



DIGIWARE

CONNECTED SOLUTIONS

WHITEPAPER · SAP

The Executive's Guide to S/4HANA Before 2027

Migration paths, cost drivers, risk controls — and how AI-governed delivery compresses the timeline.

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— WHY 2027 MATTERS

The clock on ECC is real — and it favors the prepared

Mainstream maintenance for SAP ECC ends in **2027**. Organizations that treat this as a distant IT deadline will pay for it twice: once in rushed program premiums as consulting capacity tightens, and again in missed business value while competitors operate on a modern core.

The pragmatic view: an S/4HANA move is not one decision but three — **path, scope and governance**. Boards that frame it this way consistently land programs on time and on budget.

— DECISION ONE — PATH

Three routes, honestly compared

PATH	WHAT IT IS	BEST WHEN	WATCH OUT FOR
Brownfield	Technical conversion of your existing ECC system	Processes are competitive; disruption tolerance is low	You carry historical complexity forward
Greenfield	Fresh implementation, fit-to-standard first	Legacy customization is a liability; you want a clean core	Higher change-management load
Selective / hybrid	New core, selectively migrated data & processes	Large landscapes with mixed process quality	Demands strongest governance of the three

Rule of thumb: if more than ~30% of your custom code is unused (measurable in a readiness assessment), a clean-core path usually beats conversion on 5-year TCO.

— DECISION TWO — SCOPE & COST DRIVERS

Where S/4HANA programs actually spend money

- **Custom code remediation** — the single largest variable; scan early, retire aggressively.
- **Data migration & cleansing** — budget for reconciliation evidence, not just extraction.
- **Integration rework** — every interface is a decision: keep, replace with clean-core API, or retire.
- **Testing cycles** — SIT/UAT discipline is where on-time programs are won.
- **Change & training** — adoption is the value moment; underfunding it wastes everything upstream.

— DECISION THREE — GOVERNANCE

The difference AI makes

Digiware runs SAP programs on our own **AI-Powered SAP Transformation Platform**: SAP Activate phases and quality gates managed natively, documentation drafted by AI, every requirement traced to design, build and test, risk radar across workstreams, and live AI-narrated dashboards for the steering committee.

PROGRAM DIMENSION	SPREADSHEET-RUN	AI-GOVERNED (DIGIWARE)
Documentation effort	Weeks of consultant time	~50% reduction via AI drafting
Requirement traceability	Partial, decays over time	100%, maintained automatically
Steering visibility	Monthly slide packs	Live dashboards, AI summaries
PM overhead	Baseline	~30% lower

— YOUR NEXT 90 DAYS

- **Weeks 1–4**: Readiness assessment — custom code scan, data profiling, integration inventory.
- **Weeks 5–8**: Path decision workshop; business case with 5-year TCO by path.
- **Weeks 9–12**: Roadmap, wave plan and funding approval.

Ready to move?

Book a complimentary S/4HANA readiness consultation with our SAP practice leads.

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