ARCHIVE360

RISE with SAP and Data Archiving Best Practice

ebook

RISE with SAP is a comprehensive offering that facilitates a seamless transition to S/4HANA by bundling essential services such as cloud hosting, analytics, and system management into a subscription-based model. This initiative aims to reduce complexity and increase agility for organizations.

The Data Challenge

Legacy systems often carry years of transactional, operational, and historical data. Migrating this excessive data volume to S/4HANA can:

Increase migration costs	Prolong project timelines	Compromise the performance of the new system

The Role of Data Archiving

Data archiving addresses these challenges by systematically identifying and storing non-critical data outside the live environment. This ensures that only essential, business-critical data is migrated, reducing risk, complexity and cost. The Selective Data Transfer (SDT) method of migrating to S4/Hana puts data arching front and center. This method is best for customers who are generally happy with the configuration and setup of their SAP system, but do not need large amounts of historical data. For this migration methodology, as part of the move to SAP S/4HANA, you can be selective regarding which content to bring across. The historic data that doesn't need to be moved to the new systems can then be archived using data archiving solutions like Archive360. This SDT approach consists of identifying both the SAP data that you want to take to the SAP S/4HANA system, and the data you will leave. This results in running the SAP S/4HANA environment in a smaller system. This approach can also be used when merging multiple ERPs to one SAP S/4HANA system or splitting one ERP into multiple SAP S/4HANA systems.

There are several reasons to archive legacy data before migration to S/4HANA. Some of the main reasons are:

1

Cost Efficiency

Archiving data reduces the volume to migrate, which directly translates into savings in cloud storage, migration effort, licensing cost and system operational costs in S/4HANA.

2

Enhanced Performance

A leaner data set improves system performance, resulting in faster response times, quicker analytics, and a smoother user experience in S/4HANA.

3

Compliance and Data Governance

Storing legacy data separately ensures compliance with regulations like GDPR, CCPA, or industry-specific requirements, simplifying data governance in the new system. This is especially important given the increase in litigation and historically high fines and cost of non-compliance. Fines have reached billions of dollars per event.

4

Focus on Relevant Business Data

By migrating only actively used data, businesses can align their ERP system with current operational priorities and strategic goals.

It is important when migrating to S/4HANA to Identify Non-Business-Critical Data for Archiving. This identification should involve business data or process owners that can confirm data usage and ensure data relevance is accurately assessed. Business units can provide context on data criticality beyond their technical attributes.

In addition to business shareholders, business retention and regulatory policies should also be taken into consideration. Companies can implement retention schedules based on regulatory, industry, and organizational policies to systematically determine archival candidates. Be sure to include legal and global business process owners to include regulations that may have recently been added due to global expansion or recent legislation.

To assist with this activity, it may be helpful to analyze data usage patterns using data analysis tools to identify inactive or low-usage data. Metrics such as last accessed date, frequency of usage, and data redundancy can guide archiving decisions. Tools can also be used to apply the retention policies automatically during archiving. Many companies have home grown legacy systems in addition to third party applications that have integrated with their SAP environment where this data resides. Others have multiple SAP environments that have accumulated through M&A activity or previous programs.

Data Archiving Tools and Accelerators

There are multiple tools and technologies for Data Archiving in SAP Environments. SAP Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) is a native SAP solution offering end-to-end data lifecycle management, enabling data retention, deletion, and compliance with audit requirements. It is a good tool for data identification in SAP systems but will require third party tools to map/consider data outside SAP that needs to be archived. It will require third party tools to apply age out policies of stored structured and unstructured data for some processes. Archive360 is an example of a third-party solution offering advanced capabilities for regulatory-driven archiving and seamless integration with cloud platforms, including SAP that is ideal for complex environments of global 1,000 customers Rising with SAP. These tools are especially useful in regulated industries.

SAP's Data Volume Management (DVM) suite is an SAP tool that helps organizations monitor and analyze data growth, identifying opportunities for archiving or deletion to optimize performance. This is a good starting point for data identification in SAP environments. Another useful SAP tool is RISE with SAP analytics that provides robust analytics for assessing data usage, enabling data-driven decisions for archiving and retention strategies. Below is a table summary of these tools.

Tools Comparison

Tool	Key Features	Ideal Use Case
SAP ILM	Compliance-focused retention, deletion	Regulatory archiving of SAP data
Archive360	Scalability, multi-cloud support	Compliance-heavy industries with both structured and unstructured data archive and retrieval needs. SAP and non SAP data
Data Volume Management	Data growth analysis, archiving recommendations	Cost and performance optimization good starting point for data identification

SAP RISE Migration Best Practice

If you want to follow data archiving best practices in SAP RISE migrations, you should consider the following foundational elements.

01 **Define Archival Strategy Early**

Incorporate data archiving into the planning phase of the RISE with SAP project to align with migration goals. Data Archiving should also be part of your Enterprise Data Management program office if the organization is data centric or relies heavily on accurate data retrieval.

02 **Data Ownership and Governance**

Assign roles and responsibilities for managing data archival and ensuring consistency during the migration process. Ideally including in the business process owner's responsibilities.

03 **Document Archival Decisions**

Maintain comprehensive documentation of archived data, ensuring traceability for audits and compliance.

04 **Frequent Reviews and Adjustments**

Regularly reassess the archiving strategy to adapt to changing business or regulatory needs. This is often overlooked and is becoming increasingly important given the financial risk of data security breaches and regulatory fines.

Case Studies and Real-World Examples

Case Study 1:

30%↓

Reducing Migration Time by 30%

A manufacturer leveraged SAP ILM and third-party tools to archive **50%** of its legacy data before migration. This reduced migration time by **30%**, leading to a faster go-live with S/4HANA and significant operational cost savings.

Case Study 2:

40%↓

Compliance-Driven Archiving for a Large Enterprise

A global enterprise consolidated multiple ECC6 systems into a single S/4HANA instance using third party tools like Archive360. The process ensured regulatory compliance across regions while reducing storage costs by **40%**.

Outcomes

Cost Savings: Average storage cost reduction of 30-50%.

Improved System Performance: 20% faster analytics post-migration

Regulatory Compliance: Seamless audit readiness and reduced legal risks

Conclusion

Data archiving is no longer a "nice-to-have" in SAP RISE migrations—it's a best practice that determines whether your move to S/4HANA will be efficient, compliant, and future-ready. By taking a proactive approach to identifying, archiving, and governing legacy data, organizations can dramatically cut migration costs, accelerate timelines, and strengthen system performance while also meeting increasingly complex regulatory demands.

The right archiving strategy doesn't just reduce risk—it transforms legacy data into a governed, analytics-ready asset that can fuel innovation well beyond the migration itself. As companies modernize with RISE with SAP, those that embed archiving and governance into the foundation of their program will not only achieve a smoother transition but will also be positioned to unlock greater business value from their data in the cloud.

Now is the time to integrate data archiving into your RISE with SAP roadmap—ensuring your move to S/4HANA delivers both immediate results and long-term strategic advantage.

About Archive360

Archive360 helps SAP customers simplify application retirement, reduce costs, and unlock the value of their data. With a secure, cloud-native platform, Archive360 enables organizations to retire legacy SAP applications such as ECC, while preserving full data access for compliance, reporting, and analytics. Unlike traditional archiving solutions, Archive360 provides a centralized, governed environment where data remains searchable, usable, and ready to support business needs—from audit response to powering AI and analytics initiatives. By moving inactive SAP data into Archive360, enterprises can accelerate S/4HANA migrations, minimize licensing and infrastructure expenses, and ensure long-term regulatory compliance. Trusted by leading global organizations and government agencies, Archive360 empowers SAP program owners to modernize their IT landscape while maintaining complete control of historical business records. Whether you are decommissioning applications, preparing for S/4HANA, or looking to drive new insights from archived data, Archive360 delivers a proven, future-ready solution.

Learn more at: www.archive360.com