



Cloud Transformation

Microsoft Azure and Accenture:
Your best choice to modernize SAP

SAP on Microsoft Cloud and Accenture offer the most efficient and effective way to migrate your ERP system to the cloud.

Why SAP in the cloud?

Mobility, the cloud and digital transformation are driving unparalleled change across businesses and industries. Enterprises able to incorporate these trends into their infrastructure have reaped huge rewards in the marketplace and against the competition.

That doesn't mean adaptability comes without challenges. Issues revolving around planning, scalability, deployment, productivity, security and management have held many enterprises back from forging ahead with their digital strategy. Nowhere is this truer than with enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions. By nature, these platforms handle significant volumes of data, that continue to grow exponentially.

SAP is a recognized market leader in ERP solutions. Until recently, its SAP HANA, with its capacity to stream enormous volumes of daily data, literally outpaced what public clouds could handle. For that reason, many enterprises hesitated to move their SAP solutions into the cloud. Why take a risk when what they were using wasn't broken?

Now however, the flexibility, scalability and productivity of the SAP S4/HANA on Microsoft Azure has changed the cloud migration narrative. Enterprises around the world are digitally transforming their SAP S4/HANA solutions to take full advantage of everything that digital technology has to offer.

With Azure, SAP can offer its clients the app management and product expertise from SAP on a global, trusted and intelligent public cloud platform. Azure can handle the largest ERP instances while offering access to leading productivity services such as Office 365, IoT and advanced analytic services such as Power BI as well as a wide spectrum of Microsoft cloud services.

Many enterprises have already begun their journey of migrating their ERP solutions to SAP S4/HANA on Azure. Most of them use one of Microsoft's leading partners, the global professional services company, Accenture, and the Microsoft and Accenture joint venture company, Avanade, to optimize and simplify deployment. As the recognized leaders in SAP cloud migrations, Accenture and Avanade deliver the experience and best practices needed to help ensure success.

Moving a mammoth SAP estate into the cloud: Rio Tinto's transformation journey

For 144 years, Rio Tinto has pioneered automated innovation in mining. But because its business faces constant pressure from gyrating commodities prices, Rio Tinto relentlessly seeks new efficiencies.

Rio Tinto realized that it needed to reduce operating costs and increase cash flow to give the business the freedom to act on new opportunities and pivot quickly. It set an ambitious target to recoup USD5 billion over five years through productivity improvements, operational savings, and mining-related efficiencies.

To achieve this big efficiency leap, Rio Tinto launched a major digital transformation, beginning with a project to run mission-critical business systems such as SAP more economically. Rio Tinto formed a strategic partnership with Accenture—and its partner ecosystem including Avanade and Microsoft—and began a systematic effort to:

- Move its massive SAP estate into the [Microsoft Azure](#) cloud platform to gain greater agility.
- Modernize line-of-business applications running in Rio Tinto datacenters and migrate them to Azure.

- Implement a pilot Internet of Things (IoT) solution that will take real-time data from trucks, drills, smelters, and other equipment and analyze it in Azure to gain equipment health, preemptive maintenance, supply chain efficiency, and other operational intelligence.

“We selected Accenture to help us manage this undertaking based on its global delivery capabilities, its vision for the journey to cloud, and its ability to support our digital transformation program,” says Eben du Toit, General Manager of Business Solution Services at Rio Tinto. “After discussions with Accenture and SAP, we all agreed that Azure was the best platform choice for our business requirements. Accenture is a strong partner with both SAP and Microsoft, and Rio Tinto is largely a Microsoft shop.”

With SAP running in Azure—and more of its business applications moving there soon—Rio Tinto has realized significant savings. It has vacated four datacenters—two production and two disaster recovery facilities—which has reduced IT operating costs by 30 percent.

Although still in the early days of its transformation, the company already sees an exciting agility boost across its business. Developers and business teams now upgrade a smaller virtual machine to a larger virtual machine with a couple of mouse-clicks—versus waiting weeks for servers to be ordered and set up. Innovation teams set up infrastructure for proof-of-concept projects in days versus months, which helps Rio Tinto develop safer, faster mining techniques and bring products to market sooner.

“With SAP running in Azure, we can deploy needed infrastructure faster and thus respond faster to pricing volatility in commodities, exchange rate fluctuations, and business needs,” says Steve Somerville, Head of Enterprise IT Services at Rio Tinto. “We can smartly connect our

infrastructure, software applications, data, and operations capabilities to become an agile, intelligent, digital business that better navigates the many variable cycles in our business.”

Subsea 7 transforms SAP with Azure, Accenture and Avanade

Accenture and Avanade collaborated with Subsea 7, a world-leading seabed-to-surface engineering, construction and services contractor to the offshore energy industry, to migrate its SAP enterprise resource planning systems to a Microsoft Azure cloud environment.

Subsea 7 looked to leverage greater efficiencies and cost savings from its SAP system. The new solution was implemented by Accenture and Avanade and features SAP Suite for HANA on Microsoft Azure to take advantage of the latest technologies that deliver greater efficiencies. Avanade teamed up with Microsoft to design and implement the infrastructure in the cloud environment including all virtual machines, monitoring and security. Accenture managed the SAP migration, and is providing infrastructure support and application management services.

As a result of the project, Subsea 7 is realizing a number of business benefits, such as:

- Lower total cost of ownership
- Increased agility through flexible, fast provisioning to manage workload changes
- Ability to handle large HANA instances
- Built-in regulatory compliance and security services

“Under the challenging market conditions it is key that Subsea 7 provisions a SAP landscape capable of flexing to our needs whilst driving greater efficiencies within the business,” said Euan Davidson, SAP and Business Solutions Director, Subsea 7. “Implementing SAP Suite for HANA on Microsoft Azure will help us realize a range of benefits through improved user interfaces, increased mobility, greater speed and better integration to other strategic platforms, making for informed business decisions, all on a platform that is easy to scale and customize.”

Why Microsoft Azure?

So why are these enterprise companies choosing Azure for their cloud transformations?

Azure sets the bar for cloud scalability, trumping the competition with the ability to handle up to 20TB and scale-out to 15x4TB. This showcases a huge advantage over other public cloud offerings, yet only teases at the capabilities of Azure, which can scale online transaction processing (OLTP) workloads up to 20TB.

Microsoft Azure also offers higher availability than other public cloud providers with 99.99% service-level agreement.

Microsoft Azure offers the most global reach of any public cloud, as well as the only true hybrid cloud platform



Azure also offers the largest global reach of any public cloud, as well as the only true hybrid cloud platform. These capabilities open doors for doing business with companies located in countries with strict regulatory standards, giving Microsoft cloud services a tremendous advantage.

In addition, Azure offers a high-level of security with continuous intrusion detection and prevention systems, denial of service attack prevention, regular penetration testing, and

Azure also offers AI and advanced analytics, helping customers extract more intelligence from their SAP solution environments



forensic tools that help identify and mitigate threats. Its innovative compliance technology meets multiple regulatory standards across international, regional and industry-specific requirements.

With Microsoft AI and advanced analytics, enterprises can extract more intelligence from their SAP solution environments. SAP integrations with familiar tools such as Office 365, Power BI and Cortana intelligence enhance productivity and analytics reporting. And with access to a deep Microsoft partner ecosystem, enterprises can find additional apps and support to help them succeed with their SAP workloads.

Microsoft lets enterprises tie into a deep Microsoft partner ecosystem to help them succeed with their SAP solution workloads



SAP on Azure Benefits



Development and test

Quick provisioning of development and test environments with the ability to stop the environments any time



Production environments

Production environments for new customers



Disaster recovery

Keep environments for recovery purposes without additional cost



Archiving

Archive data and the corresponding SAP systems audit-proof without running costs and always available

SCENARIOS

BENEFITS



40-70%

TCO Cost Savings



Minutes

instead of days
Faster provisioning



60%

Less storage costs

Higher agility | Lower costs | Less complexity | Higher innovation

Why Accenture?

When Microsoft helps companies transition enterprises to SAP S4/HANA on Azure, including some of its largest customers, it turns most often to Accenture, SAP's largest systems integrator partner, and its joint venture with Microsoft, Avanade. A Microsoft strategic alliance partner since 2000, Accenture, along with Avanade, offers unrivaled experience and specialized skills across more than 40 industries along with the world's largest delivery network.

Accenture and Avanade's success with SAP-to-Azure migrations comes in large part from not only their expertise in the realm, but with their unique and strong relationship with SAP and Microsoft.

For decades, Accenture has worked at the intersection of Microsoft and SAP as the most experienced Microsoft partner in SAP migrations and a leading customer of both companies. To that end, Microsoft and Accenture jointly developed many assets and accelerators to simplify and automate the deployment, provisioning and onboarding of SAP on Azure instances for enterprises. The Accenture CloudSuite for SAP delivers hard cost savings and efficiencies, enabling shorter deployment time and lower compute and run costs.

Because of this unparalleled expertise, assets and experience, Microsoft turned to Accenture to create large instances of SAP HANA on Azure. Microsoft engaged Accenture to design and build the large instance ("S Series") infrastructure for Microsoft, and Accenture operates it on Microsoft's behalf today.

Microsoft and Accenture are first and best customers of each other. Accenture was also one of the first companies to move its own internal SAP implementation to Azure. Microsoft engaged Accenture to migrate its internal SAP instance to the Azure cloud.

Together, Accenture and Microsoft are leveraging the insight and experience they learned through their own journey are helping other enterprises make the same transition.

Accenture has won the Microsoft Alliance Partner of the Year award for the past ten years consecutively.



Your Partner for the Journey: Accenture

Customers want to get the most out of their SAP S/4 HANA migrations to Azure. **As customers take the bold step into the cloud with mission-critical apps such as SAP, there is no better platform than Azure, and no better partner in that journey than Accenture and Avanade.**

Read about our customers transforming their industry with SAP on Azure [here](#)

Contact:

SAPonAZURE@accenture.com

Also: read Accenture's Point of View on SAP on Azure [here](#)