SAP S/4HANA is the latest ERP offering from SAP which uses in memory computing technology. In addition to advantage of speed which comes due to new technology, SAP S/4HANA offers a personalized, consumer-grade user experience with SAP Fiori.

S/4HANA allows its customer to make decisions that are data driven. It has the capability for predictive analysis, improved automation, efficiency and agility through machine learning integration between headquarters and subsidiaries with two-tier deployment.

Considering the numerous benefits S/4HANA can offer to the business, most of the company CIO are busy these days planning to migrate to S/4HANA. Here the focus of this blog will be

1.To introduce the three basic scenarios which are possible while migrating to S/4HANA namely New Implementation, System Conversion and Landscape Transformation

2.To give an overview of the factors that help in choosing the optimal path for migration to S/4HANA for an existing customer.

### Scenario 1 : New Implementation

Also known as 'Greenfield Migration' is for customers who want to migrate to S/4HANA from non-SAP legacy system or even from a SAP ERP system.

The implementation must be done like a new system. All the initial data loads are done within the system. In New implementation, all the master and transactional data is migrated from the legacy system using data migration tool.

New Implementation can happen in both type of HANA system S/4HANA Cloud and S/4HANA On-Premise.
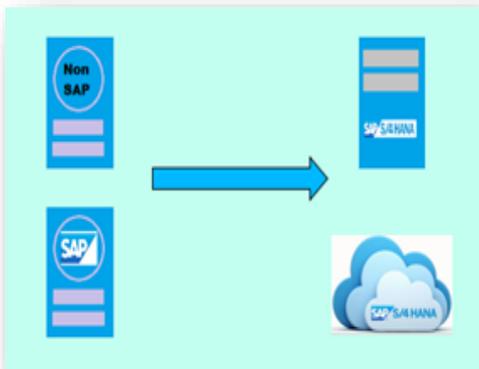


### Scenario 2 : System Conversion

System Conversion projects are also known as 'Brownfield Migration'. System Conversion is applicable for scenarios where customer is already on SAP ERP System and want to migrate to S/4HANA system. It is only possible for customers migrating to S/4HANA On Premise. Customers who want to migrate to S/4HANA needs to do a technical migration using Software Update Manager(SUM) and Database Migration Option(DMO) in case its underlying database is not SAP HANA.



### Scenario 3 : Landscape Transformation

Landscape transformation (LT) is most suitable for large companies that have various ERP or Non-ERP systems running. The customers are looking for either an integration amongst various systems over a single SAP S/4HANA platform. It can also be used in selective data migration of entities that customer wants to move to SAP S/4HANA platform.

It can focus on moving only the valued entities and not on migrating a whole system. Another scenario where an enterprise opts for landscape transformation is implementation of SAP Central Finance Scenario. Landscape Transformation can happen for both S/4HANA Premise and S/4HANA Cloud.
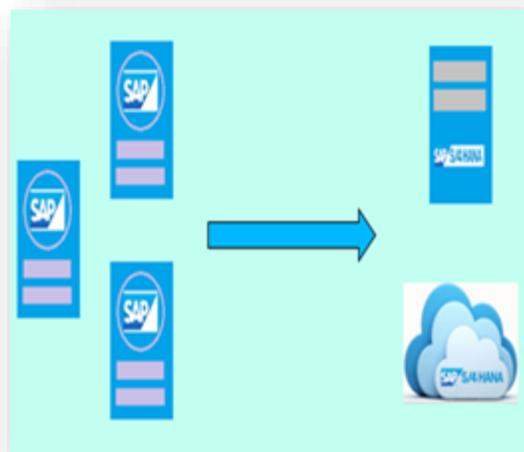
| New Implementation | System Conversion | Landscape Transformation |
|---|---|---|
| • Greenfield Migration<br>• Non ERP/ ERP -> HANA<br>• Available On-Premise<br>• Available On-Cloud<br>• Done using Data Migration Tool | • Brownfield Migration<br>• ERP -> HANA<br>• Available Only On-Premise<br>• Done using Software Update Manager(SUM) and Database Migration Option(DMO) | • Various Non ERP / ERP -> HANA<br>• Centralised Finance<br>• Available On-Premise<br>• Available On-Cloud |

*Features in a nutshell*

**Existing Customer - New Implementation or System conversion**

One of the major challenges for an existing customer is to determine whether to opt for New Implementation or System Migration for moving to S/4HANA. For many the preferred choice would be system conversion by a general perception but some may opt for New Implementation. There are multiple factors that, when researched over the existing system, help in determining the path to S/4HANA migration. Some of those are listed below:

| Factors | System Conversion | New Implementation |
|---|---|---|
| **Cost and Time for Unicode Conversion** | S/4HANA requires an existing Unicode system, choose System Conversion if the existing system is on Unicode | If the existing system is not on Unicode, choose new implementation to avoid increasing cost and effort of Unicode conversion |
| **Investment in Existing Code** | If the customer wants to stay invested in its existing functionality and finds it easy to migrate it. | If the customer wants to get rid of unused code and wants to start afresh OR If in building the existing functionality again the cost is low, and productivity is high then this is the preferred approach. |
| **Third Party Applications** | If the customer's third-party applications are compatible, easily transitioned and flexibly integrated with S/4HANA. | If the customer uses a lot of third party applications which may not run on S/4HANA or would require extensive effort and cost in transitioning. |
| **System Configurations** | S/4HANA has come up with some additional business transactions and simplifications. System Conversion is the way to go if setting up these configurations in an existing system does not increase the effort of modification to existing configurations. | Choose New implementation if the time and effort in changing existing configurations exceeds the time and effort of setting up new configurations all together. |
| **Scope of Transition** | If the scope of transition is purely technical and that new functionality would be taken up at a later stage in the transitioned system. | If the user wants to adopt innovation and wants to leverage the HANA functionality parallelly while transitioning. |

*Factors influencing the path to S/4HANA*

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