

Why modernizing with SAP S/4HANA Cloud makes business sense

Cloud-based enterprise resource planning delivers a range of benefits to organizations – especially with the involvement of an expert service provider



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The appeal of cloud-based ERP systems

Without digital transformation, organizations have little chance of improving their operational efficiency and creating financial benefits. Therefore, across industries, organizations are digitalizing their business processes and turning data into analytics to improve their decision-making.

In this context, cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems are key because they offer flexibility, scalability and access to embedded technologies like AI and business analytics.

Some organizations remain reluctant to migrate to cloud-based ERP because of perceived security risks, business interruptions and cost implications, or because they believe cloud-based ERP implementation will be a lengthy and complex process. They may also lack the skills needed to make the leap.

However, the allure of reduced IT maintenance costs and access to value-adding innovation has already led many organizations to implement cloud-based ERP systems.

Near-universal appeal to CIOs

According to [IDC research](#), the cloud modernization of ERP applications is gaining traction rapidly across the Middle East, Turkey and Africa region. About 96% of CIOs in South Africa plan to modernize their ERP applications using cloud services, while 92% of CIOs across the region intend to do the same.

IDC reports that CIOs are attracted by potential savings on IT infrastructure maintenance costs, while cloud ERP modernization also increases operational efficiency by boosting innovation and employee productivity.

In South Africa, the report finds, much of the cloud-based ERP modernization will focus on rearchitecting or replatforming applications – which involves modernizing the applications while migrating to public cloud infrastructure.



SAP is up to the challenge – with expert input

SAP launched [GROW with SAP](#) (relating to the public cloud edition of [SAP S/4HANA Cloud](#)) and [RISE with SAP](#) (for private cloud) to support ERP modernization with the SAP S/4HANA Cloud business suite, enabling the rapid delivery of SAP services and best-practice processes.

GROW with SAP uses SAP best practices, fast deployment and constant innovation, enabling automated upgrades (twice a year). RISE with SAP, on the other hand, allows for configuration changes and the deployment of the SAP S/4HANA system with the latest SAP innovations but at the organization's own pace. In both instances, the concept of a clean core is paramount, and this will require varied effort between GROW and RISE.

Cloud-based SAP deployment is highly scalable, so it can keep up more easily with organizations' growth and help to keep costs down. Organizations also have uninterrupted access to innovation and other revenue-boosting enhancements.

Organizations can allay their concerns about migrating to SAP S/4HANA Cloud by partnering with a specialist service provider like NTT DATA that can manage the process without significantly disrupting business processes or incurring data losses.

An experienced service provider will help you understand the economic and operational benefits of cloud-based ERP modernization.

Apart from the right SAP skills and certifications, the service provider should also have access to a broad partnership ecosystem and a range of tools and services from other partners and role players, such as data analytics and cloud platforms. Technical and functional support is also crucial – particularly post-transformation, as many organizations lack the skills to optimize SAP in the cloud and realize the full benefits.



What you stand to gain

Implementing SAP S/4HANA Cloud offers your organization quantifiable benefits in several areas.

General business benefits

- **Resilience:** Cloud-based SAP systems make your organization more resilient – in certain markets, for example, you may face power outages and have limited access to technical skills. SAP S/4HANA Cloud can minimize the risks related to unplanned downtime and ensure business continuity by providing unlimited redundancy.
- **Agility:** You can deliver applications more rapidly and efficiently, and you have access to evolving tools that enable you to respond swiftly to changing market conditions or customer requirements.
- **Productivity:** With cloud-based SAP systems, there is no need to maintain local IT systems. Staff can therefore focus on more innovative or valuable tasks. The cloud environment makes it easy to access technologies such as AI and machine learning, which can also make employees more productive. In addition, a refreshed user interface provides upstream and downstream visibility, keeping your finger on the pulse of your configurable key performance indicators.

Strong governance

- **Process standardization:** SAP S/4HANA Cloud offers standardized processes, based on industry best practices, which can lead to improved governance by supporting consistency and compliance across your organization. It also offers extensibility, allowing you to add functionality as required to cater for your organization's unique needs.
- **Role-based access control:** Enhanced access control allows you to define and enforce granular access permissions. Improved data and system security strengthens governance.
- **Real-time reporting:** Real-time reporting and analytics on your organization's operations leads to informed decision-making and stronger governance.

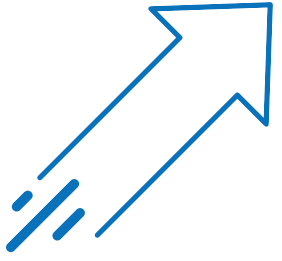
Effective data management

- **Data integration:** SAP S/4HANA Cloud integrates with various systems and applications, enabling seamless data flow across your organization. This can improve data management by reducing data silos and enabling real-time data synchronization.
- **Data governance:** With functionality such as data quality management and monitoring, data lifecycle management and data privacy controls, you can enforce data governance policies, leading to improved data security and compliance.

Easier document handling

- **Digital document management:** Digital document-management capabilities allow you to store, manage and retrieve documents electronically. This reduces your reliance on physical documents, makes documents more accessible and streamlines document handling.
- **Workflow automation:** You can enable workflow automation for document approvals, routing and collaboration. Making document handling more efficient in this way reduces manual effort and improves productivity.
- **Integration with document management systems:** SAP S/4HANA Cloud can integrate with external document management systems for seamless document exchange and collaboration. So, you can still leverage your existing document management investments while benefiting from SAP S/4HANA Cloud's functionality.





Access to innovation

Implementing SAP workloads in a public or private cloud environment connects you to the vast public-cloud application ecosystem, supporting innovation and the rapid development of products and business models.

Innovation within the SAP ecosystem is also a major benefit of the relationship between NTT DATA and SAP.



We offer the following software suites:

MAKIRA automates document processing

Which organization would not appreciate a 65% to 90% reduction in manual document processing?

A trio of cloud-based MAKIRA applications is making this a reality:



MAKIRA Capture

automates the processing of large volumes of documents such as order confirmations, invoices and purchase orders. (It supports all document data formats and can receive data electronically, as a PDF or on paper.) The data is analyzed and transferred to an SAP ERP (or any other endpoint) in standard fields.



MAKIRA AI

applies AI and machine learning to stored data to automatically assign attributes such as accounting information, cost-center references or tax codes to incoming documents.



MAKIRA Approve

automates document governance and approvals within your SAP environment. You benefit from faster approvals and an optimized cash flow, along with a full document history, automatic compliance checks and lower handling cost per document.



This level of automation means information that is crucial to your operations is always up to date and available in real time, and you can reallocate employees to higher-value activities.



The appeal of cloud-based ERP systems

What you stand to gain

Planning your migration

NTT DATA and SAP

GLASSWING simplifies master data management

Master data refers to the core data that is essential for the operations and decision-making processes of your organization. It typically includes information about customers, products, suppliers, employees and other important entities, and it serves as a single and reliable source of truth to ensure data integrity across your systems and applications.

Problems arise when you don't know how to find your master data, when there are errors in the data or when you don't know how to fix issues with your data management.

With the help of AI, GLASSWING simplifies master data management through rule-based automation and better governance. It helps you clean your data, including getting rid of duplication, and keeps your data in sync across locations.

GLASSWING also enables data-management workflows and delivers analytics that help you make informed decisions about your data management.



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ControlPanelGRC keeps you compliant

Managing governance, risk and compliance (GRC) in an organization can be a time-consuming and complex task. ControlPanelGRC, the GRC and continuous controls monitoring platform for SAP environments, is designed to automate tasks associated with compliance reporting and audit support.

Using four distinct solution suites (process control, SAP Basis control, security acceleration and access control), it flags risks to address while suggesting actions to remedy these risks. This greatly speeds up the time you need to prepare for audits and to address any vulnerabilities identified in an audit.

A training program gets you up and running quickly – implementation time is less than a week, on average. And because ControlPanelGRC is modular, you buy only what you need, making it a cost-effective solution.

By continuously monitoring your SAP environment with ControlPanelGRC, you can be confident that your organization is meeting compliance requirements.





Other innovations and advancements made possible by the partnership

Because of NTT DATA's global reach and local investments, we have access to an extensive range of skills and experience. These layers of expertise have come together in our focused SAP S/4HANA team, an initiative aimed at accelerating migrations to SAP S/4HANA Cloud across our markets.

We are also investing in building accelerators for our SAP-certified PhaseCONVERT offering, which allows you to adopt SAP S/4HANA Cloud at your own pace while we manage the migration.

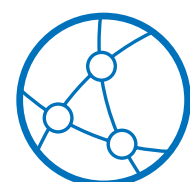


Planning your migration with PhaseCONVERT

One of the first decisions to make when moving to SAP S/4HANA Cloud concerns the type of migration that is needed. The terms “brownfield”, “greenfield” and “hybrid” refer to different adoption strategies you can consider, based on your organization’s current systems and desired outcomes:



Brownfield implementation involves migrating from an existing SAP ERP system to SAP S/4HANA Cloud. It focuses on transforming and upgrading the existing system while preserving data, configurations and customizations. So, you can leverage your existing SAP system investments while benefiting from the features and capabilities of SAP S/4HANA Cloud.



Greenfield implementation refers to starting fresh with a new SAP S/4HANA Cloud system. It involves building a system from scratch without carrying over existing data, configurations or customizations. This gives you an opportunity to reevaluate and redesign your business processes, taking advantage of the latest functionalities and best practices offered by SAP S/4HANA Cloud.



Hybrid implementation (also known as a bluefields implementation) combines elements of brownfield and greenfield approaches. Some parts of an existing SAP ERP system will be migrated to SAP S/4HANA Cloud (brownfield), while new functionality and processes will also be implemented (greenfield). It allows you to balance the benefits of your existing investments with the high level of flexibility and innovation offered by a new system.

Keep in mind that migrating data to SAP S/4HANA Cloud requires careful planning and execution.

You need to assess the quality of the data and possibly transform it to ensure it’s compatible with the new system. Proper data management during migration is therefore crucial to maintain data integrity, and working with a skilled service provider will make this process faster and easier.

Based on proven methodologies, NTT DATA’s PhaseCONVERT minimizes the need for custom code. PhaseCONVERT offers brownfield conversion from SAP ERP Central Component, allowing you to adopt SAP S/4HANA at your own pace. We integrate your current processes with new SAP S/4HANA functionality as part of a low-risk migration approach.





6 factors to consider before migrating

1 Your current system:

Assess the complexity and condition of your existing SAP ERP system. If it's heavily customized or outdated, a greenfield approach may be better, as you can take advantage of new functionality and best practices. If the system is relatively modern and well maintained, however, you can build on those existing investments by taking a brownfield approach.

2 Business processes:

Evaluate the need for process redesign and optimization. If you need significant process changes or if your existing processes are inefficient, a greenfield approach allows for a fresh start and the opportunity to align processes with best practices in your industry. If your existing processes are well established and effective, a brownfield approach can minimize disruption.

3 Data migration:

Consider the complexity and volume of data to be migrated. Brownfield implementations let you preserve existing data, configurations and customizations, which can be advantageous if data continuity is critical. Greenfield implementations, on the other hand, require a full data migration, which may be time-consuming and resource-intensive.





4 Time and resources:

Assess your timeline and available resources. Greenfield implementations typically need more time and resources because they involve building a new system from scratch. Brownfield implementations can be faster as they use existing system components. A hybrid approach offers a balance between the two, allowing for a phased migration and implementation.

5 Change management:

How ready is your organization for change? With greenfield implementations, you start with a clean slate, and this may require significant process and cultural changes. Brownfield implementations may be less disruptive as they build on existing and familiar processes.

6 Cost considerations:

Analyze the cost implications of each approach. Greenfield implementations may need more upfront investment for new infrastructure and configurations. Brownfield implementations can use existing investments, potentially reducing costs. For a hybrid strategy, consider the cost implications of both approaches.



About NTT DATA and SAP

To get the maximum benefit from infrastructure modernization, partner with a service provider that has the right technical skills and a track record in implementing cloud-based SAP systems.

NTT DATA has a longstanding [strategic relationship with SAP](#). We are a globally certified SAP HANA, cloud, infrastructure and hosting operations provider with more than 10,000 active SAP clients across 58 countries and in a range of industries. We employ more than 20,500 SAP professionals across the globe, more than half of whom are SAP S/4HANA Cloud certified.

We're certified for GROW with SAP and RISE with SAP, and our SAP S/4HANA credentials include SAP S/4HANA Public Cloud Baseline, SAP S/4HANA Public Cloud Pre-Sales and SAP S/4HANA Cloud Accelerator Partner. We're also an SAP Gold Partner and an SAP on Azure Advanced Specialized Partner, among other SAP-related accreditations.

Our SAP HANA managed services are designed to simplify and secure enterprise applications across an organization, and our SAP Basis Competency Center has wide-ranging experience in accelerating SAP environments.

This means we're well positioned to migrate SAP ERP Central Component and SAP S/4HANA systems to public cloud. We apply our technical expertise to deliver instant entry into SAP S/4HANA. And post-transformation support through our managed services means we take on the cost and effort of maintaining the supporting infrastructure .

The value we deliver isn't limited to the IT level, either. We also cater to the diverse needs of the C-suites of our clients and tailor their SAP ecosystem to their specific needs.

Read more about the partnership between NTT DATA and SAP, or contact us to discover new business opportunities with our Managed SAP Services.



The appeal of cloud-based ERP systems

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NTT DATA and SAP

List of abbreviations

- AI** artificial intelligence
- CIO** chief information officer
- ERP** enterprise resource planning
- GRC** governance, risk and compliance



