

# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

CONVERSION TO  
SAP S/4HANA®

accenture

Organizations today need to perform in an always-on, digitally-connected and data-driven world. Operating in real time is no longer an aspiration, it's a necessity.

In this fast-changing business environment, enterprises must engage with their customers in new and more meaningful ways. And they have to act at speed to capture opportunities and find new ways to develop and deliver products and services. They are under pressure to be faster, smarter, more agile and connected: to become an intelligent enterprise.

As a result, the enterprise systems that run the business need to be able to adapt and scale on the fly and support a broad range of differentiated capabilities—using new technologies like in-memory computing, machine learning, AI, microservices, predictive analytics and cloud—to bring it in line with these new demands. SAP S/4HANA® provides a platform that is well suited to the demands of the intelligent enterprise.

## **CONVERSION TO SAP S/4HANA— NOT "IF" BUT "WHEN"**

With all the available and planned SAP innovations now focused on SAP S/4HANA, and given the product support and maintenance plans, the need to convert is a given. But how can organizations balance current SAP systems, timetables and resources to determine the best route forward?

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for conversion. Accenture's approach recognizes that priorities vary and each organization needs to determine the right timetable for its specific resourcing and scheduling requirements. Organizations that make the move early however, 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 as they become available.

Organizations that want to get ahead of the curve, and operate at the leading edge of technologies, can start re-platforming now, ready to incorporate innovations as they become available later on. Others, who want to assess the maturity of solutions prior to adoption, can still benefit from starting on their conversion journey now, and move forward at their own pace as their requirements develop.

With our product knowledge, proven methodologies, assets and conversion capabilities, we are well equipped to help organizations on their journey to capture the value of SAP S/4HANA. We can help to build the business case, plan the journey and define the conversion roadmap end-to-end. We take into account the variables of each organization's existing systems, architecture and technology and help them to navigate risk.

# SAP S/4HANA CONVERSION PATHS

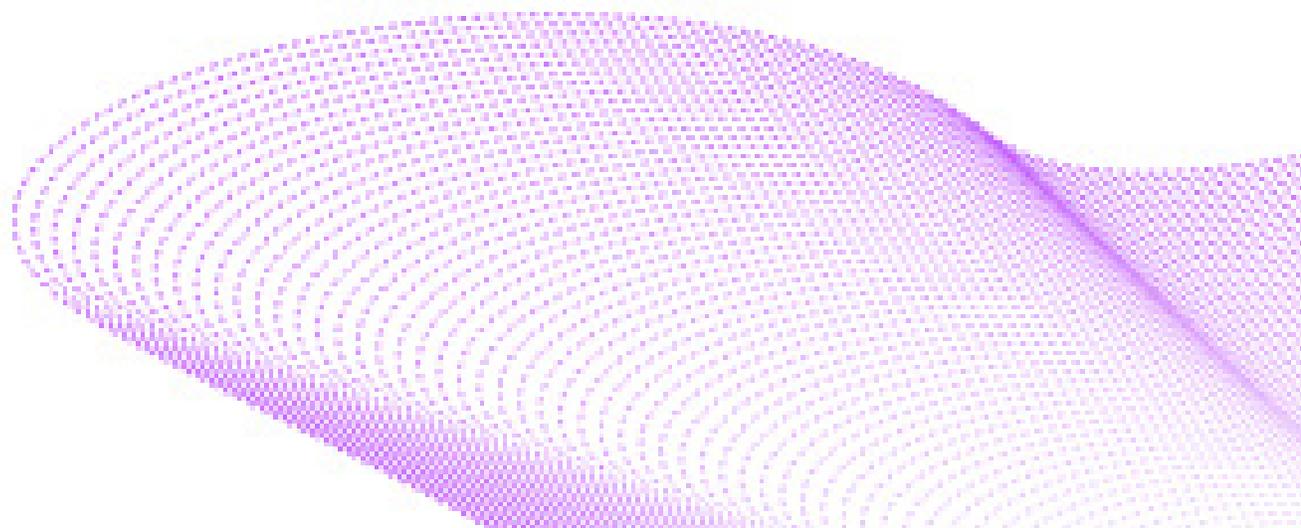
Some organizations—for example those running earlier versions of SAP® software that have few elements that can be reused in an SAP S/4HANA environment—may elect not to convert, but instead to opt for a “greenfield” installation that requires data migration from the old system into a completely new SAP S/4HANA environment.

However, for many others, a “brownfield” conversion is a likely path:

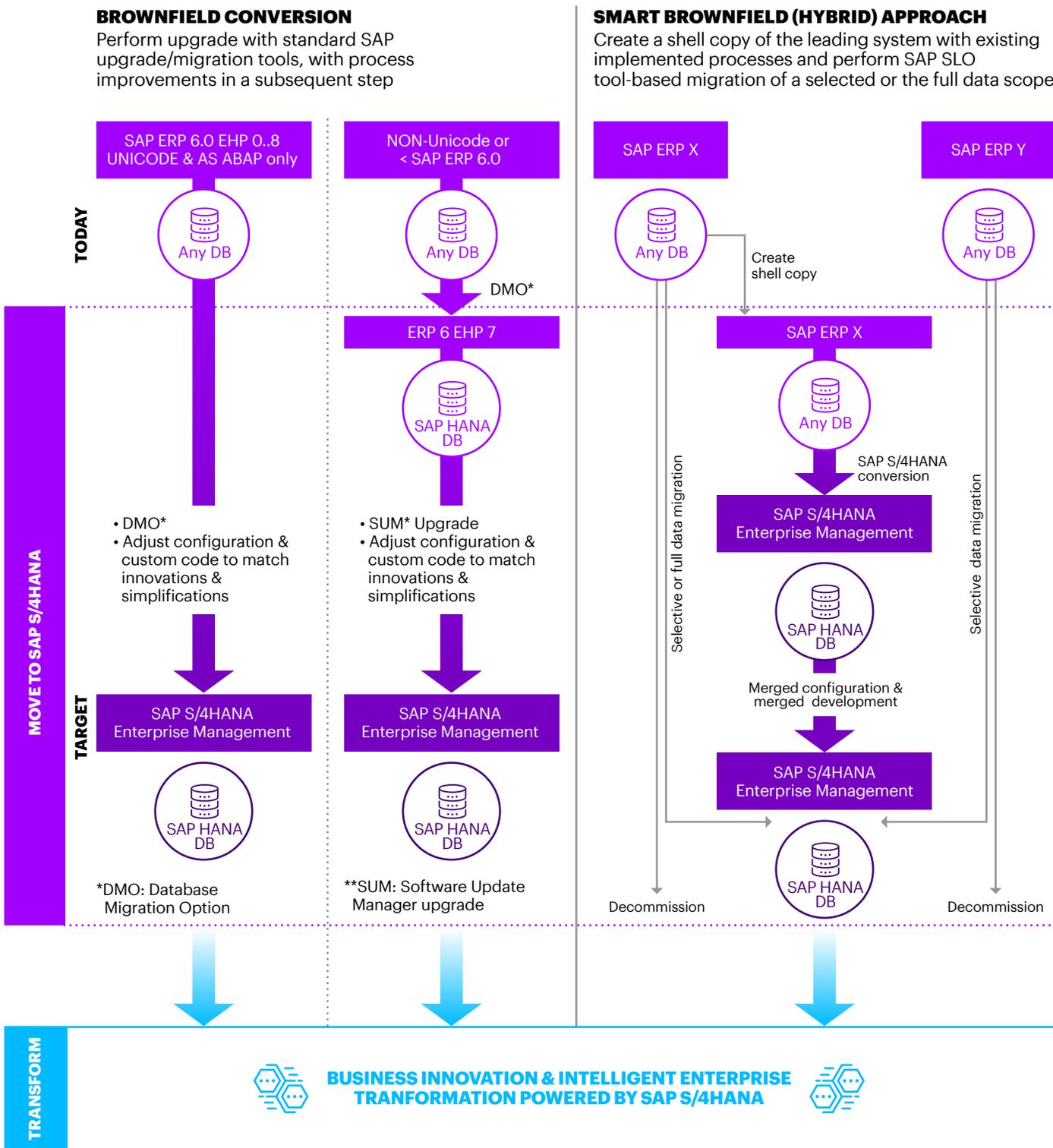
- 1. Brownfield** - Upgrading live systems and reusing existing system elements selectively.
- 2. Smart brownfield** - Creating a shell copy of the leading system with existing implemented processes and perform SAP System Landscape Optimization (SLO) tool-based migration of a selected or the full data scope.

At the beginning of a project, we assess the current SAP system and the steps required, including whether to maintain existing databases or move to a new version. Taking a phased approach makes it possible to manage the conversion costs in line with planned budgets and timetables (see figure 1).

All organizations converting to SAP S/4HANA need to comply with several technical and functional requirements. These include a dual-stack split, conversion to Unicode and activation of SAP New General Ledger. We work with organizations to help them understand the changes they need to make to comply with these requirements. Equally, we help them to identify existing system elements that do not need to change, helping save time and money.



**FIGURE 1:** Brownfield conversion paths to SAP S/4HANA



# CONVERSION & DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS

SAP has developed on-premise and cloud editions of SAP S/4HANA and multiple routes to conversion are feasible. Experience gleaned from hundreds of SAP HANA and SAP S/4HANA projects equips us to support clients in choosing the right option for them.

When opting for SAP S/4HANA on-premise edition, the client maintains the software on their own infrastructure. Alternatively, they can host SAP S/4HANA on-premise edition on a public, hybrid or private managed cloud (see figure 2).

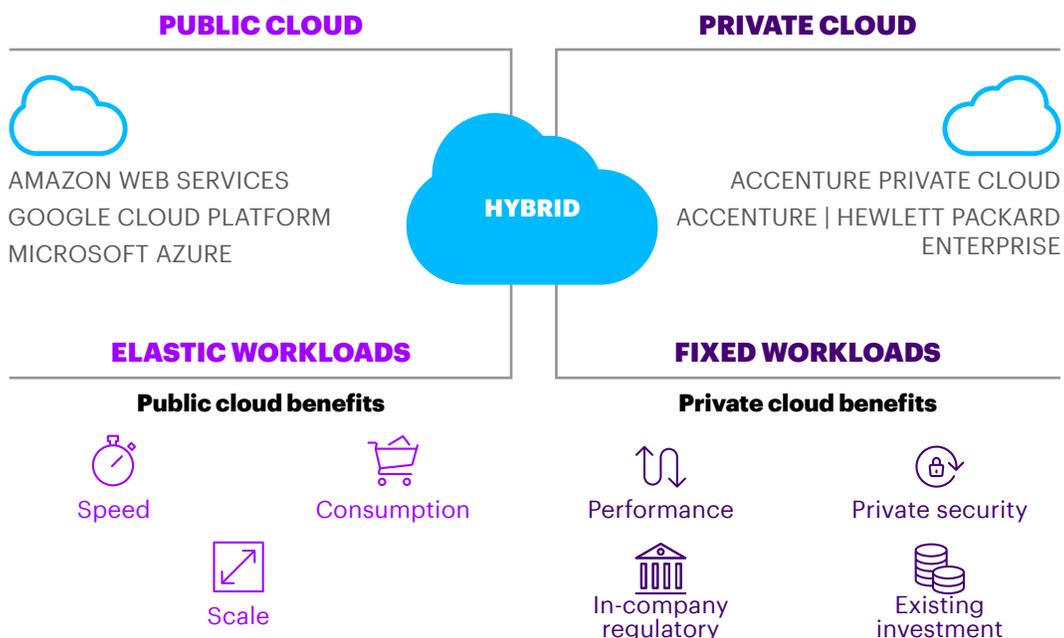
SAP S/4HANA on-premise edition can be deployed on a public cloud solution such as Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform or Microsoft Azure. While we can recommend a public cloud solution, each option has distinct

capabilities and capacity. We can help to carefully evaluate each solution against the needs of the organization.

Clients can also opt for SAP S/4HANA Cloud Edition, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) solution that SAP hosts, maintains and updates on a regular basis. This solution is often used in a two-tier architecture with cloud edition instances for subsidiaries that are integrated with a central SAP S/4HANA system at a higher organizational level.

Accenture can help organizations select the best route to deploy SAP S/4HANA to the cloud based on their unique circumstances and ambitions. Once the most appropriate route is decided, Accenture can accompany them on their journey to cloud and provide managed services on the cloud solution.

**FIGURE 2:** SAP S/4HANA cloud deployment options



# WHY ACCENTURE?

Whatever the conversion path and timetable, Accenture has the knowledge, experience and tools to support each organization on its end-to-end SAP S/4HANA journey.

For a client seeking to convert to SAP S/4HANA in a complex, customized or high-risk environment, Accenture provides the knowledge, experience, capabilities, methodologies, assets and tools to help reduce conversion effort, cost and risk. This enables organizations to get more from their journey to SAP S/4HANA, in an accelerated timeframe.

Our SAP S/4HANA conversion approach brings all conversion activities together, accelerating all the technical steps required by applying industrialized processes. The end-to-end conversion process goes from designing and sizing the SAP S/4HANA landscape, through planning, procuring, deploying and testing of every aspect.

## ACCENTURE MYCONCERTO

[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.

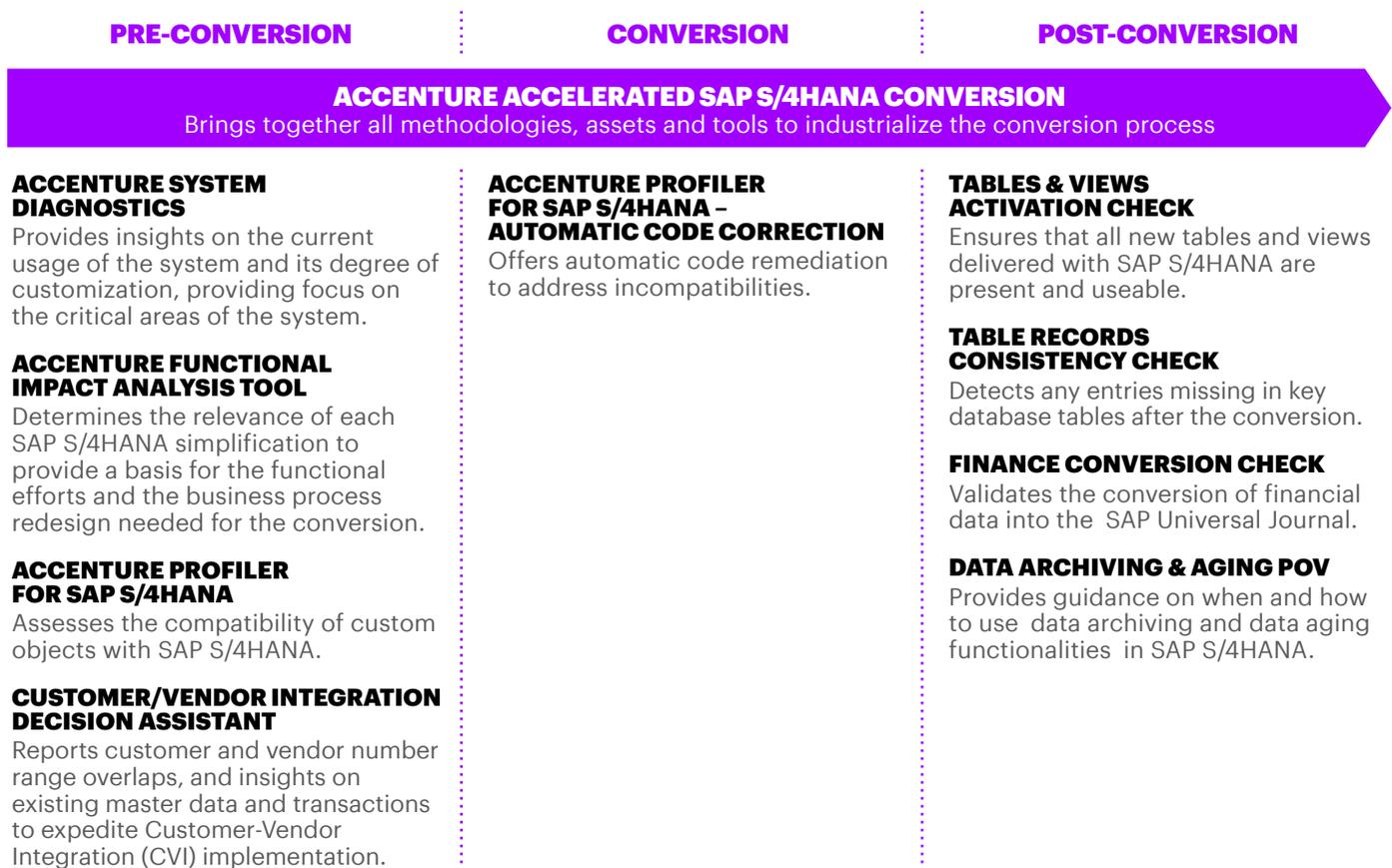
The journey starts with design thinking to identify specific business challenges and differentiators, and intelligent diagnostics that assess current systems, processes, data and architecture against leading industry practices. This leads to a personalized, data-driven business case and roadmap to unlock value faster.

myConcerto automatically sets up the transformation program environment and provisions our preconfigured solutions for agile, continuous delivery. From there, myConcerto becomes the engine to deliver with agility and speed, measure the value, and continuously innovate to stay future-proof.

We deploy playbooks, diagnostics, analysis tools, best practices and learnings from completed conversion projects to help significantly reduce manual effort and enable a more efficient and effective conversion (see figure 3).

The standardized processes we apply in pre- and post-conversion activities can significantly improve the conversion process compared with a traditional migration approach. Additionally, our SAP S/4HANA conversion factory industrializes conversion efforts through a centralized, dedicated team of technical and functional experts.

**FIGURE 3:** Accenture assets for accelerated SAP S/4HANA conversion



# FOR MORE INFO

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## **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 469,000 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](http://www.accenture.com).

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