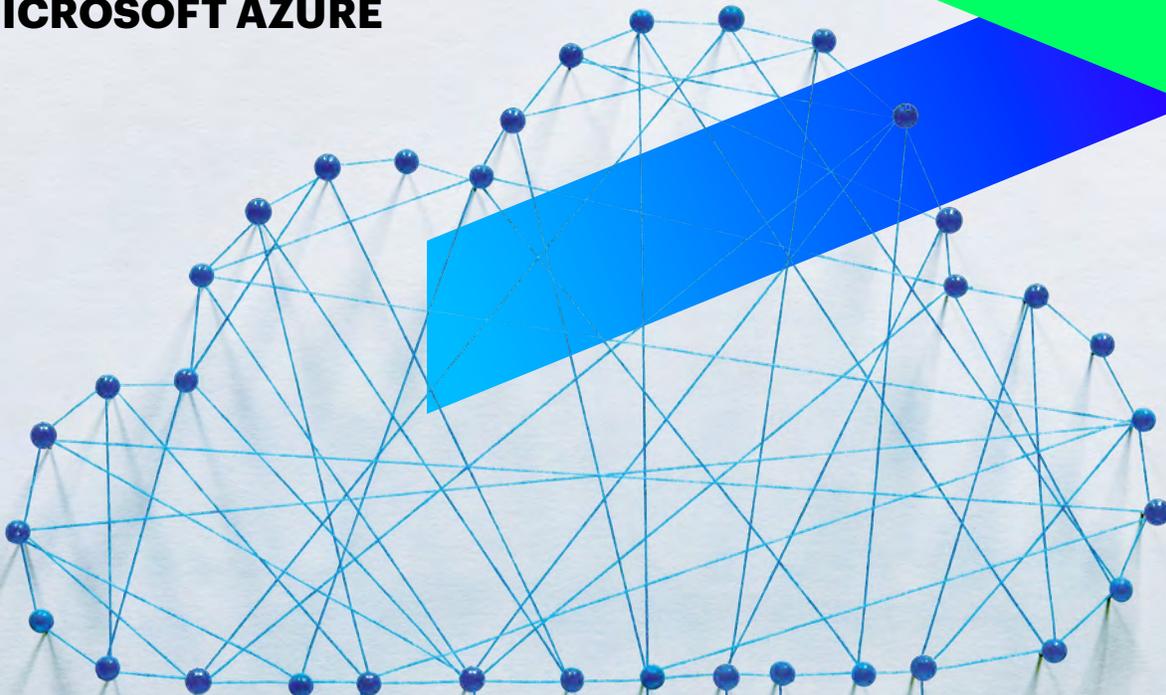


ACCENTURE, MICROSOFT AND SAP INNOVATE

IN MOVING SAP BUSINESS
WAREHOUSE ON SAP HANA®
TO MICROSOFT AZURE



accenture



OPPORTUNITY

Accenture runs its core financial processing on a single global instance of SAP® Business Suite on HANA. As Accenture becomes a more diverse business, it needs to operate with more insight, agility, efficiency and compliance across multiple business units, business processes and applications. This means that both the business processes and IT capabilities must contend with a faster pace of change, growth, larger volumes and diverse businesses—all driving the need to evolve Accenture's ERP to be ready for **future needs**.

SOLUTION

The journey began when Accenture's internal IT organization migrated the company's Finance and HR system from SAP Business Suite on Microsoft SQL to SAP Business Suite on HANA. The effort involved migrating Accenture's enterprise database to SAP HANA®, installing new hardware devices and then working through the complexities of how to build, host and operate an SAP HANA physical environment for Accenture's scale. The team went live with SAP Business Suite on HANA and in production on time and without business disruption, delivering the scale, agility and performance benefits expected.

For the next stage of the journey, internal IT needed to similarly migrate Accenture's SAP Business Warehouse (BW) system from Microsoft SQL to SAP HANA. SAP BW is a mission-critical system that supports statutory and management financial reporting, consolidations and business forecasting. To prepare, the team performed two application upgrades, one to SAP BW 7.5 and the other to SAP Business Planning and Consolidations (BPC) 10.1, in order to stay current with the SAP product road map and to support continued application security. Additionally, Accenture leadership chose this opportunity to migrate its first major SAP application to the public cloud, to achieve greater scalability and environment efficiency.

ASSESSING PUBLIC CLOUD FEASIBILITY

The effort began with an SAP program team from Accenture's Consulting and internal IT organizations assessing the feasibility of moving to the public cloud. The team conducted a proof of concept in the cloud and a vendor assessment, ultimately selecting Microsoft Azure for its capability to

handle enterprise-scale requirements and its cost-effective pricing. This decision also aligned with Accenture's internal IT's cloud-first strategy for new applications. The challenge was heightened because no BW instance the scale of Accenture's had previously moved to Microsoft Azure.

The full project kicked off with the initial internal IT team expanding to include Accenture's Global Delivery Network and teams from Microsoft and SAP, as well as input from subject matter experts from the Accenture SAP Cloud Center of Excellence. From the business side, teams were assembled from Internal Business Operations, Finance, Global Controllershship and Human Resources.

"Our combined team, working virtually, knew we were breaking new ground," says Steve Collins, Managing Director of Accenture's Enterprise Data and Finance Portfolio. "First, we were undertaking a move of Accenture's entire 7 TB BW landscape and architecture from on-premise to a public cloud solution that had never been proven at our scale. Second, once in the cloud, we needed to do a database migration from Microsoft SQL to SAP HANA."

INNOVATING A NEW SOLUTION

With no precedent, every aspect of an entirely new solution required innovation. Accenture, Microsoft and SAP engaged in extensive workshopping and designing. All parties needed to understand the different layers of the solution and how to enable each piece of the architecture to create the most optimal architecture for Accenture. This platform can now be used as a template for future Microsoft and Accenture customers.

Working from a blank slate, the combined team jointly designed and implemented the three primary pillars required to deploy the solution: Execution Architecture, Operations Architecture and the Operations Framework. The work included addressing critical items such as disaster recovery, high availability, data encryption, ticket management, scalability and network performance. The result was a highly tuned platform that supports Accenture's business needs.

TESTING, MIGRATION AND STABILIZATION

The team performed iterative test cycles, simulating two full business month-end close cycles. In the process, they continued to tune the environment to resolve issues until the close of testing. For production—the actual production migration to SAP HANA in Microsoft Azure—the team executed a carefully orchestrated set of activities in a 24/7 fashion by teams across the globe. The cross-team, complex cutover finished according to plan and the system was released to the full Accenture business on schedule without business disruption.

A high-priority support team from Accenture internal IT Operations, Microsoft and SAP was put in place for the first quarter of operations to ensure business continuity through stabilization. As a precaution leading up to cutover, each key Accenture business constituent had developed extensive contingency plans, approved by business leadership, that were ready to be enabled in the case of a catastrophic event. The new solution, however, performed well and met all the business service level agreements (SLAs) and experienced no major issues.

RESULTS

Collaborative innovation and intense focus enabled the team to successfully deliver the migration of Accenture's first major SAP application, SAP BW on SAP HANA, to Microsoft Azure in a span of only six months.

"We have achieved a major milestone in our ERP journey that moves us closer to realizing the significant additional functional capabilities of SAP S/4HANA®, the final upgrade step in our journey," notes Todd Harding, Managing Director – Corporate Function Strategy and Operations. "With the power of SAP HANA, the solution has yielded substantial improvements in system performance, resulting in 30 percent to 70 percent faster availability of information during the monthly close process with a greater level of stability.

"THIS IS THE FIRST, LARGE-SCALE INSTANCE OF SAP BW HANA IN MICROSOFT AZURE. IT IS AN ENORMOUS STEP FORWARD AND MARKS A MAJOR COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE COMBINED TEAMS ACROSS ACCENTURE AND OUR ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS MICROSOFT AND SAP, CLEARLY DEMONSTRATING THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE."

ANDREW WILSON, Accenture CIO

ABOUT ACCENTURE

Accenture is a leading global professional services company, providing a broad range of services and solutions in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations. Combining unmatched experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries and all business functions—underpinned by the world's largest delivery network—Accenture works at the intersection of business and technology to help clients improve their performance and create sustainable value for their stakeholders. With more than 411,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries, Accenture drives innovation to improve the way the world works and lives. Visit us at www.accenture.com.

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AGILITY

New agile delivery for faster response to business changes. Reduced effort on major releases environment build.



USER EXPERIENCE

70% faster management, forecasting, and consolidation reporting over world-class optimized BW system.



CLOSE HEADROOM

38% performance improvement on the month-end close processing, creating headroom for 50% growth.
70% faster data broadcasting to downstream applications.



SECURITY

Further fortified Accenture's ERP security. Enabled secure SAP HANA agile delivery governance.



PRODUCTION SCALE

Enhanced scale to mitigate peak usage.



ROAD MAP

Foundation for SAP S/4HANA and BW/SAP S/4HANA strategic movements. Enable digital integration with future Accenture IT and ecosystem platforms.