



# Cut Time And Complexity From Your SAP S/4HANA Conversion

Innovate In Parallel With Your SAP S/4HANA Conversion



## EXEC SUMMARY

- Drive rapid innovation in parallel with SAP S/4HANA conversion
- Reduce technical debt while renovating custom code
- Cut lead times and complication from your roadmap
- Embrace API-led integration
- Deploy on-premise, in containers or in the cloud

## AUTHOR BIO



**Matthias Steiner**  
Chief Product Officer

Matthias is a seasoned technologist with 20 years of experience in the enterprise software business, working at the intersection of technology and business. In his current role as Chief Product Officer at Neptune Software, he's focused on delivering a development platform that helps enterprise IT teams to drive business results.

## Neptune DX Platform - Your Trusted Sidekick For SAP S/4HANA

SAP leaders like you face an important decision with lasting consequences: stay with SAP Business Suite 7 or move on to SAP S/4HANA.

If you're not among the 14,000 businesses that have bought SAP S/4HANA, you're in the majority of 27,000 who are yet to buy<sup>1</sup>. Many have committed to convert to SAP S/4HANA before 2027, when standard maintenance for SAP Business Suite 7 ends. But plenty of IT leaders dread the complex, multi-year, multi-million Euro transition ahead. Some worry they won't be able to deliver on both conversion and the pressing need for modern app development. Others ask themselves if they have what it takes to deliver on-time and on-budget. Common concerns include managing custom code, spiraling costs, and the risk of innovation paralysis.

We think differently. We see conversion as a huge opportunity for businesses and ambitious SAP IT leaders like you. Our team and

platform can become your trusted sidekick, keeping your digital core clean while increasing your ability to build consumer-grade apps while you convert. With our support, you can keep costs low, renovate custom code, maximize the use of in-house capabilities and maintain service levels.

### THE 'BUILD & BUY' APPROACH

SAP S/4HANA offers a completely re-imagined ERP solution based on in-memory technology. But you need a bridging technology in order to achieve full functionality parity to your existing ERP solution.

**Our digital experience platform (DXP) gives your internal teams the power to address the need for in-house apps that empower your workforce. Add the strategic purchase of additional products from SAP and best-of-breed 3rd-party suppliers and you have a powerful 'build & buy' approach to make a success of your conversion project.**

## ASK YOURSELF:

- Could simplified conversion save you time and money?
- Would renovating custom code in an easy, near-automated fashion free your people to work on more value-add activities?
- Would a modernized digital core help you adapt for the future?
- Would exceeding internal expectations and reducing consultant spend persuade your C-Suite to back more of your ideas?
- Could you increase the morale and productivity of your ABAP development team by empowering them to create apps with no worry about incompatibility issues?

**If these questions have got you thinking, this is the whitepaper for you. This paper describes key conversion challenges, then shows how a sidekick innovation platform can cut time and complexity from your SAP S/4HANA conversion.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://diginomica.com/sap-announces-critical-changes-maintenance-policy-post-2025-it-enough>

# The Key Challenges Ahead

SAP leads face a complex journey as they move from SAP Business Suite 7 to SAP S/4HANA. They'll be asking:

- How do I execute to plan and budget amongst so many unknowns?
- How can I minimize 'status update' reporting to the C-Suite?
- How will I demonstrate continuous success stories to the board and wider business?
- How can I best leverage internal resources, identify skills gaps and work in harmony with external suppliers and systems?
- How will I satisfy immediate business app-building and maintenance needs while staying on course?

SAP leaders are right to be concerned. Not every SAP project goes to plan. A recent Resulting IT report showed fewer than half of SAP experts felt that their SAP program achieved its business objectives, while only 30% felt their program was delivered to the agreed budget<sup>2</sup>.

But sitting still isn't an option either. As the 2027 deadline looms, failure to adopt SAP S/4HANA will have a detrimental impact on profits and performance. With the stakes this high, SAP leaders have to trust proven partners and operating models if they are to build the centers of excellence their business requires.

**How do you view your SAP S/4HANA conversion project? With alarm? Or as an opportunity to shape the way your business functions for the better?**



## SAP LEAD CHECKLIST – ASK YOURSELF

- WHAT DO YOU NEED TO MAKE THE CONVERSION PROJECT SUCCESSFUL FOR YOUR BUSINESS?**
- COULD A TECHNOLOGY BRIDGE BETWEEN SAP BUSINESS SUITE 7 AND SAP S/4HANA SIMPLIFY CONVERSION?**
- DO YOU NEED THE FLEXIBILITY TO RUN APPS THAT CAN RUN ANYWHERE (ON-PREMISES AND IN THE CLOUD) AND EXCEL IN HYBRID IT LANDSCAPES?**
- DO YOU NEED TO CREATE FIORI APPS EASILY AND SWIFTLY TO MEET YOUR COMPANY'S NEEDS?**
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO RENOVATE YOUR CUSTOM CODE SO THAT IT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY STACK OF SAP S/4HANA?**

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SAP has been very vocal about keeping the core clean. They see the conversion to SAP S/4HANA as an opportunity to cut down on technical debt and establish a stricter Separation of Concerns between standard and custom coding.

*Matthias Steiner, Chief Product Officer, Neptune Software*

## Find And Address Functionality Gaps

Ask yourself this:

### Will SAP S/4HANA offer all the functionality we need?

To answer: start with an audit. What does your business need to compete? Does it exist in your current install or in SAP S/4HANA? If not, can it be built within an embedded rapid app development platform in the SAP S/4HANA digital core?

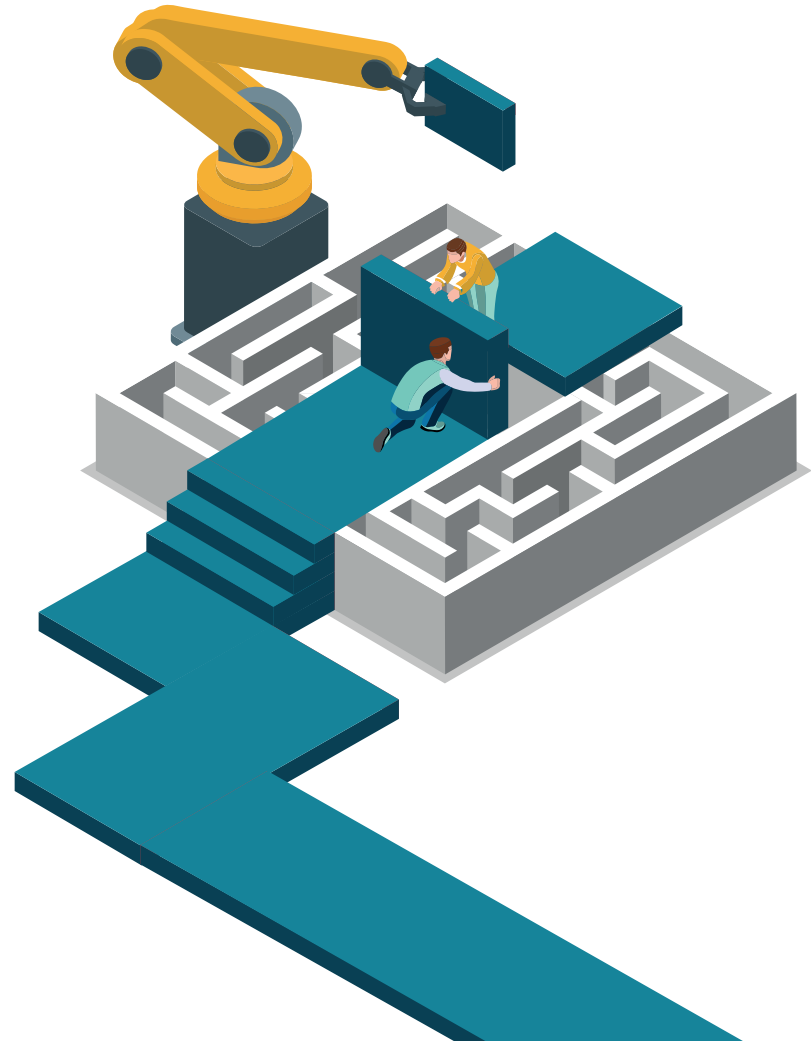
This gap analysis is vital to your project's success. Once you identify the gaps, you have a choice of routes to bring your business up to speed:

- **BUY** additional products from SAP and its partner ecosystem.
- **BUY** 3rd-party solutions, including best-of-breed SaaS services such as Salesforce, ServiceNow, Sage and Workday.
- **BUILD** custom apps using a proven rapid application development platform and leverage your existing in-house expertise.

Neptune Software's DXP underpins the build part of your 'build & buy' strategy.

A dual-module approach gives you specific capabilities for SAP-centric app development, aligned to your existing ABAP stack, and a complementary counterpart to control and develop your broader IT estate, including SAP's SaaS solutions and 3rd-party capabilities.

With DXP, you can optimize processes and gain competitive advantage by rolling-out custom-fitted, differentiating, multichannel enterprise apps – all while you transition to SAP S/4HANA.



## Avoid Technical Debt In Your Digital Core

SAP leaders know there's one proven way to reduce conversion headaches: "keeping the core clean". A key conversion challenge is if and how to move custom code into SAP S/4HANA without carrying technical debt into the new system.

SAP leads often compare this process to a house move. Which furniture fits in the new living room? What needs to be left behind? What is rarely used and taking up vital space? What are you still relying on that is past its peak? What needs to be replaced? And would certain elements cost more to update than buying newer, more suitable versions?

Keeping the "SAP S/4HANA" house in order requires deep understanding about technical evolution. The technical foundation of your existing SAP Business Suite differs from its in-memory based SAP S/4 HANA counterpart. The benefits of SAP S/4HANA are ready to be enjoyed. But do you have the know-how and time to renovate the code you need to take full advantage of the change?

### SAP LEADS LIKE YOU MUST:

1. Create an inventory of your custom code.
2. Analyze the findings and decide whether to strip out or renovate the code.
3. Adapt the vital custom code for SAP S/4HANA.

Step 3 requires careful consideration. Can you use in-house expertise, and if so, how can you up-skill the team to get the job done right?

DXP can fast-track your move from SAP Business Suite 7 to SAP S/4HANA. It allows you to renovate custom code in a near-automated fashion, saving you time and cutting cost from your conversion project.

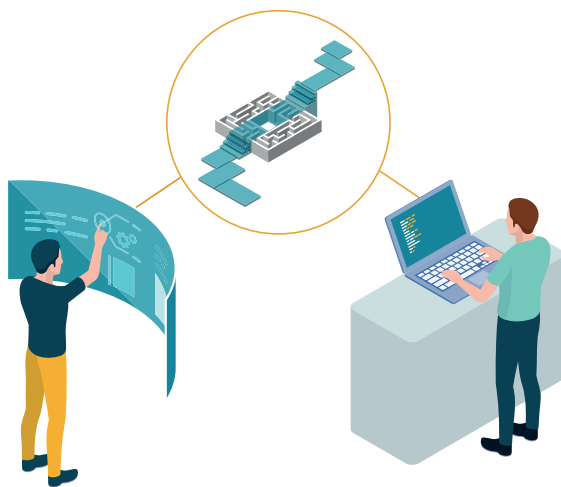
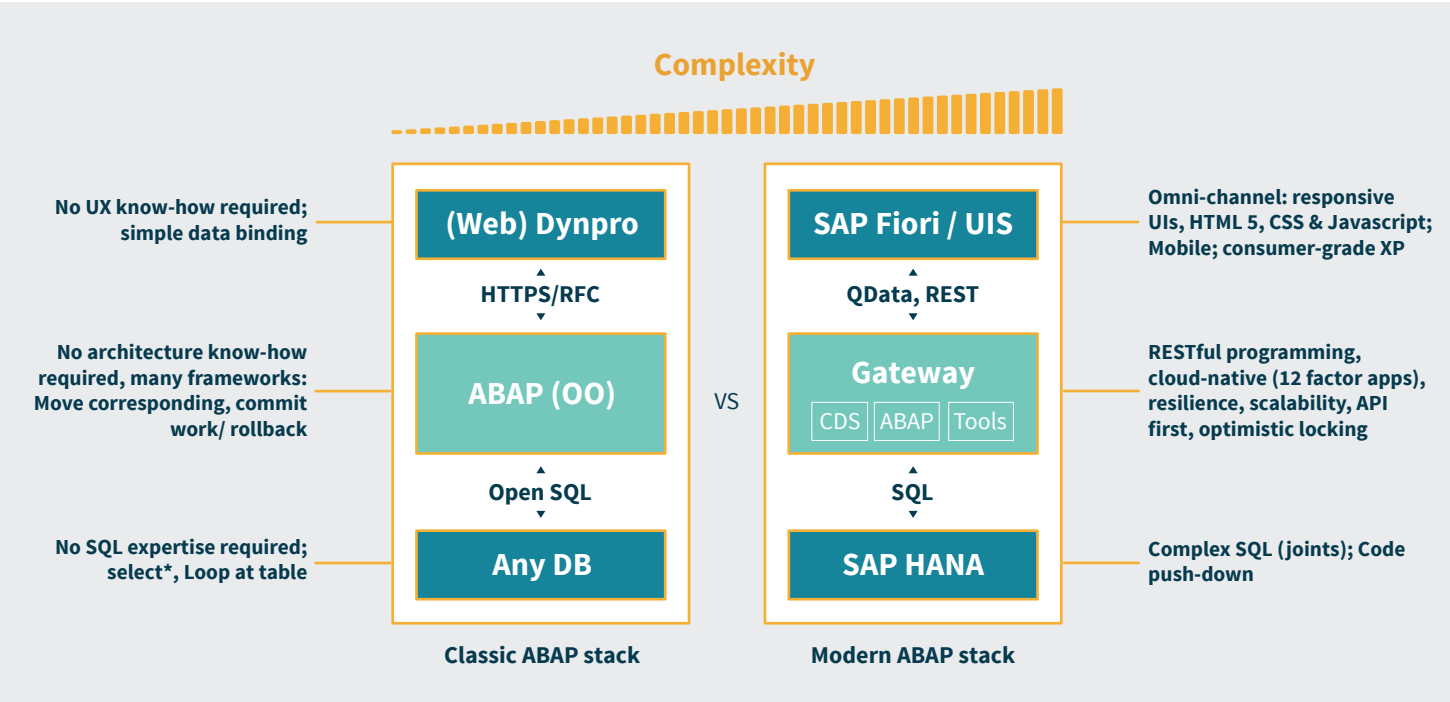
In short, it's the smart way to renovate existing, differentiating custom code to maximize your investment in SAP S/4HANA.

# Level Up On The Technology Front

IT departments often comprise of employees with two distinct skillsets:

Seasoned ABAP/SAP developers that understand business processes and SAP's internal workings. Their expertise is vital in streamlining SAP-related processes, but they can lack deep experience in modern cloud-based architecture. These employees are the people you rely on to 'keep the lights on' and deliver business as usual. But they aren't the innovators you need to drive competitive advantage.

Web/full-stack developers that are brilliant at designing microservices or API-first apps that are elastic, resilient, and omnichannel. These creative developers are innovating in exciting spaces such as cloud and IoT. But they are less interested in business processes.



## Web/ Full-stack Developer

- Rudimentary business knowledge know-how
- Well-versed in technology; cloud scale, responsive web apps, full stack

## ABAP Developer

- Knows business processes and internals of SAP functionality
- Moderate technology understanding and robust architecture, technology stack

Developers who straddle both skillsets are rare, and existing attitudes can be hard to change. Encouraging web developers to ramp up their business process expertise is well known for being an uphill battle.

### So how can SAP leaders level up their technology expertise, and make the most of their internal resources?

By unlocking collaboration between the two types of developers. Use our SAP-native DXP to get both teams working more effectively together. The two modules in DXP allow your internal SAP experts to expose their work as APIs, making it easy for the front-end and cloud developers to orchestrate complex end-to-end solutions, without needing to understand every system involved. This dual module approach means a low code, API-first dynamic that keeps SAP S/4HANA at the core of a streamlined, innovative environment.

# The High-Level Solution

## Your step-by-step sidekick to simple SAP S/4HANA conversion

### ADOPT A 'PLATFORM PLUS' MINDSET

Neptune Software recommends:

- You move to an SAP S/4HANA digital core.
- You bolt a rapid application development platform to the core. This gives you an 'APP FACTORY' capability that can be used as an in-house custom build platform for the entire workforce, serving needs including HR self-services, warehouse and plant management and much more.
- You complement the above with best-of-breed 3rd-party solutions where required.

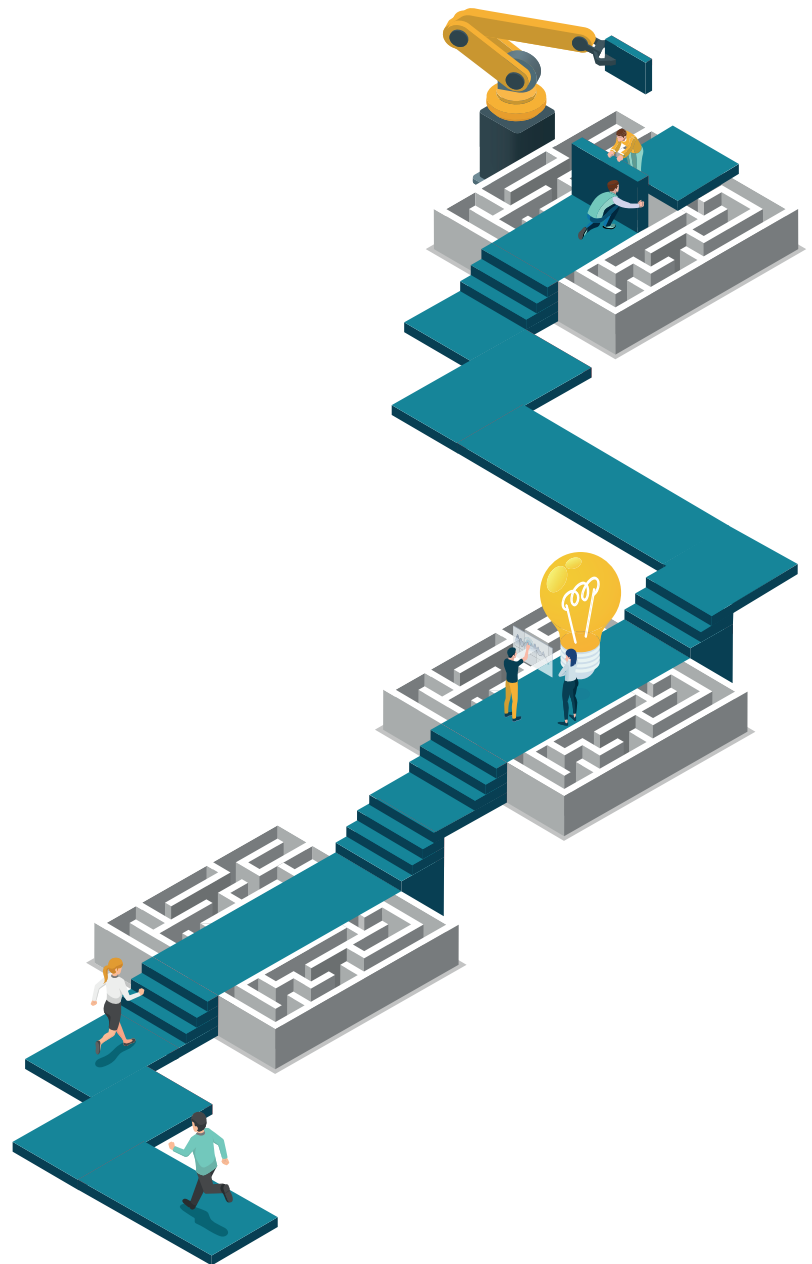
### WHY CHOOSE A 'BUILD AND BUY' APPROACH?

SAP integration projects are often part of wider, on-going digital transformation. SAP S/4HANA is unlikely to provide all the functionality your business requires – hence the need to build custom apps in house, or buy in capabilities from 3rd-party suppliers.

The build and buy model cuts complexity, cost and lead times from conversion projects.

Think of it another way. SAP's Intelligent Suite is no longer an integrated suite of solutions with a common technology stack. It's now a modular, loosely-coupled suite delivering knowledge and capability along value chains. SAP S/4HANA sits in the center, connecting all the various SaaS solutions of SAP's portfolio.

So which bolt-on platform should you choose to complement your digital core?



### BRING ABAP AND FULL-STACK DEVELOPERS TOGETHER

With two distinct skillsets in-house, it's vital you use a platform that can bridge the capability gap. A platform that provides a common development paradigm, a joint vocabulary and introduces an API-based collaboration model.

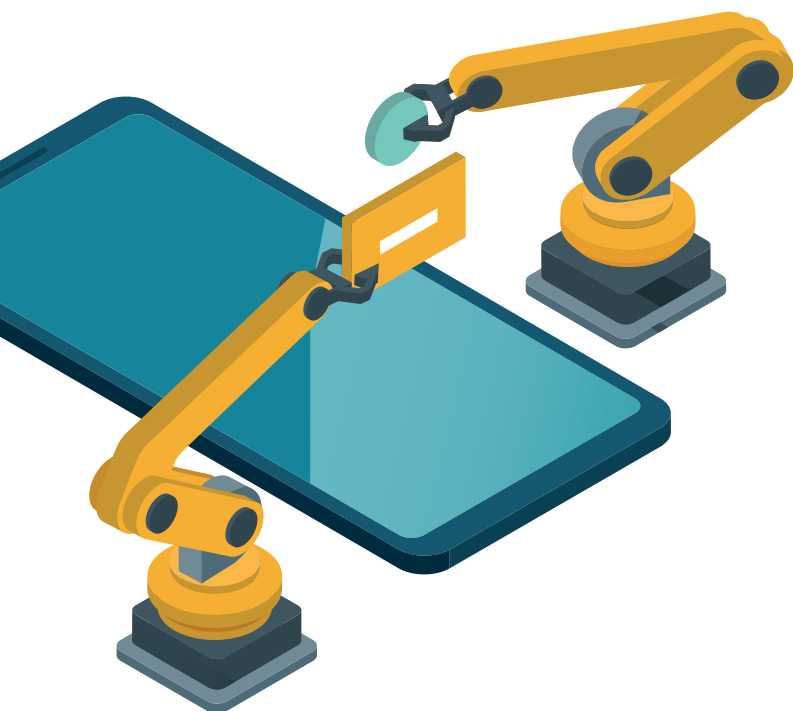
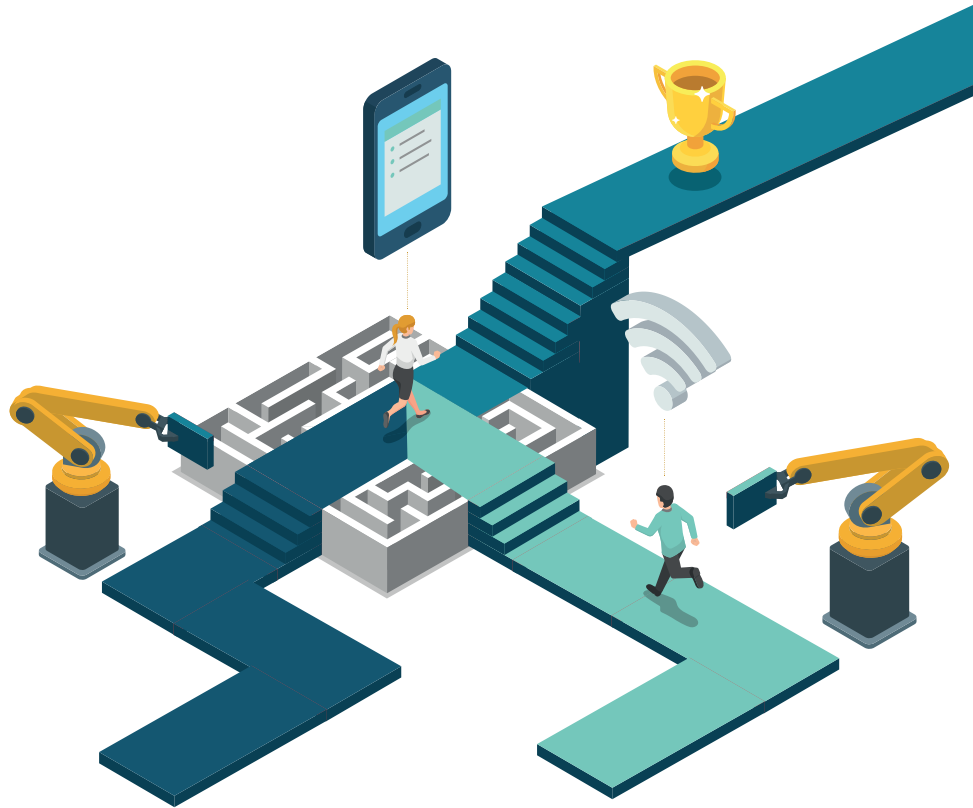
Neptune Software's DXP optimizes collaboration by allowing you to leverage your team's existing ABAP know-how. Your ABAP developers model and define processes and business logic, exposing their work as APIs. Then the web and full stack developers in your team can build new consumer-grade apps and extensions using this API-first approach.

## INNOVATE IN PARALLEL TO YOUR SAP S/4HANA CONVERSION

Earning and maintaining key stakeholder trust is impossible if you can't demonstrate regular, tangible success. SAP leaders have to deliver innovative digital solutions while keeping the backend systems stable and the SAP S/4 HANA conversion on track.

The single, comprehensive SAP-native DXP platform empowers your teams to simplify app development by:

- Blending seamlessly into the 'known environment' with zero IT footprint, allowing you to port and renovate existing custom code.
- Exposing any type of business function as APIs in a secure, reliable, and automated fashion.
- Facilitating model-driven UI development for Fiori and UI5 apps.
- Developing apps – including mobile apps - in your current SAP Business Suite system then renovating and optimizing the underlying implementation for SAP S/4HANA.
- Allowing ABAP developers to create custom apps using the SAP strategic technology stack from 'within' the digital core, with no need for additional platforms, tools or skillsets.



## CREATE AN APP FACTORY IN YOUR BUSINESS

SAP leaders worried about spiraling costs of SAP S/4HANA conversion will be reassured by Neptune Software's business model. The DXP pricing structure ensures peace of mind via fast ROI through rapid app development. Our runtime license + per user fee facilitates an 'App Factory' approach; the costs stay the same regardless of whether you build one app or a dozen apps for your internal workforce.

This price per app ratio gives you ultimate flexibility in reducing costs through strategic planning and usage. The more apps you develop, the less each one costs.

## Feel The Benefits

Everyone wants a smooth transition to SAP S/4HANA without sacrificing competitive advantage or the ability to build business-critical customized apps.

### Neptune Software's DXP delivers on all fronts, and adds numerous other business benefits:

- **Keep stakeholders on-side with future-proof custom development**  
A unique ABAP-based approach, exposes multiple existing classes as RESTful APIs, allows continual innovative app development during the migration.
- **Leverage your internal skillsets**  
Port and renovate existing custom code to SAP S/4HANA standards within an environment familiar to your employees.
- **Enjoy a tight fit with your IT strategy**  
DXP can be deployed on-premises, run via container technologies and on all major public clouds, meaning you can innovate and move to the cloud at your own pace.
- **Identify and address functional gaps**  
The build and buy approach gives you standard solutions and the ability to drive competitive advantage through strategic custom app creation.

### Broader business benefits include:

- **Enhanced digital experience** in 100% compliance with SAP's UX strategy.
- **Enterprise mobility** with strong offline capabilities based on hybrid web apps and/or progressive web apps methodology supporting desktop, iOS and Android.
- **API-based integration** that brings a diverse portfolio together and exposes existing functionality to the outside world.
- **A strong platform foundation** with a complete toolset, flexible deployment and competitive, transparent pricing.
- **Rapid app development** that utilizes your in-house expertise.



## Why DXP Is Right For You

SAP leaders need a reliable way to fast-track their SAP S/4HANA roadmap; a build and buy approach that helps rather than hinders their ability to create value-add apps at pace during the conversion process.

Neptune Software's DXP's 'platform plus' approach means a cost-effective, faster conversion that ensures additional functionality and the protection of customized assets that deliver competitive advantage.

With DXP you maximize internal skillsets and SAP, stay flexible for the future, and create new apps with consumer-grade user experiences during the conversion process.

Choose DXP to be the SAP leader delivering years ahead of deadline, and way ahead of budget.



# INNOVATE THROUGHOUT YOUR SAP S/4HANA CONVERSION WITH **NEPTUNE SOFTWARE**

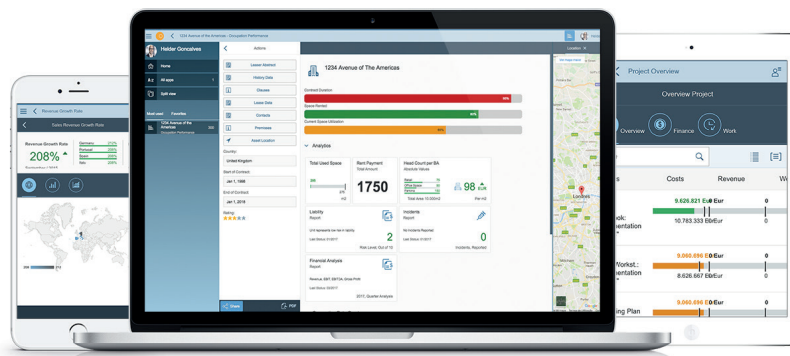
Neptune Software supports more than 550 customers around the world, addressing their organizational challenges and delivering on their digitization goals with an SAP-centric, rapid application development platform.

We can help technology leaders start or evolve their approaches and provide relevant reference points. We share our own knowledge and that of our ecosystem of current customers, consulting and software partners. Our cross-sector experience is an invaluable asset for your organization.

## See the platform in action

Download a free trial of the platform and you'll receive an unlimited, perpetual license for two developers. See for yourself how the platform is streamlining processes, accelerating development and deployment and easing integration for more than two million users.

[Download your free trial now.](#)



Neptune Software recognized by Gartner in Magic Quadrant for  
Multiexperience Development Platforms along SAP, Salesforce & Microsoft

## ABOUT NEPTUNE SOFTWARE

Neptune Software is a global company with more than 550 customers and 2,000,000 end-users that is dedicated to empowering enterprise IT teams with a single digital experience toolset from which to drive fast, critical results. Neptune Software helps accelerate your enterprise application development projects and realize your digitalization strategies - all to increase employee satisfaction, productivity and business efficiencies. Neptune Software and its modern rapid application development platform help you overcome daunting IT landscapes and quickly enable users with leading-edge apps that change the way you do business.

Visit our website at: [www.neptune-software.com](http://www.neptune-software.com)