



Beyond SU25: What REALLY matters in the upgrade of S/4 HANA On-Prem Security

Customer Advisory Group offers best practices, recommendations & lessons learned to prepare your organization for a successful S/4 security upgrade

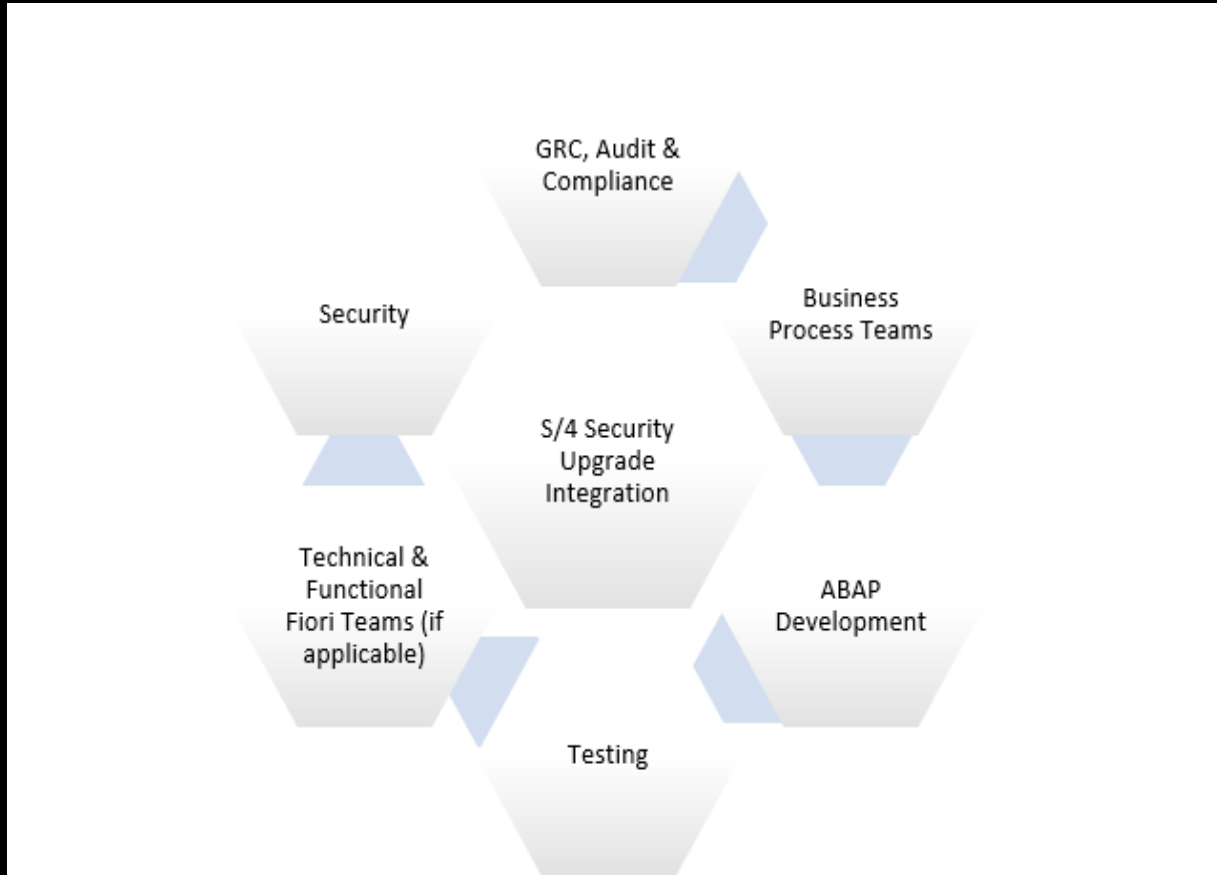


This may sound shocking, but contrary to popular belief, SAP S/4 HANA On-Prem is actually not that different, technically, from the traditional ABAP-based security. Even Fiori apps are rooted in the fundamental authorization object checks behind the scenes.



That is not to say that S/4 does not bring its fair share of changes- just not to the level of difficulty we've been led to expect. What does make this upgrade so different from previous ones is the extent of cross-team collaboration it requires to succeed. This is even more prevalent when Fiori implementation happens simultaneously.

S/4 HANA, first & foremost, is a change to the data model & business processes. From this perspective, the most difficult part of the S/4 integration begins **AFTER** you've completed your SU25 - you are left with questions answers to which can only come from other teams. Following is a breakdown of what really matters to the success of your upgrade.



Security

Get your house in order. This is not the right time to re-design roles or embark on a clean-up/rebuild effort. Keep in mind that Fiori-heavy projects will predominantly focus all of their resources on training users in Fiori, testing Fiori, and technically getting Fiori to work – having a stable Role foundation will make for easier integration into an existing roles structure, provided Fiori scope and strategy are clearly defined upfront.

GRC, Audit & Compliance

Get your ruleset upgraded first, esp. if introducing Fiori. Remediation efforts at a later stage will introduce unnecessary risk to the timeline.

ABAP Development

Know the impact to your code, esp. custom – there will be many changes to the underlying SAP code with S/4. Do not let your users find out for you that t-codes no longer work. Keep in mind that business users will be primarily focused on testing the changed/new processes- running into short dumps & system messages will fast become frustrating. Let alone a poor reflection on your team.

Business Process Teams

Have conversations early on about implementing replaced or removing obsolete t-codes. Know what's changed and clearly communicate this to the business. Specific challenges can be prevented, if addressed early on – ex., BP (Business Partner), which replaces your standard customer & vendor t-codes.

Fiori Technical & Functional (if implemented)

Get in front of your Fiori & Business teams to influence a design strategy. Decisions on how to secure apps will have a downstream effect not only on project success but also maintenance going forward. Fiori apps can be secured at app, catalog, and/or group level – consider each option's pros and cons carefully. Understand that Fiori is highly visual & user experience-focused – poor design will clutter the view and may cause performance issues. Clearly identify roles & responsibilities between Fiori, Business & Security teams (mapping of apps to catalogs to groups to roles, etc.).

Testing

Cannot be emphasized enough – TEST! TEST! TEST! Get as much testing done as possible before the upgraded roles get to the business users for UAT. Incorporate testing of non-dialogue critical business processes – workflows, background jobs, portals, interfaces, etc. These will mostly likely be the 1st ones hit once the system is brought back up from the upgrade. experience-focused – poor design will cluster the view and may cause performance issues.

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