



Guide

The Definitive Guide to Moving SAP S/4HANA to the Cloud

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The Definitive Guide to Moving SAP S/4HANA to the Cloud

This guide will help you navigate the decision-making process of migrating to the cloud – even if you haven't decided to move yet.

Introduction

If you follow the latest trends and read all the analyst papers, it seems everyone is migrating their SAP applications to the cloud – and with good reason. But what if you have still not made your decision to move to the cloud?

It may have been acceptable to delay your migration a few years ago, during those pre-Covid days before the rate of technology adoption saw an exponential spike, and at a time when digital transformation was a “nice to have.”

But today, few organizations want to admit they haven't yet made the commitment to SAP applications in the cloud. Because, why wouldn't you? The benefits are irrefutable, aren't they?

If you are one of these businesses that have yet to commit, you will have the same questions that thousands of organizations are asking:

- Why should we migrate?
- What are our options if we do?
- How do we know we're even ready for it?
- Where should we start?
- How do we know it works?
- Who can help us make the move?

SUSE is here to support you by answering these questions and many more in this definitive guide, which also provides further support for the transition itself.

SAP in the cloud

Background to the SAP cloud transition

In the coming years, all SAP customers using SAP ERP and business applications must migrate to SAP S/4HANA, its intelligent ERP.

SAP S/4HANA runs exclusively on SAP HANA. And SAP HANA only runs on Linux, a stable, open source and innovative operating system.

SAP recently launched a new business transformation as a service, RISE with SAP, to simplify deployment on a public cloud hyperscaler.

The business focus on digital transformation for most organizations today requires cloud-based deployments. Organizations have accelerated their cloud adoption to facilitate business in an environment where most employees are working remotely.

The most critical factors for moving SAP applications to the cloud are: greater flexibility, the deployment model and cloud native architecture¹

But how can you consume SAP applications like SAP S/4HANA in the cloud?

Your migration options

You have multiple options to run your SAP workloads in a modern, scalable environment.

1. With a managed services provider (MSP) that is SAP HANA certified

Many SAP customers work with MSPs, who provide a range of Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) options.

Some MSPs offer IaaS, PaaS and SaaS solutions on hosted infrastructure in a data center they directly control and supervise. By working with an MSP that hosts its own computing and storage infrastructure, SAP customers can outsource much of their IT management and instead focus on their core business differentiation. You get many of the benefits that the cloud would provide, including scalability and reliability, without needing the in-house expertise to manage your own deployment.

1 [SAPinsider, SAP Workloads Are Moving to the Cloud](#)

MSPs can also ease your transition to the cloud. Many offer a range of services from multiple cloud providers so their customers can access the best services from across cloud ecosystems. While you might think about working directly with a cloud provider, reducing security risks is the top reason for considering an MSP.

The worldwide infrastructure as a service (IaaS) market grew 40.7% in 2020 to total \$64.3 billion, up from \$45.7 billion in 2019, according to Gartner, Inc.²

2. Directly with a public cloud provider

In a public cloud, hardware, software and other supporting infrastructure are owned and operated by a third-party cloud service provider and delivered over the internet. Public clouds offer lower costs, zero maintenance, high scalability and reliability. If you choose to deploy on a public cloud without an MSP, you'll need in-house expertise, and likely guidance from an experienced deployment partner, to configure and manage your workloads on cloud resources. Leading cloud providers include Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud.

3. In a hybrid cloud environment

A hybrid cloud combines your on-premises infrastructure (a private cloud) with a public cloud. You can move data and apps between the two environments. You might choose a hybrid cloud approach due to business requirements, such as meeting regulatory and data sovereignty requirements, taking advantage of your existing on-premises technology investment, or keeping latency low for applications that require fast insights. As with public cloud deployment, you'll benefit from guidance from an experienced deployment partner to make the most of your cloud deployment.

Spending on application infrastructure like PaaS was forecast to grow by more than 25% in 2021.³

2 [Gartner Says Worldwide IaaS Public Cloud Services Market Grew 40.7% in 2020](#)

3 [Techjury, March 2020](#)

To migrate or not

To the cloud?

Today's fast-paced environment makes it harder than ever to justify the money and time you spend maintaining data centers — especially since they can't provide the same scaling, compute or high availability/disaster recovery (HA/DR) capabilities for the same price you could get in the cloud.

Using a public cloud means you use a public data center, which allows you to scale up and scale down as needed, only paying for the resources you need, and only when you need them.

Public cloud providers invest continuously in the latest hardware and services to deliver security, connectivity and high availability. This means you'll have access to modern computing environments and an ecosystem of business solutions.

It also means you outsource much of your IT department's heavy lifting when managing on-premises infrastructure, systems and applications, freeing you to focus on your core mission.

The general benefits of moving your SAP applications to the cloud include:

- Less admin time, effort and cost
- Increased scalability, agility, speed and flexibility
- The ability to take advantage of emerging technologies like AI, ML and analytics
- Lower capital costs and a good ROI

By deploying SAP S/4HANA in the cloud, you can also:

- Support faster growth and innovation
- Deliver SAP services faster, more efficiently and with less risk
- Reduce maintenance and complexity
- Unleash the full power of data analytics
- Drive digital transformation to grow revenue, increase customer retention and improve operational excellence

However, you can take a hybrid approach to your migration. This means starting by moving one or two applications to the cloud. Once you have evaluated the benefits of migration, you can move more over time.

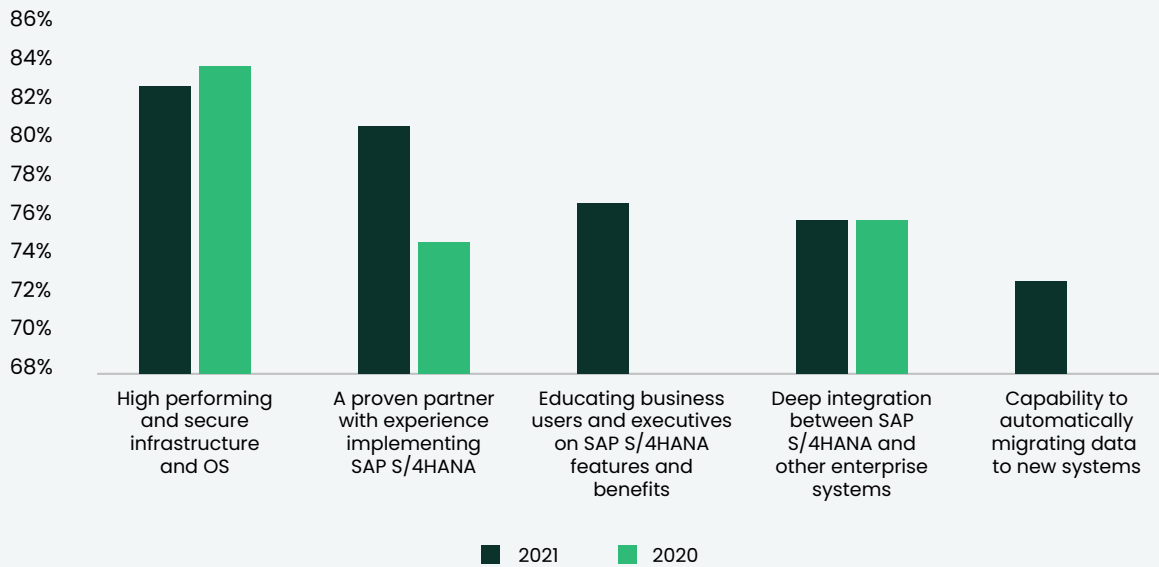
Why are organizations deploying SAP S/HANA in the cloud? The top three reasons are:

1. Free up staff to focus on innovation
2. Deliver apps faster
3. Reduce maintenance

And the two most important requirements organizations gave for deploying SAP S/4HANA in 2021 were:

1. Having a high performing and secure infrastructure and operating system (83%, the same position as 2020)
2. Having a proven partner with experience implementing SAP S/4HANA (80%, up from third place in 2020)⁴

Requirements for deploying SAP S/4HANA



Source: SAPinsider, June 2021

Top requirements for SAP S/4HANA deployment⁴

⁴ [SAPinsider Benchmark Report – Deployment Approaches for SAP S/4HANA](#)

Which hyperscaler?

There are many different public cloud options for SAP S/4HANA. The big three hyperscalers are:

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

AWS provides a reliable, scalable, low-cost infrastructure platform in the cloud that powers hundreds of thousands of businesses in 190 countries around the world, with data center locations in the U.S., Europe, Brazil, Singapore, Japan and Australia.

Benefits of AWS:

1. By migrating to AWS, you get a choice in how you provision resource capacity, which can help you **save money**
2. AWS is certified to run the broadest range of SAP applications among cloud providers, allowing you to **keep more of your workloads together** when you migrate
3. By choosing an AWS SAP Competency Partner, you'll know they have demonstrated **technical proficiency and proven success** in SAP implementation, migration and innovation

Google Cloud Platform (GCP)

GCP has commitment and experience in the open source community through projects like Kubernetes, and its strategic partnerships with open source vendors make it one of the most innovative public cloud vendors in the enterprise market.

Benefits of Google Cloud:

1. It's **certified to run SAP solutions** reliably and optimally, delivering maximum performance and dependability
2. The platform's simple provisioning, ability to scale and redundancy make it an ideal **foundation for SAP HANA** and your other SAP applications
3. GCP has developed a reputation for having some of the **best security** in the public cloud space

Microsoft Azure

The Azure cloud platform includes more than 200 products and cloud services designed to help businesses bring new solutions to life and solve today's challenges. You can build, run and manage applications across multiple clouds, on-premises and at the edge, with the tools and frameworks of your choice.

Benefits of Azure:

1. Azure's transparent approach to pricing means you can gain **automatic savings** based on monthly usage and discounted rates for prepaid resources
2. You gain flexibility by **avoiding downtime risk** with Azure Hybrid Benefit – convert pay-as-you-go (PAYG) VMs to a bring-your-own-subscription (BYOS) billing model without redeployment
3. You can save up to 64% with **committed use discounts** with a Linux partner that's certified with SAP HANA within Microsoft's Reserved VM Instances program

What about staying on-premises?

Like many organizations, you may still be running SAP ERP Central Component (SAP ECC) on-premises and are waiting until the last minute to update. Maybe you're holding out until the end of the system's life and/or outsourcing contracts.

You may also have reservations about making this transition due to risks associated with the migration of data and applications, as well as concerns around control, cost, complexity, data security and trust.

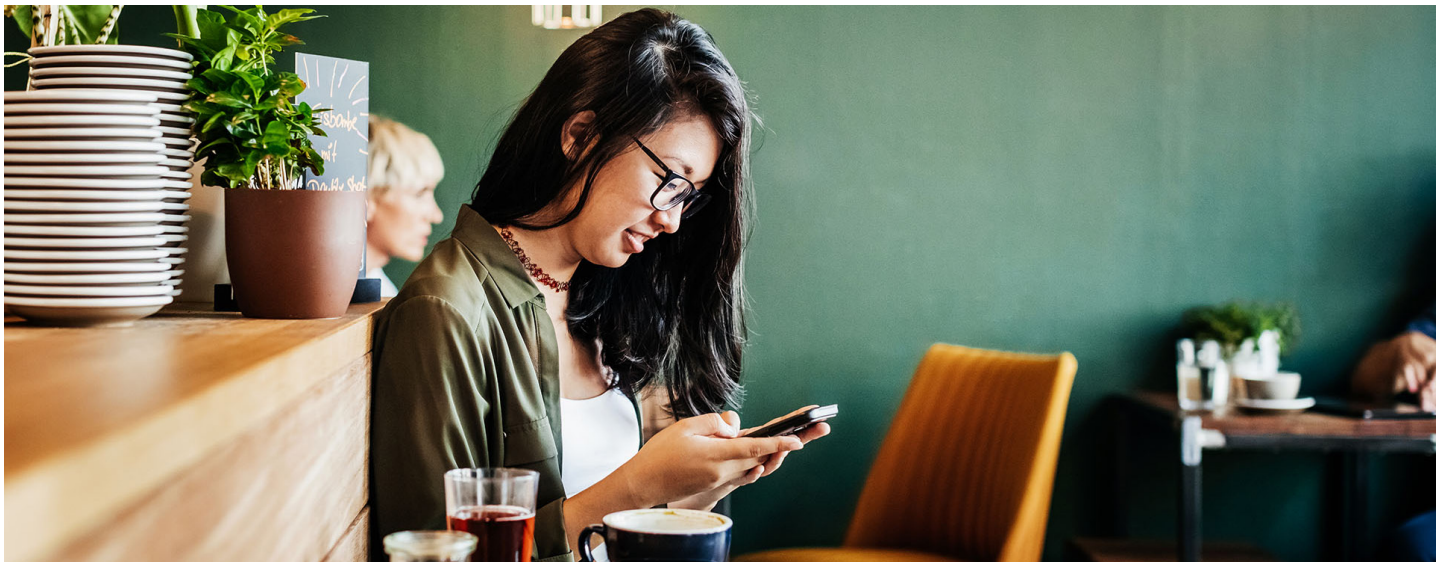
But that doesn't mean you can't move to the cloud. It's possible to have a mix of cloud and on-premises, and it's easy to make the transition in stages instead of all in one go.

It's also wise to start planning early. By 2027, all SAP customers using SAP ERP and business applications must migrate to SAP S/4HANA. Tens of thousands of customers running SAP ERP still need to migrate. Fewer than half (31%) are live now, with the rest in the process of migrating (22%), planning to move but have not yet started (27%), or deciding on whether to move (18%).⁵ If you wait any longer, you may find that expert guidance is tied up helping other customers make their move ahead of the deadline.

90% of businesses prefer a mix of legacy platforms, multiple public and on-premises private clouds.⁶

⁵ [ASUG, SAP Customer Business Transformation Plans and the Move to SAP S/4HANA](#)

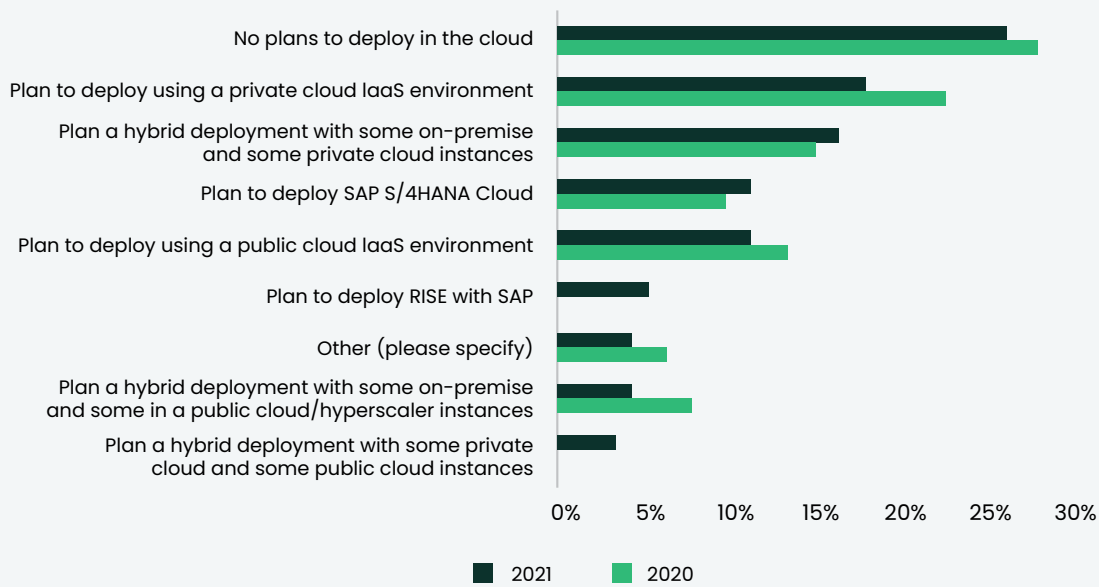
⁶ [Techjury, March 2020](#)



What is everyone else doing?

In a 2021 survey of the SAPinsider community, 70% of respondents were planning to deploy SAP solutions using some form of cloud-based infrastructure.⁷

SAPinsider explored the cloud strategy for those planning SAP S/4HANA deployments and asked about the types of hybrid environments they planned on using (see graph below).



Source: SAPinsider, June 2021

Cloud strategy for SAP S/4HANA deployment⁷

7 [SAPinsider Benchmark Report, Deployment Approaches for SAP S/4HANA](#)

Are you ready for the cloud?

What to consider

SAP is encouraging customers to move to SAP S/4HANA, its intelligent ERP, to transform their operations, infrastructure and processes. But there's so much to think about before you even start planning.

Business factors to consider

1. What priority have your executives put on digital transformation and how you can leverage that to get support for the project?
2. The size, structure and existing systems in your organization
3. Where you are in your hardware refresh cycle — is this the right time to migrate?
4. Where you are in your software upgrade cycle — is there pressure to complete a migration before software is no longer supported, or to adopt a new version?
5. Which partners you trust to help you through a major migration: their tools, technologies and consulting; their relationship with SAP and any cloud providers or hyperscalers
6. The duration, cost and complexity of implementation, which entails migrating data and applications, integrating the SAP landscape and scaling your infrastructure
7. The level of ongoing external support you'll need post-deployment

Technical factors to consider

1. Cloud options: whether you want to deploy in public, private, hybrid cloud or multi-cloud
2. Which public cloud and hyperscaler to choose
3. Which deployment platform to select and how it works with each hyperscaler
4. Previous experiences you have with cloud deployments and how you can create efficiencies with those investments as part of this move
5. How can you best manage the cost of running large-scale, global production environments while keeping performance sufficiently high?
6. Are you running SAP NetWeaver applications that can lift and shift to the cloud?
7. How critical high availability (HA) and disaster recovery (DR) are to your SAP environment. Do you need to support scale up and scale out scenarios, production performance demands and rapid service implementation?
8. How important is automation for efficient and consistent management on an ongoing basis, to ensure HA, performance and reliability?

Potential roadblocks

Migrating to SAP S/4HANA in the cloud is not without potential roadblocks. Here's a look at some of them.

Maintaining business continuity

If you're currently running SAP solutions on legacy systems, it is likely that over many years the system has been customized and tailored to your needs. The same changes that once made your system reliable and high-performance can make migration to the cloud cumbersome and increases the complexity of recreating similar features important to the business. To migrate without disruption, you'll need a foolproof plan that ensures all data is successfully moved, and its integrity is not compromised. Outages can hurt productivity and business continuity. If you can't find a transition platform and partner that can ensure zero downtime for you and your customers, this could cost you dearly in business reputation, customer satisfaction and retention.

Time and opportunity cost

Innovative systems such as SAP S/4HANA can take a long time to deploy, especially if you are migrating from legacy infrastructure. If you don't find a partner that can speed things along, the delays could be costly. Your business has finite resources; it's best to spend them on innovation and customer-facing services, rather than the technical challenges of migrating your SAP solutions.

Consensus and buy-in

Insufficient planning, buy-in and stakeholder alignment lead to cost overruns, schedule slippage and the opportunity cost of your teams' attention. The right plan should emphasize the benefits of migration for various stakeholders and describe how maintaining the status quo falls short on delivering the benefits that SAP S/4HANA migration can bring.

Vendor lock-in

Being "locked in" means you are dependent on a vendor for products and services, which can make it hard to switch to a competitor without substantial costs or difficulty. Vendor lock-in, also called proprietary lock-in or customer lock-in, can also leave you vulnerable to forced upgrades, and unable to renegotiate prices. To remedy this, opt for open source products that conform to free, industrywide standards that are not controlled by any entity and can be used by everyone, like the Linux operating system.

Storage

The cloud approach to storage is different from on-premises: you're not necessarily paying for storage size, but performance. Overlooking the challenges with storage can lead to unnecessary costs, or degrade application performance, if you misjudge the performance you need for your data sets.

Performance

Tuning involves specialist knowledge to test and optimize your systems. If you don't go live with an optimized system, you may end up with performance issues in production.

HA post-deployment

Running performance databases in SAP HANA is nontrivial. Things you do on-premises simply don't map to the cloud, such as timeouts and tuning parameters. There are many configuration nuances with HA and cloud. Even if the initial deployment goes smoothly, issues can often crop up further down the road. Automation can help make HA post-deployment consistent so you don't run into issues associated with manual configuration.

Planning

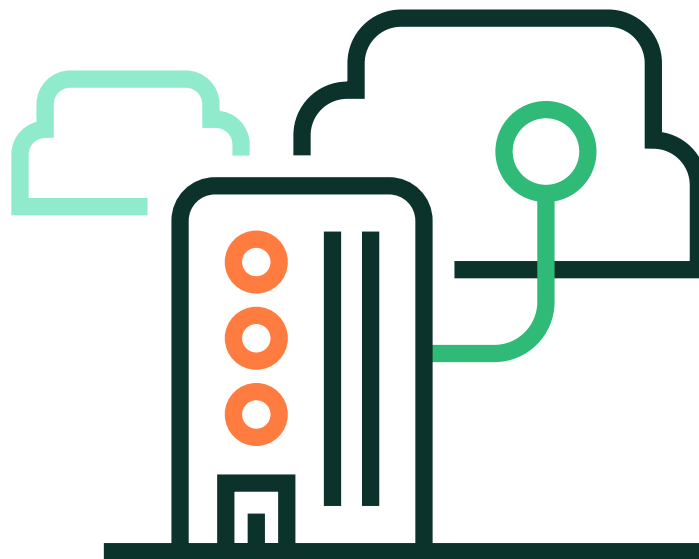
Procedures and policies you used successfully for on-premises operations don't often translate directly to the cloud. After deployment, it's essential you plan for optimized processes and operations – which includes patching, configuration management and monitoring.



How prepared is your business for making the transition?

Here's a cloud readiness checklist.

- You've developed a holistic strategy that aligns business and IT objectives, and you have buy-in from all stakeholders
- You have researched partners, platforms, cloud providers and hyperscalers and have an idea of your preference: public, private, hybrid cloud or multi-cloud
- You know whether you'll work with a MSP or will manage services in-house
- You know which applications and data you want to migrate (and the split between public and private cloud if that's your choice)
- You know how you'll avoid vendor lock-in or have at least considered it
- You have developed risk management plans that prioritize security
- You have ensured that your existing applications can run effectively in the cloud
- You have chosen the right applications to move to the cloud
- You've identified your HA needs and your objectives for backup and DR
- You have developed an SLA that matches your performance requirements
- You have considered how to manage a hybrid cloud effectively if that's your approach





Navigating the migration jungle

A roadmap for successful deployment

Migrating SAP to the cloud is a complex, time-consuming endeavor that requires high-end expertise, multiple skills and vast experience. To get to your destination as smoothly and efficiently as possible, follow this 5-step approach.

1. Before you start

- **Consider your wider IT strategies and get executive buy-in.** Your choice to move to the cloud affects, and is influenced by, your organization's strategy for digital transformation, analytics and other applications in your IT portfolio. These elements of your strategy can influence both how and when you move SAP to the cloud. So, before you start, assess how moving SAP to the cloud relates to your broader IT strategy. Then ensure you have a plan to align your internal stakeholders across executives, line of business leads and IT.
- **Check your hardware refresh cycle.** Are you hitting the limits of aging hardware, or did you just invest in new infrastructure that meets your current needs? Consider how your current systems might be compelling you to move to the cloud fast or delay your migration due to lack of urgency.
- **Decide who's leading the migration,** your internal teams or a trusted service partner? Operating in the cloud is a specialized skillset – handling a migration is even more specialized, and often outside the comfort zone of even experienced IT teams.
- **Decide what you want to move to the cloud.** It may be as simple as starting with a disaster recovery solution or sandboxed development environments. You can also look at it from the perspective of specific applications you want to move, or data-bases such as SAP HANA.

- **Confirm how you want to migrate.** Moving to the cloud is an opportunity to refactor legacy applications to a cloud native solution built on microservices and APIs. But in cases where speed is of the essence — for example, if a data center lease is expiring — you may have reasons to prioritize a lift and shift, with refactoring to be addressed at a later stage.
 - **Select your HA, DR and scaling requirements.** Ensure your technical teams understand business requirements and use cases to create a technical strategy for questions around HA, DR and scaling.
 - **Decide how much to prioritize automation** by mapping out the environments and instances you expect to need. You can use automation to speed creation of instances in the cloud, which is useful for proof-of-concept pilot projects. Do you need to migrate your one-off environments for testing or ad-hoc systems?
- 2. Choose the right partner and platform**
- **Select the right partner.** Choosing the right partner is vital to success. Do your homework and try to find one with:
 - Proven technical proficiency and a track record of success in SAP implementation with similar-scoped projects
 - The right tooling, methods and best practices
 - The right cultural fit for your organization: its approach to the project, the way it communicates with you and how it adapts to your needs
 - Vertical industry expertise, so it understands the sector-specific priorities and requirements that drive your migration
 - Long partnerships with SAP and the top hyperscalers
 - **Choose the right platform.** The right enterprise Linux distribution and support can make all the difference. Choose one based on these criteria:
 - **Automated installation for a quick deployment.** It should offer pre-built templates that work seamlessly with your choice of hyperscaler and are optimized to provide automated installation of the SAP software stack — to remove complex, manual effort and human error — with automated system failover and recovery, to minimize downtime.
 - **Validated by SAP and your chosen hyperscaler to host SAP S/4HANA.** It must work equally well regardless of the public cloud service provider you use. Look for an open source platform to avoid vendor lock-in while ensuring a successful transition and ongoing operation long afterwards.
 - **Ensures high availability, performance and security.** It must support a broad set of scenarios to avoid downtime and achieve non-stop IT. To keep your services performing as they should, it must be optimized for performance. And it should enhance security and compliance by applying live kernel patches to protect against vulnerabilities, with zero interruption.
 - **Leverages automation to minimize administrative time and effort.** Automating public cloud infrastructure configuration and administration frees your IT staff

from mundane, repetitive and time-consuming tasks so they can work on strategic initiatives that add value. To achieve this, choose a platform that's built to leverage features like automation to administer and manage SAP S/4HANA in the public cloud.

3. Day 0: design your migration

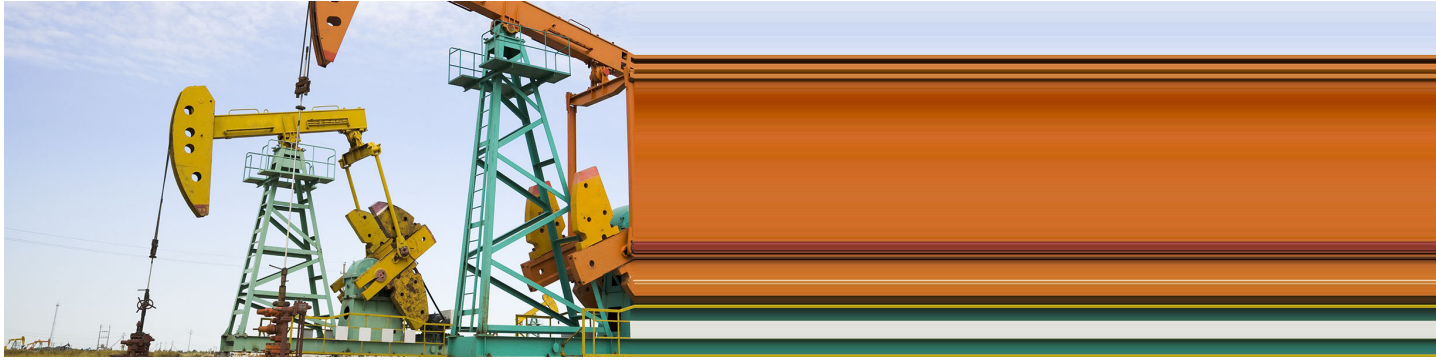
- **Assess your landscape and make a design plan.** Analyze your current application landscape, including all your SAP applications and your integrations, your current database and size and existing tools for virtualization, operating system (OS) and management. Then, design your cloud architecture, or ask your partner to help.
- **Predict your costs in the cloud.** Cloud service providers and consulting partners will each have tools to help you estimate monthly costs. Our recommendation is to work under a PAYG model for several months until your operations have stabilized and you can better predict your long-term needs.
- **Do your OS planning.** Plan how you'll tackle the OS-related tasks. Define your OS patching and management policy – your tooling, patch frequency and attitude to risk. And don't forget the importance of configuration management to limit configuration drift as you move toward operations. Remember, OS configuration requires tuning. How will you handle that?

4. Day 1 operations: start your deployment

- Start deployment and automation with migration of a non-production environment. Consider data tiering depending on the priority and responsiveness required from your various data types.
- Confirm the details of your plan: instance sizing, compute, storage and network access.
- Double-check your network considerations. HA requirements in the cloud are different from on-premises, so you'll want to make sure your network requirements and access to endpoints are configured correctly.
- Ensure you can start health monitoring from Day 0.

5. Day 2 operations: move into production

- Ensure you have precise control over your environments, whether they're used for development, test or production
- Access a solution provided by your partner to manage Linux systems across a variety of hardware architectures and hypervisors as well as container, IoT and cloud platforms – this should help you maximize SAP services availability, enhance operational efficiency and protect business revenue.
- By this point, your operations should be smoother, more consistent and more automated, so IT teams can keep their hands free for projects that deliver genuine business advantage.



Cloud migration success stories

Phillips 66 modernizes its business through digital transformation



Overview

When crude oil prices fell below zero in April 2020, oil production facilities, unable to cease operations, were filling up storage tanks faster than expected demand, forcing them to cut their losses by paying buyers to take oil off their hands. It was a huge disruption for an industry often plagued by market volatility, but Phillips 66 was able to weather the storm better than most. Its secret? A business transformation enabled by digital technology.

Highlights

- IT staff have become a more strategic arm of the business
- Able to run systems at scale with remotely positioned support personnel
- Can respond quickly and adapt to current market conditions with minimal impact on the business

Products

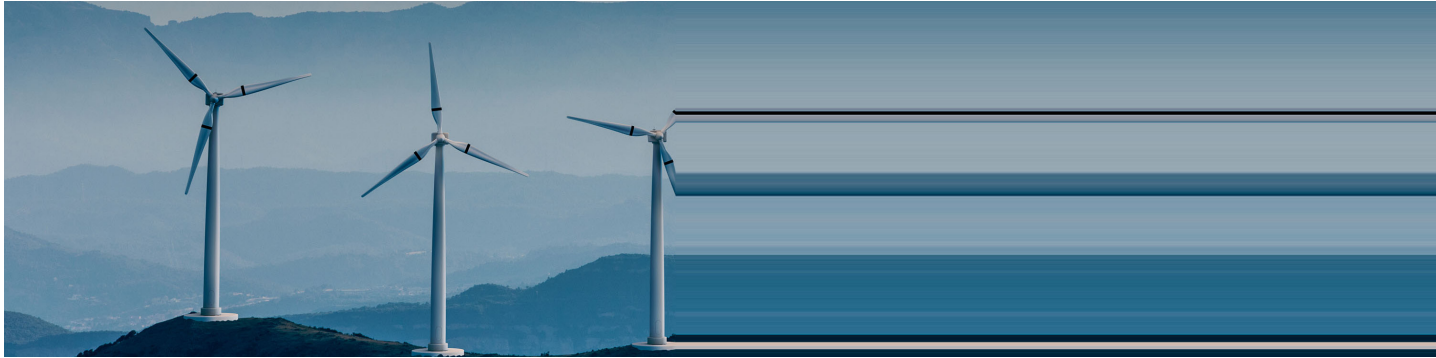
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES)
- SLES for SAP Applications

Hyperscaler: AWS

“What we have done is not just a digital transformation, it’s a business transformation. We are all saying, ‘It’s a good thing we did this.’”

Shawn Behounek, General Manager, Digital Strategy,
Architecture and Analytics, Phillips 66

[Read full story](#)



Adaro Energy gains a single platform for business optimization with SUSE and Cloud Comrade



Overview

A lack of centralized data and standardized business processes made it challenging for Adaro to manage financial consolidation, product costing, procurement and maintenance processes. Consolidating to a single, groupwide ERP solution (SAP S/4HANA) increased the need for reliability, stability and scalability, so Adaro chose SLES for SAP Applications as its strategic platform for SAP S/4HANA. The new landscape consolidates financial information that was previously spread across multiple repositories in different systems, giving Adaro finance teams fast, reliable access to all the information they need and helping the company grow more efficiently.

Highlights

- 78% time and effort saved in managing asset depreciation
- 99.999% availability for critical SAP S/4HANA applications
- 99% time and effort saved in payroll processing

Products: SLES for SAP Applications

Hyperscaler: Google Cloud Platform

“Through our work with Cloud Comrade and the stable foundation of SUSE Linux Enterprise, we have been able to streamline our deployment of SAP S/4HANA on Google Cloud Platform, helping us to provide innovative solutions to business users.”

Eka Suharto, Head of IT, Adaro Energy

[Read full story](#)



Alegri leverages SUSE to maximize savings and boost clients' digital transformation

Alegri

Overview

IT services provider Alegri wants to help clients boost business agility. One of the ways to achieve this is by making cutting-edge SAP HANA in-memory technology more accessible with a complete SAP S/4HANA solution running in the public cloud on Microsoft Azure. With SLES for SAP Applications at the core of the offering, Alegri can deliver flexible, cost-effective SAP S/4HANA services that enable clients to react faster to changing demands.

Highlights

- Provides a tested, reliable and easy-to-manage platform to operate mission-critical SAP applications
- Optimized for Microsoft Azure cloud, enabling clients to adopt SAP HANA technology in as little as 30 minutes — instead of several weeks
- Integrated automation allows clients to start and stop virtual servers rapidly as required, reducing operating costs by 60%

Product: SLES for SAP Applications

Hyperscaler: Microsoft Azure

“The fact that we were able to get everything up and running ourselves speaks volumes about the simplicity of the SUSE solution and its user-friendly configuration.”

Hinrich Mielke, SAP Director, Alegri International Group

[Read full story](#)

Why SUSE?

SUSE helps organizations deliver the promise of SAP S/4HANA – to help grow revenue, minimize customer turnover and improve operational excellence with higher employee productivity.

It helps organizations unlock operational excellence by simplifying and speeding SAP S/4HANA deployments and achieving faster time to value through the delivery of SAP applications quicker, easier and with lower risk – on-premises and in the cloud.

SUSE is the market-leading platform for SAP S/4HANA deployments for many reasons.

SUSE's partnerships with SAP and hyperscalers

SUSE dominates the market when it comes to SAP:

- SUSE has 20+ years of co-innovation with SAP
- SUSE offers the leading Linux platform for SAP HANA, SAP NetWeaver and SAP S/4HANA solutions and is endorsed by SAP
- 85% of SAP HANA implementations run on SLES for SAP applications
- 90% share of SAP HANA benchmarks on Linux
- 100% share of SAP Business One version for SAP HANA
- SAP is also a long-time SUSE customer, running many of its internal and customer-facing solutions on SUSE products
- SUSE has more than 30,000+ customers for mission-critical applications
- More than 300+ customer references
- And over 130 worldwide performance records

SUSE's 80+ specially trained SAP Champions worldwide offer:

- 24/7 priority support with SAP
- First support for SAP solutions
- SAP-specific technical expertise
- 6 tailored Global Services offerings

SUSE has long-standing partnerships with the top three hyperscalers: [GCP](#), [Microsoft Azure](#) and [AWS](#).

Tools, technologies and consulting

Whichever cloud service provider you choose, you will need a consistent, reliable and secure infrastructure that minimizes risk during your move (and during post-migration operation) while meeting your business needs. To make the move efficiently, you need a platform that enables you to deploy SAP applications faster and with lower risk.

The SUSE platform enables you to deliver the promise of SAP S/4HANA with improved reliability and uptime, rapid delivery of new business offerings and optimized performance. SUSE helps you conquer any complexity that arises to quickly take advantage of insights into new revenue streams and upsell or cross-sell opportunities that fuel top-line growth.

The SUSE platform optimizes your SAP S/4HANA environment for maximum performance, minimal downtime and secure data. Built-in automation and ease of use features reduce the time and effort IT administrators spend on routine maintenance.

SUSE helps you achieve faster time to value by providing the technical and product expertise you need to accelerate your SAP S/4HANA deployment.

SUSE tools and technologies

- **SLES**
 - Platform for SAP Business One, HANA edition
- **SLES for SAP Applications**
 - An SAP-Endorsed App (Premium certified)
 - The leading platform for SAP HANA, SAP S/4HANA and SAP NetWeaver solutions
 - Speeds up delivery so your infrastructure is fully aligned with best practices from SAP Notes
 - Reduces the time to install and configure SAP S/4HANA landscapes with consistent, repeatable results. It features configuration scripts and automated deployment of a full SAP S/4HANA software stack for single node and clustered configurations.
 - Leverages SAP application configuration and performance tuning packages developed by SUSE and made available to the open source community. By integrating automated installations with SUSE Manager, you use a single pane of glass for life-cycle management of your SAP systems – on premises and in the cloud.
 - SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension (included with SLES for SAP Applications) helps you ensure compliance with HA/DR requirements to reduce downtime. Maintain flexibility to configure and deploy a choice of multiple HA/DR scenarios for SAP S/4HANA and NetWeaver-based applications.

- **SUSE Manager**
 - Helps you simplify and optimize the applications and data in your existing IT environment
 - You can update your systems without downtime and achieve non-stop IT as you transition to SAP S/4HANA
 - Designed to work in a multi-vendor, multi-platform environment – you can count on your IT solutions 24/7
 - With fewer disruptions and faster response time, you'll have happy customers and a more engaged workforce
- **SUSE Linux Enterprise Live Patching**
 - Helps you avoid downtime for your SAP S/4HANA system and keep it secure: you deploy multiple critical kernel patches for security vulnerabilities or stability issues without rebooting servers or waiting for the next service window

SUSE Consulting

The SUSE Consulting team is made up of architects, designers, consultants and engineers who share a common goal: to simplify your business modernization journey by working with SLES, the leading Linux OS for SAP HANA, to help you migrate successfully to the cloud. Via SUSE Professional Services, this team can help you simplify performance tuning by helping you and your systems integration team design and run tests to help with tuning exercises.



12 reasons to choose SUSE

1. **Easier implementation:** SUSE enables you to deploy SAP S/4HANA with reduced time, effort and risk thanks to built-in best practices, co-developed with major hyperscalers
2. **High availability:** One reason SAP and all the leading public cloud vendors use SUSE solutions is because they are proven to deliver high availability for SAP S/4HANA. SLES for SAP Applications also delivers 24/7 access with automated failover and recovery to avoid service outages.
3. **Reliability:** SUSE helps ensure the reliability of SAP S/4HANA services and maximizes the efficiency of operations with SAP-validated templates, monitoring to proactively prevent issues and automation that eliminates complex manual processes
4. **Improved operations:** SUSE provides tools to automatically tune SAP S/4HANA for optimum performance. This includes the ability to prioritize SAP applications, so they retrieve data as quickly as possible. Additional security protects the SAP HANA database system from external attacks.
5. **Faster services deployment:** SUSE helps you deploy services faster and more flexibly, both on-premises and in the cloud, by fully automating the installation process, including the SAP software stack, so you can roll out SAP services in hours, not days.
6. **Reduced IT complexity:** A comprehensive dashboard ensures all systems have the correct configurations and software levels. Updates are performed automatically. Maintenance tools are either fully automated, or a wizard guides system administrators through configuration updates or troubleshooting steps.
7. **Maximized business growth:** SUSE helps businesses improve service uptime, optimize performance, gain new revenue streams and identify upsell or cross-sell opportunities. Performance optimization also helps increase agility for quicker response to market opportunities.
8. **Improved customer retention:** With SUSE, you reduce your risk through deployment automation while enjoying the freedom to adapt, deliver innovative products and services, maintain customer loyalty and increase competitiveness or a higher level of expertise
9. **True operational excellence:** With SUSE as your partner, you will experience improved service reliability, optimized performance and enhanced data security, while gaining new insights (resulting from best practices tuning and application performance protection) to help you make timelier decisions and maximize financial stability.
10. **Innovation and value-added services:** You also gain the ability to focus on innovation, not maintenance, with automated updates and security patches, and because the SUSE platform automates public cloud infrastructure configuration and administration, IT staff spend less time managing the infrastructure and more time working on strategic initiatives that help the organization deliver value-added services.

11. **Leadership in developing SAP solutions:** Over 20 years of co-innovation with SAP have made SUSE the leading and trusted open source platform for SAP solutions. Just one example: because SUSE is the original developer of all HA solutions for SAP HANA, NetWeaver and SAP S/4HANA, we have the expertise to provide outstanding support, especially for a large complex setup such as HANA scale-out in a cluster.
12. **A truly open culture:** SUSE leads community-driven innovation and software developed under an open source model. Our use of open standards means you benefit from interoperability, and have the freedom to work with the vendors and technology partners of your choice.



Learn more

Accelerate your cloud vision

To learn more about how we can help you efficiently transition to SAP S/4HANA in the public cloud, there are some useful resources on this page: [Accelerate Your Cloud Vision](#).

Here are a few additional resources:

- [Be Prepared to Transform the SAP Core Infrastructure](#)
- [Be Prepared for Your SAP HANA Migration](#)
- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP Applications 15 SP3](#)

Ask a question

To learn more about migrating your mission-critical SAP applications to the cloud, [contact us](#).



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