BLACKLINE

4 Ways BlackLine Enables a Successful Move to SAP S/4HANA

Accounting and finance teams credit BlackLine with adding value throughout the transition to SAP S/4HANA. Automation, visibility, and control for the financial close are among the four compelling reasons to implement BlackLine first.

Clearing Open Items

REDUCE RISK BY AUTOMATICALLY CLEARING OPEN ITEMS BEFORE CUTOVER

Over time, open items can build up in SAP, and it is not uncommon for organizations to have millions that are uncleared. These open items create IT, operational, and financial risk as they can slow system performance and lead to unexpected write-offs. It can take years to manually clear a backlog of open items.
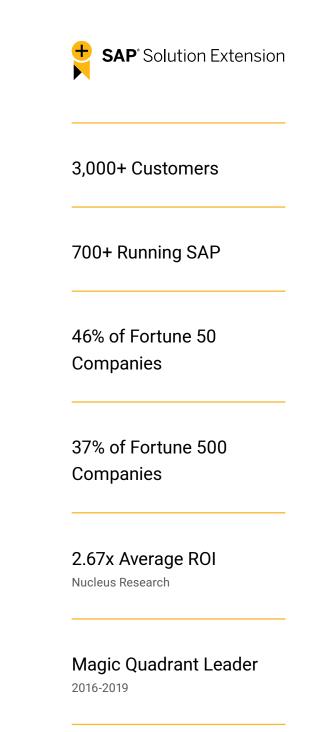
For companies moving to SAP S/4HANA, a large volume of unresolved open items results in even more risk. Migration can be slower, visibility can be lost, and in some cases, companies resort to recording a journal entry to move net balances to a suspense account. These challenges can lead to more manual effort, audit issues, and even misstatements if not addressed proactively.

BlackLine's purpose-built solutions use business rules and logic to **automatically match the open items and post corresponding clearing documents to SAP**. Little to no manual effort is needed to clear millions of open items in a very short time. BlackLine shifts Accounting's focus to managing exceptions and allows companies to move to SAP S/4HANA with confidence and a cleaner balance sheet.

Freeing Up Valuable Internal Resources

REFOCUS UP TO 50% OF A&F RESOURCES FOR SAP S/4HANA IMPLEMENTATION

Most companies engage outside experts to migrate to SAP S/4HANA. However, the best implementations pair experienced internal talent with their partners to ensure that best practices are matched to business needs.

BlackLine's accounting automation capabilities modernize traditional manual accounting processes that are no longer sustainable. Whether reconciling transactions, recording journal entries, or certifying key

SAP® Solution Extension

3,000+ Customers

700+ Running SAP

46% of Fortune 50 Companies

37% of Fortune 500 Companies

2.67x Average ROI
Nucleus Research

Magic Quadrant Leader
2016-2019

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period-end work steps, BlackLine helps customers achieve substantial savings, freeing up budget and time to devote to the broader digital transformation initiative.

Because customers can typically implement BlackLine in a few months, having BlackLine before SAP S/4HANA creates powerful momentum as customers achieve quick wins.

Managing Changes to Charts of Accounts & Validating Finance Master Data

MAINTAIN VISIBILITY & CONTROL BY MAPPING LEGACY DATA TO NEW SAP S/4HANA STRUCTURES

Accounting and finance departments often see an SAP S/4HANA initiative as an opportunity to update the chart of accounts, legal entity structure, and other business unit definitions to better reflect how the business is run.

During the move, change management and validation of historical balances is critical. After go-live, maintaining compliance, continuity, and visibility to GL balances and other details are equally as important.

BlackLine helps companies manage major changes like new ERPs and new chart of accounts. In BlackLine, legacy data can be mapped to new SAP S/4HANA structures, allowing prior period account reconciliations and other relevant close activities to be linked to the corresponding SAP S/4HANA tasks.

Companies can continue to attest to the completeness and accuracy of balances and sign off on period-end items without loss of historical information like policy and procedures, supporting documentation, adjustments, and open items.

Companies also use BlackLine to perform and document cutover tasks like validating historical balances. BlackLine's complete audit trail and auditor roles allow for easy third-party testing of these change management activities.

When parallel ledgers or systems are necessary, BlackLine can automate additional reconciliations associated with maintaining multiple ledgers. **Global organizations have achieved over 98% automation of their parallel account reconciliations by using BlackLine, allowing them to avoid adding incremental headcount as they manage change.**

Centralizing Data & Standardizing Processes

IMPROVE GOVERNANCE & EMBED BEST PRACTICES ACROSS DATA SOURCES

Even with SAP S/4HANA as a core ERP, most companies also have other ERPs or source systems. M&A activity can result in constantly evolving ERP landscapes and challenges with unifying data and processes. BlackLine has unparalleled capabilities around synchronizing information between different sources, because the platform is ERP and data agnostic.

BlackLine's end-to-end intercompany solution prevents intercompany issues from occurring, and can automatically post correcting journal entries if out-of-balances occur. **Standardized templates and embedded segregation of duties are other reasons controllers point to BlackLine as the key to their ability to manage global processes while meeting local requirements.**

About BlackLine

BlackLine is an SAP Platinum Partner offering cloud solution extensions for SAP software. Companies come to BlackLine because their traditional manual accounting processes are not sustainable. We help companies move to modern accounting by unifying data and processes, automating repetitive work, and driving accountability through visibility. More than 3,000 customers trust BlackLine to close faster with complete and accurate results.

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