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Tricentis and SAP Activate:
Your pit crew for the race
to S/4HANA

Content

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The modernization and digitalization of essential business processes are key to the survival of today's enterprises. One of the most difficult – but critical – components of transformation is the migration or upgrade of your existing SAP system to the enhanced S/4HANA platform. S/4HANA boasts rich cloud capabilities to help you deliver on key initiatives, like the digitization of your supply chain, same-day delivery experiences, unifying billing mechanisms, and more.

But the path to SAP modernization is complex, and figuring out where and how to start is daunting. Luckily, SAP has developed its SAP Activate methodology to guide its customers through the deployment, adoption, and expansion of SAP S/4HANA and its features. SAP Activate offers customers access to accelerators and content for every step of the journey, making it easier to accomplish each move needed in the migration.

Start your engines – and don't forget these things

Consider this – the migration to S/4HANA is much like preparing and driving a race car. If you don't check your oil, rotate your tires, and study the track, you're not setting yourself up for a smooth start. And, if you don't incorporate routine maintenance as you go, you're likely to encounter issues that can halt your race's progress. The same is true for the move to S/4HANA – enterprises need a way to maintain the quality of their SAP systems before, during, and after the migration.

As an SAP Solution Extension partner, we at Tricentis have the expertise and solutions to be your pit crew for your journey to S/4HANA. With over 300,000 teams using Tricentis, we've helped companies worldwide accelerate digital transformation by increasing software release speed, reducing costs, and improving software quality with our automated, codeless, and AI-powered testing portfolio.

This white paper details each phase of the SAP Activate methodology and shares our best practices and recommendations for how to build an effective quality assurance strategy from day one.

Read on to learn more.

Get ready: The Discover phase

The Discover phase gives organizations the opportunity to get their bearings and experience all the benefits S/4HANA has to offer – before the migration. This phase allows business users and technical teams alike to familiarize themselves with S/4HANA and begin creating a roadmap for deployment.

Businesses should use the Discover phase to examine their current quality strategy. Be sure to answer these four questions:

- What's working in your current quality strategy?
- Where are some areas of improvement?
- What are the areas of risk?
- What testing gaps will new or amended processes in S/4HANA create?

Remember to determine these answers for your SAP quality strategy and for your third-party technologies because key parts of your digital ecosystem must evolve as you implement S/4HANA to keep business-critical processes flowing. Tricentis offers a Quality Maturity Assessment that can act as your guide, letting you know where you are, your next moves, and how to ultimately achieve your migration goals with minimal risk. Created based on decades of testing experience and thousands of successful implementations, this assessment measures your testing maturity against industry best practices, giving you actionable insights for your migration journey and beyond.

Get set: The Prepare phase

This phase of Activate is where companies should hammer out the fine details of their project plans. This includes team assignments, outlining migration goals, timelines, scope, budget, and more. These details should be captured in a charter and signed and agreed upon by key stakeholders. This will help you kick off your project smoothly and ensure every member of the project is aligned with common goals.

For your quality assurance preparation, teams should use the baseline determined in their quality maturity assessment as the driver for requirements. Take the time to square away and answer these questions:

- Where are your risks?
- Where are the current issues?
- Are there any scalability challenges?
- Is your analytical or financial data correct?

Your quality strategy will need to account for SAP and your integrated third-party technologies. Begin investing and implementing the right software testing solutions, like the one offered by Tricentis – think, change intelligence, codeless test automation, performance testing, data integrity validation, Agile test management with reporting capabilities, and more. If there are other aspects of the SAP S/4HANA migration and quality journey specific to your business that you need to get in order, this phase is the time to do it.

Go: The Explore phase

With the charter in hand, the Explore phase allows team members to take off and explore the business processes in scope. Teams can determine which processes are fit for purpose or where there are gaps. Any areas that need improvement are documented in the process so new development or configurations can be started and functional specifications can be written. The Explore phase should allow QA teams to develop their Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) and bring in quality engineering to reduce risk.

Overall, the Explore phase should be used to look ahead to anticipate any errors or failures that could pop up in the next phases. Be sure to explore your instance from end-to-end – meaning your SAP systems and how they interact with your other technologies, and create your test case library . Whether you're fitting to standard or fitting gaps, your exploration may reveal the need to leverage time saving technologies. Consider looking for a solution that includes AI-powered change intelligence to determine which tests are most critical, codeless technology to accelerate test authoring, or a recording tool that enables business users to contribute to test automation.

And finally, be sure to communicate any findings during this phase to your third-party technology personnel.

Rounding the corner: The Realize phase

This phase is where the project teams should use a series of iterations to build and test a complete business and system environment based on the inputs from the previous phases. Data volume management (DVM), data migration and verification, security implementation, IT infrastructure setup, and sizing and scalability verification should also be completed in this phase. Additionally, the Realize phase should include solution configuration, the beginning of change management processes, and training for end users.

Once end-to-end validation and requirements are met, and stakeholders have approved, it's time to create a cutover plan – or the steps needed to deploy the solution into a live production environment.

For your quality assurance processes, take the test assets created in the Explore phase and use them for your test library. Consider this – if you're on a tight schedule, you may not have the time to test everything. Testing should be prioritized based on risk. Look for a quality engineering solution that can help you easily perform impact analysis and provide your team with in-sprint no-code automation capabilities to help you maximize test coverage. Bonus points if you can find a testing tool that allows you to reuse functional tests for performance testing – an often overlooked but critical component of your new S/4HANA instance. In this phase, it's a good idea to implement additional quality gates like performing a test audit or utilize a tool with release assurance technology.

The home stretch: The Deploy phase

This is where the final dress rehearsal and cutover plan is carried out. This should include validating roles and permissions for end users and uploading master and transaction data. Take the time to verify all activities have been documented, validated, or completed (except for the tasks that must wait until the next phase, Run). Be sure to schedule a retrospective workshop after deployment to discuss successes and areas of improvement for your next project.

During this phase, QA teams should ensure all development tests have been run, like unit, system integration, end-to-end, and user acceptance tests. The test management solution implemented in the Prepare step can give you the insights needed to perform a final check.

Crossing the finish line: The Run phase

You've made it – your vital business processes are now running on S/4HANA! All that's left to do is implement a continuous learning and adoption strategy to ensure every user is up to date with the latest version of S/4HANA. Plan for business transaction enablement, quarterly regression test management, and testing additional functionality as it is developed. You should also congratulate yourself for having invested time into creating a quality assurance strategy that can help you deliver on this and other large innovation initiatives.

To learn more about how our solutions can help you accelerate and de-risk your SAP projects, check out this report from Forrester or contact us.

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