



AVANTRA

FRUN LAMAS to SOLMAN

Navigating the sunset of legacy
operations solutions and
Cloud ERP migration

Now you're *really* running.™

Cloud ERP migration buyer's guide

Selecting tooling for the transition from Solution Manager and Focused Run to Cloud ERP management solutions

Introduction

Much has been written about migration to Cloud ERP, and there's lots of information available to firms on the migration of customized business process functionality and the adoption of fit-to-standard processes. However, much less information about the systems management technologies operations and basis teams depend on to run SAP is readily available.

This buyer's guide is crafted for IT leaders and SAP architects seeking to understand and select external solutions to replace legacy tools such as SAP Solution Manager, Landscape Manager, and Focused Run. We break the analysis into four key areas of consideration we've observed across our experience supporting customers in migration projects and provide an additional deep dive on SAP Operations technology where Avantra has deep expertise and experience.

Testing, Data, Change Management, and SAP Operations aren't the only functions of legacy SAP management and operations software – but they are four of the most common where our experience has observed acute need. This guide underscores the complexity – and reality, for most – of a multi-year migration and the critical need for hybrid management capabilities throughout the transition period.

Moving On

Solution Manager, Landscape Manager, and Focused Run have served many well, but they are approaching end of support, and from an innovation standpoint are already past the point of significant new roadmap investment from SAP.

Cloud ALM, the recommended heir apparent to these solutions, has a promising future. For customers with a cloud-first, cloud-centric landscape, Cloud ALM can be a great choice. But what do customers do in the meantime? Most large enterprises face migration project timelines measured in years, and some even in decades, and Cloud ALM isn't designed to manage legacy, on-premises implementations comprehensively.

In addition, Cloud ERP migration projects tend to increase operations staffing demands. For a considerable amount of time customers find they are operating duplicate ERP systems – existing business systems and the new Cloud ERP project landscapes. Introducing additional tools and different approaches to SAP operations isn't going to improve the situation.

So how do we address this challenge?

What we've observed at Avantra are some key requirements in the areas of Testing, Data, Change Management and SAP Operations that tend to appear or even surprise in every migration project but might not be the first consideration when project planning. And while our expertise (and deep dive in this article) will focus on SAP Operations, we are happy to share a few insights from other areas these legacy tools addressed as well.

So What Do I Need?

Category	Capability	Rationale
Testing	Test case and library management across legacy and cloud environments	Migration projects create change to existing business processes and new ones. Test cases for existing business systems in production and new functionality in project landscapes will exist concurrently for a protracted period and require upkeep. The solution should scale and provide features to manage the additional volume of test cases elegantly.
Testing	Test case migration from SAPGUI to WEBGUI	Many kinds of customization will cleanly port between ECC and S/4HANA without significant modification to the user experience, especially for brownfield migrations. Test solutions with the ability to migrate existing SAPGUI test cases to WEBGUI help eliminate the need to manage dual test cases across existing business and project environments.
Testing	Test case correlation for transformed business process	Traceability is a key issue for both testing and change management. When transformation requires new or changed functionality deployment, dual test cases (and change) must be maintained as traceable, functional equals for audit and compliance reporting.
Testing	Automated business process documentation	Transformation will create change in business processes and operating procedures. Quickly documenting changed processes with step-by-step detail accelerates the creation of test assets and coverage for these differences.
Testing	Continuous testing automation	In addition to automating the execution of test cases themselves, orchestrating the large-scale execution of testing with each change can significantly accelerate project cycle times and detect defects earlier in the release process, reducing costs.
Testing	Coverage and Impact Analysis	Identifying which and when tests need to run will help reduce the total volume of testing required while not substantially increasing coverage risk. Coverage analysis identifies testing gaps and program risk from change.
Testing	Cloud ALM Integration	Ultimately, Cloud ALM may be the final solution for managing testing and change in SAP, and any testing solution used for migration should integrate with Cloud ALM for test results at a minimum.
Testing	Scalability	During a project, the amount of testing required may double or more. Selecting a testing solution with a highly scalable, "lights out" orchestration capability automates continuous testing and helps testing requirements meet the demands of supporting existing business operations and project landscapes concurrently.
Data	Selective Migration	Cloud storage is expensive, and most SAP customers haven't archived legacy data consistently. Evaluating actual data requirements and selective migration can substantially save on cloud operations costs.
Data	Refresh Automation	Expect to perform more testing during migration projects, and thus exhaust test data more frequently. Expect to provision more test systems and project landscapes, and require the creation of suitable systems for dev, QA and other migration tasks.

So What Do I Need?

Category	Capability	Rationale
Data	Selective Sync	The ability to refresh exhausted test data without a full system refresh further supports highly scalable, continuous testing.
Data	Masking	Frequently, raw production data isn't suitable for testing and project landscapes use due to sensitivity or regulatory controls. Masking eliminates this challenge.
Change	Centralized change control for transports, configuration, and code deployments across on-premises and cloud SAP systems	Change control will continue as a regular business requirement throughout the migration project, likely with increased transport volumes and new retrofit requirements for the project landscape. Many changes, especially in brownfield migrations, will transport between legacy and cloud ERP systems. A central point of control with reporting and traceability reduces mistakes and prevents accidental regression from missed change.
Change	Audit trails, impact analysis, and traceability capabilities to minimize risk during migrations	Customers in regulated environments require audit and compliance reporting for existing and project landscapes, especially as cut-over approaches. Detailed change technical analysis integrated into the change management system prevents common mistakes such as overtakes, overwrites, missing transports and retrofit errors.
Change	Support for N+n multi-track development and integration with modern CI/CD pipelines	Essential functionality. Many migration projects will take long enough an upgrade of the project landscape will be performed during the migration project. Avoiding change freezes and landscape lockdowns requires the creation of a 3rd track for managing the upgrade, even as business continues in the legacy system and innovation is delivered to the project landscape.
Change	Support for dynamic transport paths and ECC to S/4HANA retrofit	In brownfield migrations, a significant amount of customization will port cleanly (or with automated transformation tools) between ECC and S/4HANA. In these cases, solutions supporting both platforms as business and project landscapes within the same N+1 configuration provide a distinct advantage to firms managing change and transformation separately across both environments.
Change	Cloud ALM Integration	Customers may elect to implement Cloud ALM for the Cloud ERP landscapes, even before migration is complete. In these cases, ensure change management tooling supporting the legacy landscapes integrates with Cloud ALM, especially for retrofit functionality.

So What Do I Need?

Category	Capability	Rationale
Ops	Unified monitoring, alerting, and analytics for hybrid SAP landscapes	Measured outcomes from Cloud ERP projects have indicated an increase in the need for basis team members and SAP operations demand. This is especially acute during the migration project and after migration is complete, especially during any transition timeline where a hybrid mix is in place.
Ops	Automation of routine operational tasks, including job scheduling and health checks	More work, more environments, and more chances for simple errors. Increasing the coverage of single-pane-of-glass coverage across regular tasks (think backups, system copy/refresh, systems monitoring) helps extend the capacity of existing SAP Ops teams as demand for support increases.
Ops	Automated SAPNotes and HotNews	A surprise to many SAP operations teams is the amount of SAP operations tasks on the customer's plate for many versions of Cloud ERP private – the most common deployment model for large enterprises moving to Cloud ERP. This is in addition to existing responsibilities for on-premises systems, with the added security risks and importance of staying current due to cloud access.
Ops	Unified dashboards and observability	Managing everything from a single pane of glass is an essential accelerator for protecting the business availability of SAP runtime environments during the several years most SAP customers are in hybrid operations.

Deep Dive: SAP Operations Requirements

The transition from legacy management solutions to cloud-based alternatives brings several operational challenges:

- **Visibility and Control:** Maintaining a single pane of glass for system health, performance, and security across both legacy and cloud environments.
- **Integration Complexity:** Ensuring seamless interoperability with both SAP and non-SAP systems, as well as third-party monitoring and automation tools. Most SAP customers use enterprise solutions such as ServiceNow for incident management or other centralized IT tasks.
- **Scalability and Flexibility:** Supporting the dynamic scaling of cloud resources while maintaining governance and compliance standards.
- **Knowledge Gap:** Navigating the differences in capabilities and user experience between legacy tools (such as Solution Manager) and new offerings like SAP Cloud ALM.

SAP Cloud ALM is SAP's strategic replacement for Solution Manager, offering cloud-native capabilities for application lifecycle management, testing, change control, and operations monitoring. However, its feature set is still evolving, and full parity with legacy tools will not be immediate. So, while it is likely to become the de facto standard for cloud-centric customers, enterprises with significant on-premises and hybrid options are well advised to have a plan for the meanwhile before full transition.

A successful migration to SAP Cloud ERP is rarely a "big bang" event; it typically unfolds over several years, with core business processes and data often residing in both on-premises and cloud systems. During this phase, it is crucial to adopt management solutions that:

- Offer a single point of control for monitoring, automation, and change management across the entire hybrid SAP landscape.
- Enable consistent workflows and policies, reducing operational risk and user confusion.
- Provide extensibility and integration with existing ITSM, monitoring, and automation platforms.
- Support phased retirement of legacy ERP systems without disruption to business operations.

Recommendations: Criteria For Selecting Supporting Solutions

- **Hybrid Capability:** Can the solution manage both on-premises and cloud SAP systems from a unified interface?
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Does it address the core domains discussed here — Testing, Data, Change Management, and Operations – and likely additional ones not touched on such as security or commercial considerations?
- **Integration & Extensibility:** How well does it integrate with SAP Cloud ALM, existing ITSM tools, and third-party monitoring platforms?
- **Scalability & Performance:** Is the solution proven to handle enterprise-scale SAP landscapes without performance degradation or undue human labor requirements for configuration and upkeep?
- **Vendor Independence:** Does the solution avoid lock-in and provide flexibility to adapt as SAP's management tool strategy evolves?
- **Security & Compliance:** Are data protection, access control, and audit capabilities built-in and aligned with organizational policies?
- **Support & Roadmap:** What is the vendor's commitment to ongoing support, innovation, and alignment with SAP's cloud trajectory?

Conclusion

Migrating to SAP Cloud ERP is a complex, multi-year endeavor demanding careful planning and robust management tools. The end of support for SAP Solution Manager and related legacy platforms necessitates the adoption of modern tooling. SAP offers such solutions for Cloud ERP centric customers, but most large enterprises will require years of hybrid operations during the transition. Carefully evaluate potential solutions against your requirements focusing on phased, risk-mitigated transformation, ensuring operational continuity, accelerated cloud adoption, and ultimately, the full benefits of SAP Cloud ERP.

Now you're *really* running.™

Talk to an S/4HANA expert about your migration plans,
get in touch at www.avantra.com

© 2022-08 Syslink Xandria Ltd and its subsidiaries trading as Avantra. All rights reserved. Avantra is a registered trademark of Syslink Xandria Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. This preliminary information is subject to change without notice and is provided "as is" with no warranty. Syslink Xandria Ltd and its subsidiaries shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages in connection with the use of this material. This material is not intended to be a binding agreement.

www.avantra.com



AVANTRA

UK Headquarters

Parkshot House
5 Kew Road
Richmond
TW9 2PR
United Kingdom

Switzerland

Lautengartenstr. 6
4052 Basel
Switzerland

North America

33 West Monroe Street Suite 1025
Chicago Illinois 60603
United States

Document Version:

August 2025

© 2022-08 Syslink Xandria Ltd and its subsidiaries trading as Avantra. All rights reserved. Avantra is a registered trademark of Syslink Xandria Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

This preliminary information is subject to change without notice and is provided "as is" with no warranty. Syslink Xandria Ltd and its subsidiaries shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages in connection with the use of this material.

This material is not intended to be a binding agreement.

www.avantra.com