5

KEYS TO SAP TRANSFORMATION SUCCESS

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TECHNOLOGIES

Applications in the Cloud

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INTRODUCTION

Whether you're a business user depending on IT to support you, a technical user in search of the latest innovations, or an executive responsible for decision making, one thing is clear—cloud technology can have a profound impact on how you do your job day to day.

And when it comes to SAP, the application at the core of many modern businesses today, the situation is no different. Transforming your SAP-centric IT landscape to cloud can help you act, react, and predict more quickly, with greater accuracy and at lower cost.

This guide, Five Keys to SAP Transformation Success by Protera Technologies, explains what you need to do to ensure best results when you migrate your SAP and related applications to the cloud with SAP HANA or SAP S/4HANA.

Why transform now?

Most organizations running SAP are looking to improve how they serve customers by implementing new SAP functionality, accelerating their digital transformations, and optimizing day-to-day operations.

And with cloud SAP transformation platforms and methodologies like Protera FlexBridge and Protera's Five Keys to SAP Transformation Success, there is no better time to begin your transformation journey.

The Five Keys to SAP Transformation Success are best practices and guidelines to follow to make your transformation a success. They include:

1. Understand Your Technical Options

2. Assess Your Functional Objects

3. Upgrade Your Operating Model

4. Involve Your Users

5. Take an Agile Approach

KEY #1
Understand Your Technical Options

Is your SAP system ready to transform?

SAP transformation—whether moving to the cloud, migrating to SAP HANA, or upgrading to SAP S/4HANA—requires a thorough understanding of your current system and its capabilities in order to select the right target architecture based upon SAP requirements and cloud offerings.

> **"As we continued to grow, we had to adapt – and provide the business with real time, actionable data."**
>
> -*Jeff Sadtler, Joerns Healthcare*

Assessing your technical options includes but is not limited to the following steps:

→ Checking your SAP kernel version

→ Checking your SAP basis version

→ Checking your interdependencies with SAP and non-SAP systems

→ Checking your current OS and database to see if they can operate in the cloud

These basic checks will tell you what transformation options are possible for you, and which could cause potential risks.

In some cases, a system can be migrated "as is" from an on-premise environment to the cloud without alterations to the database or operating system. While a valid option for some organizations, others may require technical changes to enable systems to operate effectively in a cloud environment. While SAP transformation need not be a "one-step" process to S/4HANA, implementing a phased approach will still require a thorough technical review.

KEY #2
Assess Your Functional Objects

How would your business processes change after transforming your SAP systems?

Upgrading or altering your system in preparation for its new cloud environment may impact your established business processes. You will want to understand what business processes and key metrics will change, and use that information to determine what improvements in SAP S/4HANA make sense for you.

It is important to factor in the impact of these changes into your overall transformation plan as you prepare for new capabilities.

Elements that should be checked include:

→ Customizations

→ Fiori apps

→ User interfaces

→ Duplicate customer records

→ Simplification items

Remediating Your Simplification Items

Remediating your simplification items— changes to existing functionality that will be caused by an upgrade to the latest version of SAP HANA or S/4HANA—should be a priority. Fortunately, SAP offers a variety of tools to help you track your simplification items. Protera FlexBridge can leverage tools such as the SAP S/4HANA Simplification Item Check. This check allows you to maximize the chances of a smooth SAP transformation by assessing impact on your system's functionality and pinpointing data inconsistencies that might cause problems. If there's an issue that might derail your SAP transformation, the SAP S/4HANA Simplification Item Check can help you remediate well in advance and develop more streamlined workflows in your cloud environment.

KEY #3
Upgrade Your Operating Model

How will you manage your SAP environment after the upgrade?

Now is the time to rethink how to manage SAP in a modern environment. Whether becoming proficient in the latest cloud capabilities yourself or shifting focus to investing in other areas of the business—such as predicting customer needs or streamlining cost efficiencies—you may want to consider bringing in a specialized partner to help transform and optimize SAP on the cloud.

Specific operating model considerations include:

→ Designing monitoring, data protection, and security strategies

→ Ongoing optimization of SAP on a cloud environment

→ Tracking cloud consumption

→ Shifting to an OpEx model ("pay as you go") to manage cloud expenses

→ Using a DevOps model to merge development and operations teams

KEY #4
Involve Your Users

What will the user experience be like after your SAP transformation?

As businesses make the case for moving SAP to the cloud, HANA, or S/4HANA, starting with the users in mind ensures that IT and the business move forward hand in hand through the planning, approval, and execution phases—placing a strong emphasis on end-user testing.

Relevant steps may include:

→ Implementing SAP Activate methodology

→ Establishing a centralized system or program management office (PMO) for tracking end-user assignments for remediation

→ Focusing internal project resources and time on needs specific to the business and end users

SAP Activate Methodology

SAP Activate is the current methodology developed by SAP to implement its software. It offers a six-phase approach to completing a transition to a healthy SAP S/4HANA landscape:

1 **Discover** – Define the goals of your SAP transformation project—what do you expect to achieve, and when?

2 **Prepare** – Create a transformation plan and assign duties to the individuals responsible for carrying it out.

3 **Explore** – Perform a "fit-to-standard" analysis to define configuration values and ensure that the organization's requirements can be fulfilled by the SAP transformation.

4 **Realize** – Build, test, and refine the new system through a number of iterations.

5 **Deploy** – Plan and execute the final migration and ensure that all business operations are switched over to the new system.

6 **Run** – Make various tweaks and adjustments to the new system to keep it running optimally for all users.

KEY #5
Take an Agile Approach

How can the cloud help your company enhance your SAP transformation?

If you are on the path to adopting agile methodologies—in how you run your systems internally, serve your customers, or both—you can apply those same principles to your SAP transformation.

Start out with a proof of concept to explore your SAP transformation strategy and apply DevOps concepts like rapid development cycles to try out new tools and processes.

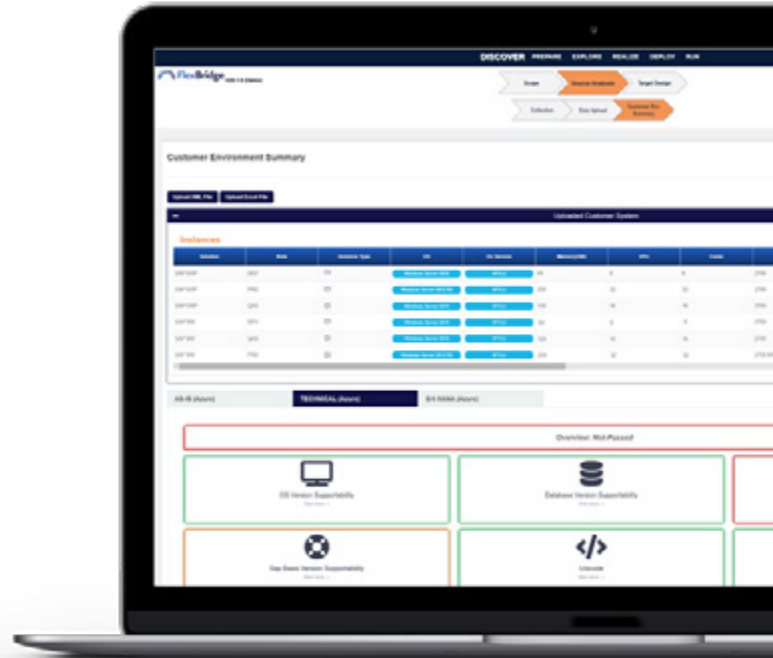When adopting an agile approach to transformation, key things to keep in mind are:

→ Taking advantage of self-service provisioning tools to select, configure, and deploy correctly sized cloud infrastructure

→ Using rehearsal systems to explore different SAP configurations

→ Installing improved operating tools

→ Determining your system migration strategy, whether to build new systems on the cloud or copy from existing systems

> "Our goal is to be able to quickly react, flex, and be nimble in how we deliver solutions to our customers and our business-now and in the future."
>
> -*John Vandeven, CIO*

SAVE HUNDREDS OF HOURS IN SAP TRANSFORMATION PLANNING WITH PROTERA FLEXBRIDGE:

An intelligent automation platform for SAP transformation success

Created from years of hands-on migration experience, Protera FlexBridge provides an end-to-end transformation to cloud, HANA or S/4HANA based on SAP-recommended best practices.

Protera FlexBridge automates your SAP transformation, covering all aspects of the Five Keys:

Understand Your Technical Options

Assess Your Functional Objects

Upgrade Your Operating Model

Involve Your Users

Take an Agile Approach

Five Minutes. Four Questions. One SAP Plan.

Schedule your virtual solutioning session today, and receive a timeline, remediation list, and the cost to transform your SAP.

SCHEDULE NOW

→ Discovers your existing systems

→ Recommends target architecture

→ Provisions cloud infrastructure on AWS or Azure

→ Automates transformation for As-Is, HANA or S/4HANA

ABOUT PROTERA TECHNOLOGIES

For over 20 years, our mission has been to enable SAP-centric enterprises to achieve their transformation objectives with improved value, increased quality, and reduced risk. The Protera FlexBridge℠ transformation success platform helps customers save up to 50% of the time and cost to transform and manage SAP and related IT applications on the cloud.

Protera is a global SAP® partner certified in Hosting, Cloud, Application Management, Global Outsourcing, and SAP HANA Operations Services.

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