service.

Leapfrog to SAP S/4HANA on Azure

With all the available and planned SAP innovations now focused on SAP S/4HANA and given SAP's plans to end product support and maintenance in 2027, the need to convert is a given. Organizations that make the move early stand to get the most out of applications expressly designed for the digital age and are the first to benefit from SAP S/4HANA innovations. While the most common approaches are greenfield or brownfield, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for conversion. Accenture's conversion approach recognizes that priorities vary, and each organization needs to determine the right timetable for its specific resourcing and scheduling requirements. Our partnership with SAP and Microsoft streamlines migration while a collaborative support model provides peace of mind.

Innovation

Moving to SAP S/4HANA on Azure enables business transformation. We help clients leverage the rich capabilities of SAP Cloud Platform and, together with Microsoft and SAP, unleash the full potential of digital innovation with intelligent technologies on SAP Cloud Platform combined with Microsoft Azure's Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) capabilities in AI, machine learning, big data, analytics and IoT.

Unlock the power of SAP solutions on Azure with Accenture

Accenture's integrated platforms, assets and tools work together to support an effective and rapid migration of SAP solutions to Azure. They cover the entire project lifecycle, enable and accelerate DevOps and automation, provisioning, deployment and operations. The result? Speed to market, increased quality, standardization and cost efficiency with the end-to-end control, governance and visibility over all the manual and automated activities that complex SAP migrations require.

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Accenture myNav is our cloud platform that helps organizations design and simulate different cloud solutions to identify the ones that best fit their specific business requirements. myNav evaluates multiple variables — including an organization’s technology infrastructure, applications, data, operational model and business outcomes — to identify the right solution for enterprises, then simulates it at scale to confirm its viability and refine the business case.

Accenture myConcerto powers enterprise transformation and SAP S/4HANA conversion —from business case to roadmap to delivery—helping companies make the right investments, navigate complexity and realize value quickly. myConcerto is an insight-driven, digitally integrated platform that orchestrates the power of new SAP solutions and technologies, and Accenture’s industry and functional expertise—methods, tools, solutions, capabilities—to create exponential business outcomes.

Accenture myWizard is our integrated automation platform that helps clients with cloud resource provisioning, delivery and governance for SAP implementations on Azure. It also provides an end-to-end cloud management portal and governance tool to manage SAP and non-SAP workloads on Azure.

Our DevOps and automation tools cover the breadth of deployment, operations and administration of SAP landscapes. These can help:

Save 30% in Azure infrastructure provisioning and build, and a reduction from 30 days to five days for large and complex SAP HANA environments

Save 5-10% in SAP
Basis automation for
Azure migrations

Save 5-10%
in intelligent Azure
infrastructure operations

15-20% reduction
in SAP security efforts

Source: Accenture data based on client project experience

Accenture realizes value with SAP solutions on Azure

Accenture today is a more diverse business. This means operating with insight, agility, efficiency and compliance across multiple business units and business processes is essential. Our implementation of SAP S/4HANA was groundbreaking in that it drove change across every dimension of our businesses.

We leverage SAP S/4HANA and other SAP solutions across Accenture business functions and in areas such as analytics, cloud and platforms, to deliver value and innovation to Accenture.

We are our own best credential in this and other SAP software and functional domains. Our experience and understanding of SAP solutions on Azure within our own environment makes it possible to better help our own clients wanting to move.

Accenture’s first major SAP application, SAP BW on SAP HANA, was moved to Microsoft Azure in a span of only six months.

Benefits gained from this move include:

70% faster financial reporting

38% performance improvement
in month-end close processing

70% faster broadcasting of data
to downstream systems

New agility for faster response
to business changes

**Further fortified our ERP security
and enabled secure SAP HANA
agile delivery governance**

Source: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/case-studies/about/migration-sap-bw-sap-hana>

The next phase was to implement SAP S/4HANA—a brownfield conversion at scale to leverage our highly optimized existing platform and standardized business processes. In support of Accenture’s growing business, our existing on-premise SAP S/4HANA hardware was reaching its capacity. Building on the success and stability of the previous SAP BW on SAP HANA move to Microsoft Azure, Accenture leadership had the confidence to move our most business-critical platform, SAP S/4HANA, to Azure.

This direction is also in line with Accenture’s cloud-first strategy. Accenture moved SAP S/4HANA along with two critical supporting functions, SAP Portal and archiving, to Azure. This set of moves completed the transition of our collection of SAP applications, positioning us to close the data center. Most importantly, the move to Azure achieved the business imperative, providing the ability to scale with agility. Moving to Microsoft Azure is projected to deliver numerous benefits, including:

- 1. Agility**
Can scale up our production environment when needed. Can also quickly create new environments to support the business in exploring new capabilities.
- 2. Operational ease**
The cloud environment provides advanced tools to streamline operations and environment management.
- 3. Close headroom**
Performance improvement on key business processing increases headroom for future growth.
- 4. Lower TCO**
A reduction in total cost of ownership is anticipated over time, including savings from the closure of a data center.
- 5. Security**
Public cloud meets or exceeds the highest levels of security standards and certifications.

Source: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/case-studies/about/accenture-microsoft-sap-innovate?src=soms>

Accenture clients are realizing value with SAP solutions on Azure

Carlsberg’s strategy to accelerate growth and improve margins

Carlsberg approached Accenture with a business strategy targeting increased digital connectivity between the company and its customers, supply chain and employees.

Carlsberg’s SAIL22 corporate strategy had a business goal to be a digitally connected enterprise. Transitioning to Azure was one of the strategic drivers to help reach the corporate goal. Working closely with Microsoft and SAP, Accenture transitioned Carlsberg’s core infrastructure and business-critical applications to Azure in less than six months. The transition modernized the enterprise, making it more dynamic and agile, covering more than 150TB of data on 600 servers and 200 applications for more than 10,000 employees.

The results are already pouring in and Carlsberg has seen an improvement in IT systems stability, more agility and responsiveness in company infrastructure, enhanced resiliency, scalability and lower IT operating costs.

“In a highly dynamic and competitive industry, this provides a digital growth platform that enables us to deliver exceptional services and experiences of what we believe is the best beer in the world.”

—Mark Dajani,
CIO and SVP of Global
Business Services at
Carlsberg Group

The journey to Azure has also positioned Carlsberg with innovation abilities in DevOps, IoT and AI. As one example, Carlsberg approved the experimental design of a new, sustainable, lighter-weight beer keg outfitted with IoT sensors to gauge real-time consumption and link consumption directly with marketing campaigns—a first for the company. With this “connected bar” solution, which is now in full production, Carlsberg has real-time insights into the effectiveness of its multimillion dollar sales campaigns tying that consumption to marketing campaigns.

Tullow Oil’s migration to the cloud

Accenture worked with Tullow Oil to achieve a fast, flexible and resilient infrastructure platform for their SAP landscape, allowing control over costs and mitigating risks around disaster recovery.

As a first step, Accenture inspected the company’s cloud hosting strategy to infer benefits from a migration to the cloud, which included:



Cost control and resiliency

Greater cost flexibility and visibility, as well as enhanced resiliency



Agility and scalability

The adoption of an agile and scalable solution that would be able to flex according to the company’s requirements



Transformation and innovation

A platform for future digital transformation and innovation

Through transformation to Azure, the oil company is now prepared for future innovation, creating a resilient, flexible platform. The company continues to grow in partnership with Accenture, and utilization of Azure has brought cost reductions, enhanced resiliency and scalability.

Next steps: are you ready?

Will you be ready to modernize your SAP landscape? While many organizations are preparing to convert to SAP S/4HANA, there is a compelling business case to even do a technical migration of your legacy SAP workloads as is to Microsoft Azure.

The time to put strategies in motion is now. IT and finance leaders, specifically CFOs and CIOs, must start planning immediately to understand how SAP S/4HANA will impact their organization’s ERP investments and landscape. A good first step is to understand your readiness for adoption. Answering this key question “Are you ready or not?” will help uncover the next steps to full business transformation with a mature SAP S/4HANA solution deployed on the Azure cloud.

Are you ready to take full advantage of SAP S/4HANA? If so, then your organization should implement SAP S/4HANA on Microsoft Azure for the clearest path to the cloud.

Are you not certain about moving to SAP S/4HANA? Then a technical migration of SAP ECC and other on-premise SAP applications onto Azure still provides a compelling business case to reduce total cost of ownership and reduce the infrastructure cost by exiting on-premise data centers. This will prepare you for further SAP S/4HANA maturity and prepare for adopting Agile, DevOps and more innovation.

Our aim is to help businesses get the most from migrating SAP applications to Azure, working with them to bring the best of Accenture, Avanade, Microsoft and SAP to deliver an end-to-end solution that supports tangible business outcomes.

For more info

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About Accenture

Accenture is a global professional services company with leading capabilities in digital, cloud and security. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries, we offer Strategy and Consulting, Interactive, Technology and Operations services—all powered by the world's largest network of Advanced Technology and Intelligent Operations centers. Our 506,000 people deliver on the promise of technology and human ingenuity every day, serving clients in more than 120 countries. We embrace the power of change to create value and shared success for our clients, people, shareholders, partners and communities. Visit us at www.accenture.com.

About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud services, business solutions and design-led experiences delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Our professionals bring bold, fresh thinking combined with technology, business and industry expertise to help fuel transformation and growth for our clients and their customers. Avanade has 30,000 digitally connected people across 24 countries, bringing clients the best thinking through a collaborative culture that honors diversity and reflects the communities in which we operate. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com.