

# Cloud-First Migration: Integration to Optimize ERP Modernization Projects

Most companies today are in the midst of transforming their ERP software, sending traditional on-premises applications to the cloud with visions of improved performance, agility, and scalability.

Yet many organizations migrating to the cloud have tunnel vision. Understandably, given the scope of the work, they are consumed with their ERP modernization initiative. They believe that once it's complete, all their problems will be solved.

But many IT professionals leading these modernization programs have failed to realize that when it comes to integrating data into a new cloud-based infrastructure, there's a better solution.

## IN THE CLOUD

In the cloud, digital assets, applications, services, and other IT resources can be managed in a virtual environment. This can offer much more flexibility, both for scale and for expenses, which can adjust on a subscription or consumption-based model, e.g., pay for what you use or need.

"Cloud-first migration" means looking first to cloud solutions when creating new processes or adapting old applications.

More than half of the larger organizations around the world are in the process of moving their core business processes off legacy, on-premises ERP systems to new, cloud-based applications.<sup>1</sup> And, 32.1% are using the so-called "Big Bang" approach, deploying the entire system at once.<sup>2</sup> (For more about cloud migration, read our ebook ["Migrating to the Cloud: Key Insights and Integration Strategies for Success."](#))

Some companies are proactively making this change for the business advantages, or perhaps taking a measured path to a hybrid solution of a public or private cloud and on-premises applications. The benefits are numerous and proven:

- Lower capital requirements to access innovation
- Trim operational expenses and infrastructure costs
- Upgrade with new functionality automatically
- Scale better, faster, with more flexibility
- Dramatically shorter deployment times for better ROI

But for 53% of companies in one study, the benefits of the cloud aren't the primary driver. They are upgrading because they're being forced to: SAP users have until 2027 to migrate to S/4HANA, SAP's cloud-based software suite.

**The clock is ticking.**

## BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DATA?

It's become clear that competitiveness and sometimes survival will come down to data, its veracity, and an organization's ability to use it effectively to deliver truly integrated experiences for employees, customers, suppliers, and trading partners.

Yet **risk of data loss** was among the top fears that made IT leaders wary of cloud ERP migration,<sup>3</sup> and **data issues** were the second most-reported cause of missing project milestones or deadlines during an ERP implementation.<sup>4</sup>

So, in the midst of this great change, IT and business leaders cannot lose sight of the growing importance and value in their data and integrating it securely and accurately across all the applications where it can do some good.

For a cloud migration to S/4HANA, SAP is no doubt the expert. Yet let's be clear: Data is not what SAP is concerned with first and foremost.

Leaders must understand that application and data integration isn't an occasional or "one and done" activity. You will constantly be innovating, adding, and upgrading applications to support your ongoing digital transformation.

Even if the bulk of the workload falls on IT, the success of any cloud migration initiative is dependent on multiple teams spanning the organization working well together. Simply put, ERP modernization is not an IT pet project — it's an organizational opportunity to be prepared to innovate continuously.

A straightforward approach such as a low-code integration platform can embolden citizen developers and can simplify everything from development to documentation.

## UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF DATA INTEGRATION AT YOUR PERIL

Companies have high hopes from their ERP upgrade — for example, 82% expect their new ERP to have a positive impact on quality.<sup>5</sup> But specific to data, you face four major obstacles barring you from optimizing your ERP.

**SYNCHRONIZATION:** To ensure real-time data and processes are synched, you must manage the synchronization of data and processes during cloud migration. Retrofitting your data post-implementation not only wastes time, but it wastes the opportunity to charge the ERP with the most correct, accurate data.

**CLOUD-TO-CLOUD INTEGRATION:** Enabling integration of systems across private, public, hybrid, and community clouds means you must be able to deploy across multicloud environments as well as on-premises, all the way to the edge with growing data volumes, low latency, and high performance.

**VISIBILITY:** For most companies, data lives in multiple locations, sometimes within the same data cloud, and more often, not. When you're able to provide real-time visibility into cross-cloud transactions and processes, you can build extensible projects and access trusted data anytime, anywhere, and on any device, centrally managed with automatic updates.

**SPEED:** Your business is demanding that modernization happens now — 85% of companies call their move to a new ERP system urgent.<sup>6</sup> To integrate quickly across pure and hybrid cloud ecosystems, you need a platform architected for the cloud with all benefits of the cloud, including design patterns, scalability, high availability, and built-in redundancy — so IT can move fast and deliver projects quickly and cost effectively.

## FOCUS ON ERP OPTIMIZATION

To get the most from your ERP, you must be able to identify, catalog, normalize, and centralize your data.

SAP Integration Cloud does not have the level of data discovery, intelligent data hub development, process integration, and orchestration to do that.

You can choose to pursue the pure ERP modernization path to meet SAP's mandate. Or you can use an integration platform as a service (iPaaS) to accelerate cloud migration that will empower you to **speed integration** through the use of intelligent connectivity and automation, ensuring successful migration of key processes and data to the cloud.

You'll be able to **intelligently connect and synchronize data** in real time with a data hub, complete with data discovery and cataloging, beyond just metadata management.

And you'll **deliver high visibility** into the performance and stability of your integrated environment, including support such as an early warning system should performance lag.

With so much of your business riding the success of this ERP modernization initiative, the need for speed, data accuracy, and security should be part of the equation up front. There is no time to lose.

For more information, visit [www.boomi.com](http://www.boomi.com)

<sup>1</sup> [Panorama Consulting Group](#)

<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> [The Bearing Point, 2021](#)

