SYNTAX

Setting the Stage for a Successful SAP on Amazon Web Services (AWS) Migration

How effective preparation shortens the migration timeline, reduces the resource burden, and minimizes disruption.

Whitepaper

SAP Platinum Partner

Introduction

The future of IT is in the cloud. In the latest survey from Syntax and America's SAP Users' Group (ASUG), cloud adoption grew by 15% over the past year, while 73% of organizations not currently using cloud services are planning to consider them, making it imperative to innovate quickly or risk falling behind.

If you have decided on a cloud platform but you're hesitant about the best way to move forward and mitigate risks in the process, you're not alone.

An earlier survey from Syntax and ASUG found that SAP customers who have yet to move their applications to the cloud often fear downtime, data loss, wasting time/revenue, and potential disruption of day-to-day operations. When organizations don't know what to expect, they often err on the side of caution.

In this whitepaper, we look at the hesitation around how to move forward with an SAP on AWS cloud migration and uncover some of the surprises that can otherwise throw a migration off course.

We introduce the importance of diligence before the migration to ensure a smooth, timely, and cost-effective transition. And we outline a step-wise approach to preparing for a migration, giving SAP customers the confidence they need to quickly and securely migrate their mission-critical SAP and integrated applications to AWS.

Navigating New Territory

A decision to move your SAP landscape to the cloud brings you one step closer to taking advantage of the agility, flexibility, and reliability that the cloud has to offer. But how to actually make the transition to the cloud is unfamiliar territory. You're familiar with AWS, and perhaps you've even identified it as your hyperscaler of choice, but what's the next step?

"Organizations want to adopt the cloud and consume what the cloud has to offer, but moving to and managing the cloud is new territory for them, hence their hesitation," observes Ricardo Casanovas, VP, SAP Products and Innovation at Syntax. Adding to the challenge, in-house talent shortages are slowing digital transformation timelines. In a new report, Innovation Reality Check: A crisis of overconfidence in IT, 45% of respondents indicated that they don't have the talent to migrate to a public cloud.

And just because you might have had experience with a data center migration, migrating SAP to the cloud is altogether different. For example, a data center migration usually works with extensive infrastructure for SAP environments, whereas you grow as you need to in the cloud. Similarly, with a data center migration, procurement is managed as a single action, whereas in the cloud, it is created when required because idle resources translate into costs.

> ❝ *"SAP on AWS articulates through four main pillars: Security, Innovation, Maintaining Control, and Increased Flexibility."*
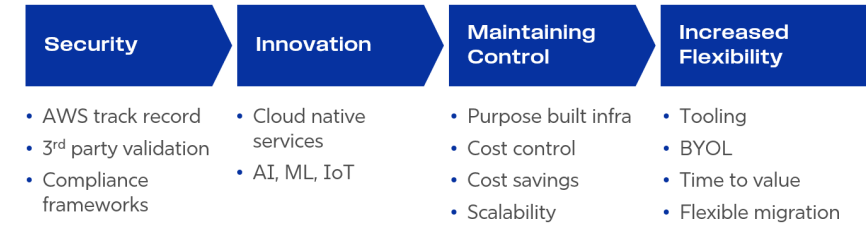>
> **Mario de Felipe**
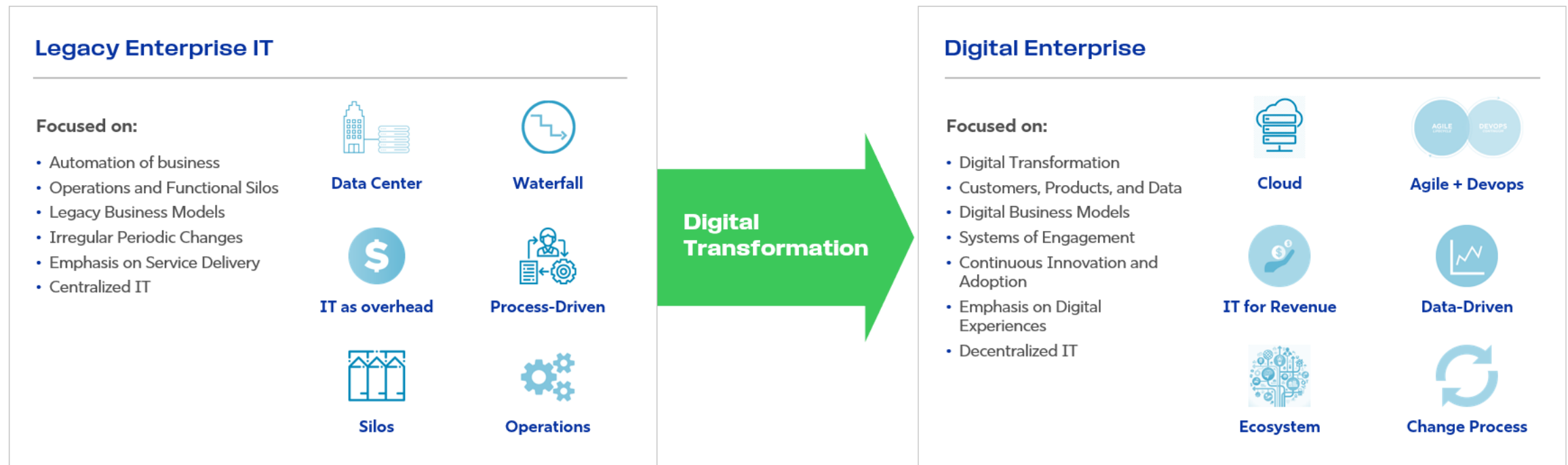> Global Director for SAP on AWS Advisory Services
> Syntax

"Even if an organization relies on someone else to execute the move, they still need to know how to manage whatever they consume going forward," adds Mario. New skillsets are called for to leverage new functionalities and monitor the cloud, including the cost controls required to maintain a lower total cost of ownership (TCO). Running SAP on AWS can have a significant positive impact on overall TCO, which is realized by implementing new processes for governance and management of the SAP infrastructure running on AWS and by leveraging specific third-party tools that optimize SAP deployments on AWS.

A shift to cloud computing is emblematic of a more significant organizational change, away from centralized IT and operational/functional silos toward a data-driven, digital enterprise. You can't expect to work in the same ways you have in the past, so that also becomes a critical component of an enterprise's planning process.

Security	Innovation	Maintaining Control	Increased Flexibility
• AWS track record • 3rd party validation • Compliance frameworks	• Cloud native services • AI, ML, IoT	• Purpose built infra • Cost control • Cost savings • Scalability	• Tooling • BYOL • Time to value • Flexible migration

Cloud is the foundation for the agile business world

Legacy Enterprise IT

Focused on:
- Automation of business
- Operations and Functional Silos
- Legacy Business Models
- Irregular Periodic Changes
- Emphasis on Service Delivery
- Centralized IT

Data Center

Waterfall

IT as overhead

Process-Driven

Silos

Operations

Digital Transformation

Digital Enterprise

Focused on:
- Digital Transformation
- Customers, Products, and Data
- Digital Business Models
- Systems of Engagement
- Continuous Innovation and Adoption
- Emphasis on Digital Experiences
- Decentralized IT

Cloud

Agile + Devops

IT for Revenue

Data-Driven

Ecosystem

Change Process

Agility · Scalability · Flexibility · Reliability · Cost Efficiency · Value Creation

Rushing into Migration Mode

Alternatively, suppose you charge blindly into a cloud migration. In that case, you're setting yourself up for a much longer timeline than expected, which is more costly and ultimately weakens your credibility within your organization. Instead, you want to minimize the surprises, uncover the unknowns, and appropriately scope the project well before a migration.

Here are just a few of the unknowns that can throw an SAP on AWS migration off course:

- Can all of the elements you want to move to the cloud actually be migrated? Some legacy solutions, for example, simply cannot be moved.

- Is the operating system (O/S) that you expect to use manageable in the cloud?
- Will the migration require re-platforming?
- How can you avoid creating a more complex infrastructure than is required?
- How do you properly scope what's needed? Suppose your infrastructure needs to be more extensive than initially thought. In that case, you're looking at a longer-than- planned migration—which means that you are paying for servers that are running for a longer period before go-live, not to mention the human resources that you're now tying up for an even longer period of time.

With so much at stake, having a structured approach and an experienced advisor to prepare for an SAP migration to the cloud reduces fear of the unknown and confusion over where to start, bringing much- needed definition and order to the next steps.

A Structured Process Precedes, Smooths Migration

Before rushing into an SAP on AWS migration, there is a pre-requisite process of discovery, readiness assessment, and planning that needs to take place, separate from the migration itself. We break it down into its three components to prepare an organization for a smooth cloud transition.

Discovery

The discovery process is focused on establishing a high-level scope of both the challenge ahead and the cloud solution itself. A trusted advisor can spearhead the process, bringing all responsible parties from your organization together in order to:

- Establish goals and objectives
- Review existing software and hardware infrastructure
- Identify cloud hosting requirements

This detailed analysis of your current ERP landscape, migration needs, and cloud operational requirements is necessary to identify the optimal hosting strategy. The emerging blueprint for deploying into the cloud should establish what can and cannot be accomplished with cloud services so that everyone is on the same page.

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Readiness Assessment

With an understanding of the high-level scope of what's ahead, how will you know when you're ready to take on a migration? It's time to dig into the details of all the software, hardware, and networking on-premises and in the cloud, as it exists today, as well as defining the "to be" state.

Assessing the current state of your system starts with looking at existing servers and all of the logical connections, including adjacent workloads. Identifying servers is critical because many systems have "ghost servers"—hardware missing official documentation.

You'll also need to document which ERP applications are in use. And because SAP doesn't live alone, that includes looking at standalones or applications that have a significant interface with your SAP landscape, such as content management systems (CMS), frontends, tax solutions, analytical landscapes such

as APOS, middleware like SEEBURGER or MuleSoft, manufacturing execution systems (MES), and product lifecycle management (PLM) systems like Teamcenter. While some related applications may be included in the migration to the cloud, others will have to remain on premises. Identifying which is which will be critical to designing a workable cloud solution.

To help establish what the "future state" of your system will look like, AWS provides a Well- Architected Framework for designing a cloud infrastructure, which an experienced partner will incorporate to leverage SAP best practices on AWS as part of your design. It would help if you came away from this assessment phase with an understanding of the technical details of moving your applications to the cloud and account strategies and operational models to take advantage of all the cloud has to offer.

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Readiness Planning

How will you get from where you are today to where you want to be while keeping costs in check and mitigating the risks of migrating to the cloud? This is where prudent planning comes into play. The "how" will include creating the accounts, instances, databases, and other critical components of a cloud system. You will also need a readiness plan around how to move your on-premises information to the cloud platform. These details will then allow for a cost estimate of the migration itself.

The final planning component is the operational model that provides for parallel systems to accommodate a switchover from on premises to the cloud.

Choosing a Trusted Advisor

In selecting a trusted partner to lead this process, look for an advisor who demonstrates a thorough understanding of how SAP and adjacent workloads operate in the cloud. Your advisor should be well-versed in identifying and overcoming the inherent challenges of an SAP migration. Choosing an advisor with an AWS Premier Consulting Partner accreditation and a demonstrated competency in migrating SAP landscapes to the cloud will put you in the best position to secure an AWS sponsorship to minimize costs.

The Upside of Preparation

Whether it takes a month or a quarter to prepare, following a structured process of discovery, assessment and planning gives you the knowledge you need to move forward with an SAP migration to AWS confidently. All parties will have a common understanding of what to expect. You will know the resources that are required. And you will have already identified details such as which applications can be bundled together, which ones can be migrated early on because they don't contain transactional data, and which applications require an upgrade as part of the migration process—thus simplifying the handoff to the migration team.

Once you establish a migration date, you will know that it's a real starting point, with informed timelines that can better deliver on expectations.

Learn more

Learn more about **Syntax Cloud Migration Advisory Services** or contact **marketing@syntax.com** to plan a discovery session for your organization.

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Why Syntax

Syntax provides comprehensive technology solutions and trusted professional, advisory, and application management services to power businesses' mission-critical applications in the cloud.

With over 50 years of experience and 800+ customers around the world, Syntax has deep expertise in implementing and managing multi-ERP deployments in secure private, public, hybrid, or multi-cloud environments. Syntax partners with SAP, Oracle EBS, JD Edwards, AWS, Microsoft, and other global technology leaders to ensure customers' applications are seamless, secure, and at the forefront of enterprise technology innovation.

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