



Modernize and Galvanize Your SAP Data With Cloud

Accelerate Your Business by Migrating to Hyperscale
Cloud.

Pythian | eBook



Data: The new currency

Over the past decade, data has become an essential component of how we do business. The volume of data collected and processed by today's cloud and third-party applications grows exponentially—an evolution responsible for driving radical enterprise transformation.

Enterprises are uncovering the wealth of value hidden within their data estates. By investing in their data, organizations—many of which rely on SAP—accelerate their business, enable more accurate forecasting, and spur innovation.


This era of data abundance does not come without challenges, however. Third-party applications store CRM, HR, finance, and marketing data locally, in the cloud, or both, creating disparate data silos. This challenge is especially apparent in legacy SAP deployments, applications, and integrations.

Many organizations are disappointed with their data management strategy. [In a survey of enterprise businesses by SAPinsider](#), forty-five percent of respondents reported they had an enterprise-wide strategy for their SAP and non-SAP data. However, despite having a strategy, forty-five percent of survey respondents also claimed they were unsatisfied with how their data management strategies tracked towards their business requirements.

When businesses rationalize, centralize, and govern their data, it drives better predictions and innovation. But to achieve these key business outcomes, they must leverage a scalable data management strategy and take steps to unify their growing silos of structured and unstructured data.

In response to this fragmentation and poor data management performance, industry leaders have migrated their disparate data sources to modern, hyperscale cloud platforms: Google Cloud, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and Microsoft's Azure. Recent data hints at the reason for this shift; [in an enterprise survey by SAPinsider](#), respondents believed that the cloud holds exceptional promise because it:

- Provides more real-time data to customers, partners, and stakeholders (forty-six percent).
- Generates company-wide intelligence and analytics (thirty-two percent).
- Manages skyrocketing volumes of unstructured/semi-structured data to analyze and drive business processes (twenty-one percent).



Enterprises see the cloud as a platform that unifies and unlocks their data's hidden value; they see it as a catalyst for digital transformation through powerful cloud efficiencies and data orchestration.

For many organizations, cloud migration is just the first step. Mature enterprises are using the cloud to harness the full potential of their data estate. To establish a competitive advantage, they're running their SAP applications and databases in hyperscale for many of their mission-critical initiatives.

When combined with the economics and elasticity of the cloud, the latest generation of SAP on HANA (SAP's in-memory database) provides the ability to access a flexible and scalable data platform with fewer on-premises configurations and smaller footprints. Powerful enterprise environments are no longer limited to data warehousing. This new paradigm allows businesses to go beyond mere storage to integrate spatial analytics, the internet of things (IoT), big data, artificial intelligence (AI), and blockchain.

Enterprise data is coming to an inflection point. How will you respond to your competition?

With rising enterprise investment in cloud migration, how will you stay ahead? When will you transition to the cloud?

Over the following pages, we'll share why migrating and upgrading your legacy SAP ERP (ECC) or Business Warehouse (BW) environments can help you accelerate your business, lower operating costs, and drive more automation and innovation.

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The benefits of migrating your SAP to the cloud

The industry-agnostic benefits of hyperscale cloud

Despite a competitive environment, many enterprises are reluctant to move their SAP to the cloud. One of the most common migration concerns is the potential disruption of an enterprise's operational status quo: the loss of an organization's long-established protocols. Other common concerns include:

- Sunk costs in—and dependence on—integral legacy customizations,
- A lack of internal knowledge and resources for the migration,
- Security and compliance risks when adopting a new architecture,
- And significant application downtime and service disruption.

Although these are legitimate migration concerns, the right SAP cloud migration strategy can act as the catalyst for enterprise transformation. By adopting a major hyperscale cloud platform, organizations can preserve the customizations that deliver value, increase competitiveness, and leverage emerging technologies.

Some industry-agnostic benefits to migrating to hyperscale cloud include:

- **Data unification and harmonization**
Migrating SAP to Google Cloud, AWS, or Azure provides a more centralized data estate, uniting disparate data streams for greater data orchestration, analysis, and utilization.
- **Optimal platform for S/4HANA adoption**
Hyperscale cloud providers use resource and capacity utilization billing, addressing the scalability that S/4HANA in-memory computing requires. Enterprises can adjust core service demand without manual intervention.
- **Lower operating costs**
[Some organizations save 30-60](#) percent on SAP operating costs compared to on-premises deployments. Enterprises accomplish savings through flexible, predictable pricing models that lower the total cost of ownership. Take advantage of cloud provider acceleration funding programs to cover migration costs.
- **Business continuity**
Major cloud providers offer SAP-certified infrastructure on cloud virtualized platforms. This ensures the highest reliability and lowest cost of interruptions occur.
- **Best-in-class data and analytics**
Major hyperscale cloud providers co-innovate with SAP on data and analytics, supporting SAP on cloud deployment.
- **Open-source and multi-cloud**
Enterprises adopt a multi-cloud approach to provide users with increased agility and enable rapid app development from anywhere.
- **Automation**
Access all your SAP and enterprise datasets more quickly to create and execute machine learning models for better business decisions.
- **Scalability**
Virtualized cloud architecture lets you resize SAP-certified virtual machines as required. Enterprises can scale up or down without paying for unneeded services.
- **Emerging Technologies**
Data stored on the cloud is more conducive to maximizing newer technologies like big data, AI, and IoT because of its accessibility, flexibility, and scalability.

The right SAP migration partner can manage and optimize within your existing environment. Leverage a hyperscale cloud platform to manage better your SAP deployment, no matter your organization's size.

Industry-specific use cases and benefits

Many organizations migrate their SAP to the cloud to better consolidate their data estate. However, many seek specific industry benefits to help them realize more business value and achieve a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Solving challenges related to forecasting, market trends, quality control, and organizational efficiency are all major reasons specific industry enterprises are migrating to the cloud, including:



Retailers

Retailers want to predict purchasing habits, drive engagement basket size, recency, and frequency; increase margins, and improve campaign accuracy.



Financial services organizations

Financial services want to develop predictive trading recommendation engines based on historical market trends, enhance revenue-generating capabilities, and streamline financial processes.



Manufacturers

Manufacturers want machine analytics to drive predictions on manufacturing lines to reduce waste, improve quality, reduce recalls, raise equipment effectiveness, and reduce downtime of critical components while accelerating product development cycles.



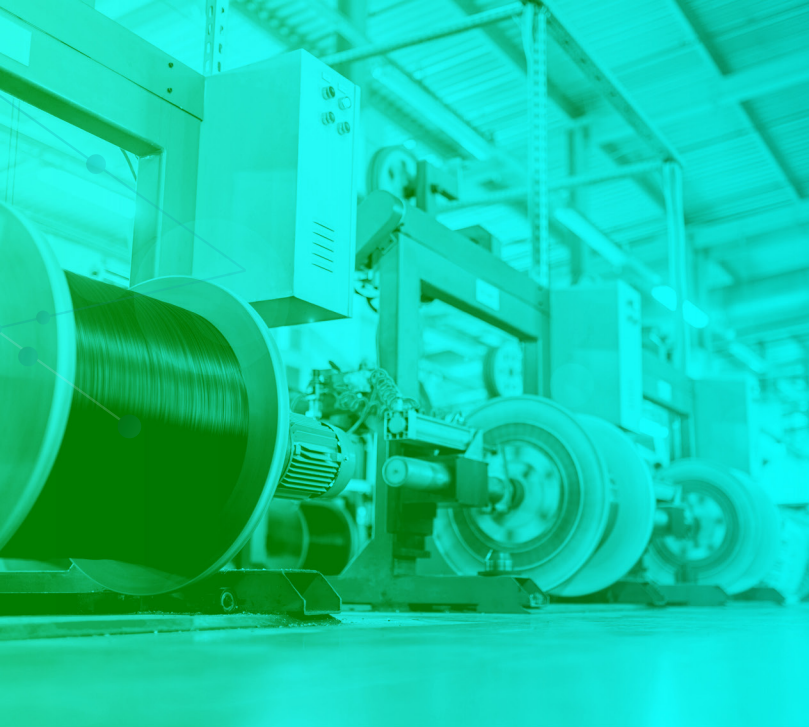
Consumer Product Goods organizations

CPGs want insights on demand forecasting, supply chain, and trade promotion optimization.

SAP migration on cloud success stories

By working with Pythian, a leading global services company specializing in data, analytics, and cloud solutions, customers across many sectors have experienced exceptional outcomes. After low-friction SAP cloud migrations, customers see reduced operations costs, better performance, and faster reporting.





Consolidating multiple SAP environments improves manufacturer's performance

Overview:

A global telecommunications equipment manufacturer conducted a series of acquisitions, leaving them with disparate legacy systems needing consolidation. The company's leadership decided to consolidate all its systems into a single SAP environment and move everything to the cloud.

Solution:

In less than six months, Pythian helped the business transition to a single cloud-based SAP environment using SAP HANA's in-memory database on the cloud, with all applications upgraded to the latest cloud versions. The change was seamless, and Pythian needed only thirty-six hours of downtime on the weekend to complete production and go live. The manufacturer has become one of North America's most progressive SAP users.

Result:

After working with Pythian, the manufacturer:

- Improved transaction and reporting performance
- Reduced IT and administrative costs by supporting one, not three, SAP environments
- Access to SAP's latest security and content extraction technology

Move to SAP HANA Boosts Manufacturer's Performance by 70 Percent

Overview:

A manufacturer wanted to update its SAP solutions and environment to support its digital transformation initiatives. This would require migrating multiple SAP solutions, such as SAP ECC and SAP BusinessObjects.

Solution:

The manufacturer asked SAP to recommend a qualified partner with proven experience to lead the initiative—and the answer was Pythian. Pythian completed multiple SAP migrations six months later and met all project goals.

Result:

After working with Pythian, the manufacturer:

- Improved performance by seventy percent across their SAP BW reporting
- Significantly reduced IT costs to support the SAP environment

Pythian's approach

Pythian has built a reputation as a trusted data, analytics, and cloud partner with over two decades of experience managing, securing, and leveraging enterprise data across dozens of sectors. We have extensive technical experience in SAP consulting migrations, enterprise hosting, and managed services. Spanning five continents, our team can develop a customized migration strategy unique to your business and help you adopt the best technologies to move your SAP workloads to the cloud. Having built robust partnerships with each major public cloud platform, Pythian has helped customers execute migrations such as:

- **Legacy SAP applications to HANA**
- **SAP ECC/ERP 6.0 to Suite on HANA and S/4HANA**
- **SAP BW to BW on HANA and BW/4HANA**
- **SAP ECC, Suite on HANA or S/4HANA to public cloud**
- **On-premises applications to SAP HANA cloud platform**
- **Existing provider's cloud, DC, or co-lo facility**
- **Migration or upgrade of individual SAP component systems**
- **New SAP implementation (Greenfield)**

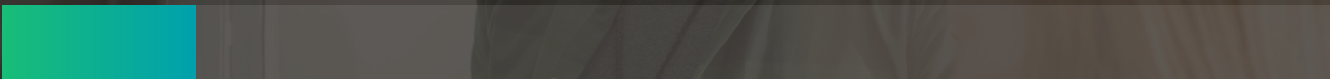
Our customers can easily migrate to SAP-certified hyperscale cloud environments. We achieve this with our proven, seven-day assessment period to streamline the process and zero in on your organization's specific challenges—then focus on the solution.



Seven-day migration assessment period in three steps:


Discovery: We start by gathering information about your existing SAP systems, environment, and architecture. Next, we determine the difficulty and amount of change involved with the migration, relate upcoming releases/features, determine the scope of services, and identify stakeholders. We then document our findings of the current environment.

Duration: one business day




Analysis Workshop: We begin collecting additional information, details, and discussion on HANA database sizing considerations, migration approach, plan, validation, and environmental requirements. We review business processes and pain points and the migration approach, SAP HANA sizing, and HANA DB solution approach. We then assess custom code impact and prepare a remediation plan for SAP.

Duration: one-three business days



Solution Vision Recommendation and Proposal: We run an analysis of all captured discovery and workshop information to define the scope of the upgrade or migration. We document a detailed migration approach, including modeling cost, timelines, and resources. Our deliverables include a clear HANA migration roadmap including approach, timeline, costs supporting SAP ECC, CRM, BW, SRM, SCM, PI, PO, BusinessObjects, Portal scope, and the estimated cloud run costs.

Duration: four-five business days



Our complete approach offers an uninterrupted end-to-end SAP migration with a team of experts experienced in risk mitigation.

Note: The onboarding, assessment, and recommendation process takes about ten days

Are you ready to unlock the power of the cloud?

We understand that unifying your first-party data and third-party application services is challenging. We also know how daunting it can be to transition your enterprise data to modern platforms—after all, we've been helping our customers do this for decades using industry-leading best practices.

But in a world where data is the new currency and data and analytics drive key business outcomes, you'll soon be called on to make these changes. Consider migrating your SAP to the cloud today to overcome tomorrow's data challenges confidently and stay ahead of the competition.

Industry leaders are already enjoying the benefits of hyperscale cloud: more scalability, lower operating costs, greater predictive analytics, and more. Can you afford to let your organization's data—its very potential—remain siloed and untapped?

Don't leave your migration to just another service provider. Let Pythian's data and multi-cloud experts help you reach your business objectives and find the right cloud strategy that fits your organization's unique requirements. You deserve a trusted team with decades of technical and consultative experience that can optimize your business in compliance with today's most stringent regulations.

Reach out to Pythian and [set up a consultation](#) with our experts today.



About Pythian

At Pythian, data is in our DNA. Our deep partnerships with Google Cloud, AWS, and Azure and our hundreds of experienced IT and data professionals help our customers to compete and win in the cloud-driven data economy. We are an SAP Silver Partner and Google Cloud Premier Partner, and our dedicated SAP consulting group, armed with over 20 years of technical leadership in SAP consulting migrations, also provides high-performance enterprise hosting and solid managed services.

As an experienced SAP Partner with over 200 certifications across Google, AWS, and Azure hyperscale cloud platforms, our cloud experts support on-premises systems and landscapes across major SAP cloud-certified hosting providers.

Why Pythian for SAP to Cloud Migrations?

- Google Cloud, AWS, and Azure certified experts
- Certified SAP hosting service provider helping organizations assess, migrate, and manage SAP workloads—both on-premises and in the cloud
- Over 25 years of experience with technical SAP consulting, migrations, enterprise hosting, and services
- A strong focus on business outcomes and technology
- Completed 100+ HANA migrations
- SAP HANA expertise, including:
 - Hardware sizing: DB security, setup, and admin
 - Performance tuning on single and multi-node SAP landscapes
 - DR setup and maintenance

Founded in 1997, Pythian is a global IT services company that helps organizations transform how they compete and win by helping them turn data into valuable insights, predictions and products. From cloud automation to machine learning, Pythian designs, implements and supports customized solutions to the toughest data challenges.

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