Organizations today need to perform in an always-on, digitally-connected and Big 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 high velocity enterprises.

As a result, enterprise systems need to be able to support a broad range of differentiated capabilities. The Accenture high velocity enterprise approach builds on the enterprise solution already in place—using disruptive technologies like in-memory and digital accelerators such as social, mobile, 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 high velocity enterprise.

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 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 the majority, a “brownfield” conversion is the likely path: upgrading live systems and reusing existing system elements selectively. 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: Conversion paths to SAP S/4HANA
SAP has developed on-premise and cloud editions of SAP S/4HANA and multiple routes to conversion are feasible. Experience gleaned from more than 250 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):

**FIGURE 2**: SAP S/4HANA on-premise edition deployment options
**PUBLIC CLOUD:** SAP S/4HANA on-premise edition can be deployed on a public cloud solution such as Microsoft Azure or Amazon Web Services. As each solution has distinct capabilities and capacity, the choices must be carefully evaluated against the needs of the organization.

**HYBRID CLOUD:** Multiple options can be considered depending on the organization’s needs. For example, the SAP HANA database can be deployed on-premise, while application servers and non-SAP applications can be deployed on a public cloud such as Microsoft Azure or Amazon Web Services. Alternatively, the production environment can be deployed on-premise, with the non-production environment on a public cloud.

**PRIVATE CLOUD:** Options, with for example Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), include mixing and matching new and existing infrastructure—tailored data center integration (TDI)—, virtualized or bare metal deployment, deploying multiple components on one database or one system, or deploying to a multi-database container. Another option is SAP HANA Enterprise Cloud (HEC)—a private, managed cloud environment from SAP.

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 quarterly 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.
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 IS FURTHER SET APART BY:

**OUR COLLABORATION WITH SAP ON SAP S/4HANA:** The extent of our collaboration with SAP to accelerate the development of SAP S/4HANA, as well as industry and line-of-business solutions, is unprecedented. We are working side-by-side with SAP on development, go-to-market and joint services for SAP S/4HANA.

**OUR INNOVATION:** As a leading SAP partner and collaborator, we have early access to SAP innovations and help shape them. Accenture continuously invests in innovation through its network of 17 Accenture Innovation Centers for SAP Solutions, SAP S/4HANA and cloud centers of excellence, as well as in tools and accelerators to increase speed to value. Furthermore, the Accenture Liquid Studio for SAP Solutions uses design thinking and agile methods to design, develop and deliver industry and cross-industry apps with new and disruptive technologies such as SAP Cloud Platform, SAP S/4HANA, the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, machine learning, Big Data, analytics and mobile.

**OUR ABILITY TO DELIVER:** With 40 years of experience working with SAP, thousands of clients, and more than 47,000 SAP practitioners globally, we are recognized as a leading SAP services partner. We have won a record of 35 SAP Pinnacle Awards, and over 70 SAP awards since 2014. All major industry analysts give Accenture “top right” rankings in their reports on SAP service providers. Our delivery capabilities and assets, fully configured SAP solutions, and SAP solution factories enable us to build, deliver and manage quality solutions reliably, quickly and collaboratively with reduced risk and lower costs.
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

### ACCENTURE ASSETS FOR ACCELERATED SAP S/4HANA CONVERSION

**PRE-CONVERSION**

**ACCENTURE SYSTEM DIAGNOSTICS**
Provides insights on the current usage of the system and its degree of customization, providing focus on the critical areas of the system.

**ACCENTURE FUNCTIONAL IMPACT ANALYSIS TOOL**
Determines the relevance of each SAP S/4HANA simplification to provide a basis for the functional efforts and the business process redesign needed for the conversion.

**ACCENTURE PROFILER FOR SAP S/4HANA**
Assesses the compatibility of custom objects with SAP S/4HANA.

**CUSTOMER/VENDOR INTEGRATION DECISION ASSISTANT**
Reports customer and vendor number range overlaps, plus insights on existing master data and transactions to expedite customer/vendor integration implementation.

**CONVERSION**

**ACCENTURE PROFILER FOR SAP S/4HANA – AUTOMATIC CODE CORRECTION**
Offers automatic code remediation to address incompatibilities.

**TABLES & VIEWS ACTIVATION CHECK**
Ensures all new tables and views delivered with SAP S/4HANA are present and useable.

**TABLE RECORDS CONSISTENCY CHECK**
Detects any entries missing in key database tables after the conversion.

**FINANCE CONVERSION CHECK**
Validates the conversion of financial data into the SAP Universal Journal in SAP S/4HANA Finance.

**DATA ARCHIVING & AGING POV**
Provides guidance on when and how to use data archiving and data aging functionalities in SAP S/4HANA.

**POST-CONVERSION**

**ACCENTURE PROFILER FOR SAP S/4HANA – AUTOMATIC CODE CORRECTION**

**TABLES & VIEWS ACTIVATION CHECK**

**TABLE RECORDS CONSISTENCY CHECK**

**FINANCE CONVERSION CHECK**

**DATA ARCHIVING & AGING POV**
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 approximately 401,000 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.