

The Hidden Costs of Hybrid SAP Landscapes

The Tooling Trap

PART ONE



Many SAP landscapes face growing pressure from expiring maintenance timelines. ECC customers are running out of time on mainstream support, and deep customizations make a pure greenfield rebuild unrealistic.

Early S/4HANA adopters face their own deadlines as the first releases they deployed approach end of support. In addition, with cloud deployment models now built into most Cloud ERP planning, the transition has become as much an architectural shift as a functional one.

Cloud ERP may be the destination, but the route there is rarely simple.

To manage this complexity, many organizations migrate in stages: moving workloads gradually, testing Cloud ERP in targeted areas, and keeping ECC stable while they transform and learn. This is how hybrid SAP landscapes emerge: Hybrid landscapes buy time and reduce risk, but they also create their own hidden operational costs.

This two-part series examines those hidden costs. Part 1 focuses on the technical and operational burdens, while Part 2 explores the human toll of hybrid strategies.

Hybrid Sounds Flexible But for Basis Teams, it's Controlled Chaos

On paper, hybrid SAP is a smart transitional architecture. In practice, it fractures the operational landscape, forcing teams to perform a daily juggling act between different generations of SAP technology, tooling, and infrastructure.

Hybrid operations create a split-brain environment: ECC and Cloud ERP run on different platforms with their own tools, rules, and baselines. They do not share monitoring logic, automation frameworks, or patching cycles, or even ownership of the environment itself.

For teams operating in Cloud ERP, they remain responsible for the operational layers they still own — application layers, interfaces, jobs, monitoring, security, integrations — but they now depend on Cloud ERP operations teams for the layers beneath. This isn't a limitation of Cloud ERP; it's the reality of hybrid visibility. When some layers are managed internally and others externally, the operational picture becomes uneven, making it harder to see the full story during incidents. As a result, basis and IT teams spend more time translating between systems than managing them.

In a typical hybrid landscape, the same environment might be monitored through several unrelated tools:

- › Traditional on-prem monitoring and Solution Manager for ECC
- › Cloud ALM for Cloud ERP
- › CloudWatch or Azure Monitor for hyperscaler workloads
- › Custom scripts that keep older ECC processes running
- › Separate dashboards created to fill the gaps

Each layer offers a different version of system health, and the simplest questions require teams to jump across multiple management tools, checking multiple screens, interpreting conflicting data, and figuring out which view to trust.



Teams spend valuable time trying to answer basic questions like:

- › Is this slowdown coming from SAP, the database, the network, or the cloud?
- › Why can't I get one view of what's happening across my SAP landscape, regardless of where it's running?
- › Why am I bouncing between tools that were never designed to talk to each other?
- › Why does every environment require its own monitoring logic instead of giving me one operational truth?

Even identifying which layer a symptom belongs to can become its own investigation. This is not a minor inconvenience. Understanding what's actually happening requires broad expertise across many different tools and technologies. It's structural fragmentation. And as these tools multiply, the operational risk grows alongside them.

The Fragmented Tooling Tax (And Yes, it Adds Up)

Hybrid SAP doesn't just split systems. It splits tooling, infrastructure, and operational workflows. Here's where the real costs accumulate:

1 Multiple toolsets doing the same job and billing you for it

- > No single-tool monitoring means enterprises end up with parallel systems:
- > Solution Manager for ECC (free, but costly to host and maintain)
- > SAP Cloud ALM for Cloud ERP (free, but expanded cloud capacity isn't)
- > Hyperscaler-native tools
- > Standalone automation tools
- > Legacy scripts and homegrown utilities

"If you don't have single tooling from ground to cloud, you're paying for extra hardware and cloud fees." – SAP Industry Expert

Each of these tools brings its own set of licenses, infrastructure, databases, storage, and maintenance cycles. The result is a multiplying cost structure that grows quietly in the background. Organizations pay for overlapping capabilities, maintain separate environments to support them, and spend too much time reconciling data that should be consistent but rarely is. The more tools involved, the higher the spend. And the more disconnected the tooling, the heavier the operational burden becomes.

2 Extra infrastructure just to keep the tools running

Tools are not lightweight add-ons. They require real infrastructure behind them, both on-premises and in the Cloud. Most require their own virtual machines, databases, storage, agents, computing resources, backups, and high availability setups.

In a hybrid SAP landscape, this multiplies quickly. Instead of one monitoring stack that grows with the environment, organizations maintain two or three separate stacks that each scale on their own timeline. More systems mean more VMs, more storage, and more cloud consumption, even before a single SAP workload is touched.

The result is an infrastructure footprint that grows quietly in the background, turning into a steady and often invisible drain on budgets.

3 When hybrid creates blamestorms instead of breakthroughs

When the tooling is fragmented, every incident takes longer to diagnose. Teams spend an inordinate amount of time stitching together information from separate dashboards and reconciling alerts that do not line up.

Fragmented tooling means:

- > more manual correlation
- > more war rooms
- > more false positives
- > more missed signals
- > slower movement to root cause and recovery

And the consequences reach well beyond IT. SAP runs core business processes, so even minor delays can ripple into order fulfillment, finance closes, production schedules, supply chain commitments, and customer experience. A slow IT investigation often becomes a slow day in the business, and the operational risk compounds as hybrid landscapes grow

4 Complexity has entered the chat

As more workloads shift to Cloud ERP, the operational gap between old and new environments grows wider. Teams are no longer managing one evolving landscape. They are managing two different models of SAP operations at the same time.

That means two sets of baselines, two operational playbooks, two patching rhythms, two logging stacks, and two automation frameworks.

Complexity accelerates rapidly. The effort required to keep both environments aligned becomes its own workstream, and teams feel the strain long before the transformation is complete.

A Real-World Example: One Landscape, Two Worlds, Zero Alignment

Consider how this plays out in practice.

A typical hybrid environment includes: ECC on premises with custom scripts and Solution Manager, Cloud ERP monitored through Cloud ALM, hyperscaler logs, manual checks for integration points, separate tools for batch jobs, and automations tracked in spreadsheets or script repositories.

Now imagine a slowdown in order processing.

When the tooling is fragmented, every incident takes longer to diagnose. Teams spend an inordinate amount of time stitching together information from separate dashboards and reconciling alerts that do not line up.

- › ECC dashboards show green
- › Cloud ERP reports intermittent issues
- › Hyperscaler logs show a spike in backend latency
- › Network monitoring flags packet loss

Individually, all of these tools are doing their jobs. The problem is that none of them operate from a single pane of glass. Instead of seeing one coherent operational picture, the customer loses sight of the situation because every tool lives in its own world.

The issue isn't simply different and disconnected environments. It's that teams must manually stitch these isolated views together to understand what's even happening. Managing this growing collection of tools becomes untenable at scale, and visibility disappears right when it's needed most. This is hybrid SAP reality.

Avantra Simplifies What Hybrid SAP Makes Complex

Hybrid landscapes are complicated, but the operations layer does not have to be. Avantra brings visibility, intelligence, automation, and streamlined tooling that hybrid SAP environments fundamentally lack. Avantra simplifies SAP management, allowing teams to work from one unified system built specifically for SAP. Instead of managing separate tools for ECC, Cloud ERP, hyperscalers, and custom integrations, teams manage the entire SAP estate and integrations from a single operational control plane.

Unified visibility across the entire SAP landscape

Avantra brings SAP system health, cloud metrics, database performance, interface checks, and job status into one place. Teams no longer spend hours stitching together dashboards, cross checking multiple tools, and debating which data source is correct. Everything is visible, consistent, and aligned.

Intelligence that surfaces issues early

Avantra applies behavioral baselines, anomaly detection, and predictive insights across all layers of the stack. Issues are identified before they escalate, giving operations teams the time and context they need to act with confidence.

Automation that removes repetitive work

Avantra automates the following tasks: daily health checks, system restarts, routine fixes, dependency checks, patching sequences, technical validation — and even full system refresh, which traditionally consumes enormous time and manual effort. Tasks that once drained hours of attention and woke teams up at night become simple, automatic, push button workflows.

Less tooling and less infrastructure to support it

Avantra consolidates the tooling ecosystem instead of multiplying it. With Avantra, customers scale one monitoring and automation platform instead of maintaining several parallel stacks. This reduces hardware, cloud consumption, VM counts, storage, licensing, and the operational overhead required to keep multiple tools healthy.

“Our landscape is very complex, we can’t even imagine managing and monitoring it without Avantra. No other tool in the market can give us the same results”

Why Avantra is Built for This Moment

There are monitoring tools. There are IT operations tools. There are cloud-native observability tools. But none of these are purpose-built for SAP and capable of unifying on-prem and cloud SAP into a single operational plane. Only Avantra brings all of it together with native SAP awareness, deep OS and cloud level visibility, predictive AIOps, automated daily checks, self-healing workflows, cross landscape baselines, and hybrid-first automation with minimal agent overhead. The result is a measurable reduction in manual effort and a consistent operational model across every environment.

Avantra isn't a general-purpose observability layer retrofitted for SAP. It's SAP operations automation built for the hybrid era.

The Bottom Line for Hybrid SAP

The true cost of hybrid is not only cloud consumption or licensing. It's the fragmentation that creates infrastructure sprawl, repetitive manual work, slow triage, inconsistent performance, and transformation fatigue. Avantra removes that friction by giving teams what hybrid environments fundamentally lack: a single point of control for SAP operations.

In Part 2, we'll examine something leaders rarely acknowledge, but every SAP team feels: the hidden human costs of Hybrid SAP strategies. Ultimately, one of the most consequential costs of hybrid isn't technology; it's organizational fatigue.



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