

Transform Accounts Payable While Embracing S/4HANA

Achieve quick wins and position
for long-term ROI



Insights await: Here's what's inside

For CIOs

Discover how AP automation can optimize your AP function and complement your ERP migration process

Implementing AP automation as a standalone solution enables you to maintain stability, minimize disruption, and future-proof your IT set-up.

For CFOs

Unlock immediate value for your bottom line with AP automation

By applying AP automation now, you can drive significant cost savings, enhance cash flow management, and achieve up to 158% ROI.



The Great ERP Migration

With the ERP market projected to reach **\$78.6 billion by 2026**¹, it's clear ERP systems are no longer exclusive to large enterprises. Today, **53% of organizations are currently in the middle of a migration**² – in part driven by SAP – one of the top sellers of ERP in the world and its impending ECC ERP support deadline.

This surge in ERP migrations is being driven by a number of other factors including:

- Significant cost savings and efficiency gains unlocked by ERP systems
- Urgent end-of-life deadlines for outdated legacy systems
- The growing use of AI for smarter, data-driven decision-making
- Increased compliance demands that require dynamic, flexible solutions
- A sweeping digital transformation push across every industry

But anyone who has dealt with ERP migrations knows they can be hugely time-consuming, and often disruptive. Just ask those tackling the S/4Hana migration – where interruptions to business aren't just a possibility; they're already happening.

The more complex your organizational structure – think multiple legal entities or intricate business processes – the longer and more disruptive the migration journey. If custom programming or processes are involved, the timeline can stretch even further.

These challenges extend beyond the IT department, often affecting critical functions like financial operations including accounts payable.

Reality check

In the meantime, business doesn't stop. You still need to deliver results, keep shareholders satisfied, optimize SG&A (selling, general, and administrative expenses), and stay compliant with ever-evolving regulations.

This requires finding smart ways to deliver short-term value – initiatives you can roll out in parallel with your ERP migration that offer quick wins without slowing down the transformation.

And there's one initiative that stands out as a real game changer – **AP Automation**.

Within Finance, AP provides a clear opportunity for improvement. 84% of Finance Executives have identified AP as a priority to further automate in the next 24 months. While some areas have been automated, others are still lagging, leading to long invoice processing times, high invoice processing costs and lack of visibility into invoice data.

As the role of AP function continues to evolve, Finance Executives are increasingly focusing on initiatives beyond just cost reduction:

- More than 50% of AP Leaders are looking to improve reporting and data analytics.
- 40% of AP Leaders are looking to enable suppliers to submit invoices electronically.³

^{1 2} <https://zipdo.co/erp-statistics/>

³ Ardent Partners Report 2024

The Smart Move:

Implementing AP automation alongside your ERP migration

Implementing AP automation presents an excellent opportunity to achieve short-term value while your ERP migration is in progress. With a networked AP Automation layer, you can automate AP immediately, and start seeing results without waiting for the entire migration to finish.

Once AP automation is in place, you can be confident that your financial processes will remain stable during the rest of the migration. With the system operational, tasks such as approving invoices and making payments won't be disrupted - and as you roll out or expand your ERP, the automation tools will adapt and grow with you.

And let's not overlook the impressive ROI. Many companies realize returns of up to 158% on their AP automation investments.

In as little as three to six months, you'll enjoy:

Streamlined invoicing processing

Automated workflows speed up processing, allowing for faster approvals and better cash flow.

Fewer manual errors

Automation reduces human errors, helping to eliminate discrepancies and avoid costly penalties.

Improved visibility into cash flow

Real-time insights help you make informed decisions about when and how to pay invoices to maximize financial benefits.

Reduced complexity

The single network AP automation layer lets you migrate ERP systems individually, minimising disruption and integration challenges.

Consolidated financial data

A dedicated platform means you can unify financial and performance data into one AP solution for more accurate forecasting and reporting.



Does your ERP system already include AP automation?

Here's what you need to know.

Not all AP automation tools offer the same level of value, especially those that are built as part of a wider platform.

Platforms like SAP Ariba and Oracle NetSuite are built to be part of larger ERP ecosystems, handling everything from procurement and sourcing to contract management and supplier collaboration. As a result, AP automation is just one component of these much broader suites and doesn't always have the depth of features needed to identify and unleash value from your AP.

This lack of specialization is a challenge. These tools often fall short when handling more complex AP tasks, such as managing exceptions, processing non-PO invoices, or creating detailed spend plans.

And because these platforms are optimized for full ERP environments, integrating them into existing systems can lead to other issues like data silos, communication hurdles, and higher costs.

The answer?

Basware: The specialist AP Automation solution

Unlike other platforms that include AP automation as part of a broader suite, we're a true specialist.



At Basware, we invented AP Automation.

Back in the mid-1980s when 'paperwork' quite literally meant piles of paper, our team of forward-thinking software experts set out to tackle the problem head-on. They built the world's first invoice processing software with a 'scan and capture' workflow to digitize paper invoices – and the rest is history.

Today, we are the number one solution for AP automation worldwide, processing over 220 million invoices annually for the world's most efficient AP departments including **Mercedes-Benz**, and **DHL**.

Seven key reasons to choose Basware

Best in class	One centralized AP solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognized by Forrester and Gartner as the #1 AP automation solution• Surpassing Ardent Partners' industry benchmarks on Invoice Processing Time, Straight-through Processing rate, and Enabled Supplier Rate	Connect seamlessly to over 250 ERP systems from one easy-to-manage platform
100% supplier onboarding	Specialist knowledge
Seamlessly connect all your suppliers, no matter their size or invoice format with 99.7% enabled supplier rate	Get expert support from a partner with 40+ years of dedicated AP automation experience
One-stop solution for e-invoicing mandates	100% invoice capture
Comprehensive global mandate and tax law coverage which limits risk, fraud and penalties across all BUs	Manage all invoice types, whether direct or indirect spend, PO or non-PO invoices
	Incredible ROI
	Realize a potential ROI of up to 158% according to Forrester's Total Impact Report



The Specialist Advantage

Let's explore why Basware can deliver superior results compared to traditional ERP solutions.

(Plus, we'll explore how our advanced AI tools can amplify these benefits even further)

#1 Simplify decision making

AI-driven integration

Basware AI can unite 250+ ERP systems and capture 100% of your AP data centrally.

Problem

Traditional ERPs often leave you working in silos. This results in wasted time spent exporting and importing data across multiple systems, leading to frustration and inefficiency.

Solution

With Basware, our fully automated solution seamlessly integrates your AP workflows, processes, and systems onto a single, user-friendly platform.

✓ Result

A single source of truth that provides actionable insights and analytics across your entire AP process. By centralizing your data, you can streamline workflows and empower your teams to make informed decisions every time.

#2 Eliminate human error

AI-Powered precision

Our AI tools automate the conversion of machine-readable PDFs to e-invoices with 97% accuracy.

Problem

Relying solely on ERP systems for processing opens the door to human error. Invoices can slip through the cracks, payments get delayed, and fines can quickly accumulate.

Solution

Basware automatically validates every invoice, ensuring complete accuracy at every step.

✓ Result

Enhanced data quality that allows your team to focus on strategic, value-added activities. With fewer errors to resolve, your staff can invest their time where it truly counts: driving growth for your business.

#3 Future-proof your business

AI-enhanced innovation

Receive automatic, non-intrusive AI-powered upgrades every month to keep your system at peak performance.

Problem

Traditional ERP systems often come with high costs for updates and support, which can leave you feeling locked into outdated systems and unable to innovate.

Solution

Basware includes maintenance and automatic updates in a single pricing model. This means you'll always have access to the latest features without worrying about any additional costs.

✓ Result

Up-to-date processes that keep you one step ahead. When you're running the latest software you can respond faster to market changes, enhance security, and minimize risk.

The Compliance Countdown

There's another compelling reason to separate AP automation from your ERP migration: **compliance**.

As more and more financial transactions move online, governments worldwide are introducing new rules that will significantly impact how businesses manage invoicing. These are legally binding requirements that determine how invoices must be formatted, transmitted, and reported.

If your business isn't prepared for these changes, you could find yourself on the wrong side of some substantial penalties - penalties that won't wait for an ERP migration to finish.

In Europe, the rules are changing fast:

Germany

From 2025, e-invoicing requirements will change how invoices are issued and received⁴.

France

From 2026, B2B e-invoicing and reporting will be mandatory⁵.

Romania

Since 2021, all B2G e-invoices must be compliant with the European Standard⁶.

Italy

Mandatory e-invoicing has been enforced since 2019⁷.

⁴ <https://www.basware.com/en/compliance-map/germany>

⁵ <https://www.basware.com/en/compliance-map/france>

⁶ <https://www.basware.com/en/compliance-map/romania>

⁷ <https://www.basware.com/en/compliance-map/italy>





Automation to the rescue

So why do these new regulations make AP automation urgent?



Streamlined compliance

AP automation systems ingest and process e-invoices in accordance with regulatory standards. This ensures your invoices meet all legal requirements without the risk of errors or omissions.



Adaptive software

Automation software regularly updates to reflect evolving regulations and compliance requirements. So, your systems will always be up-to-date without the need for constant manual adjustment.



Audit trails and reporting

With automated workflows, you'll get comprehensive audit trails that make it easy to track and verify every transaction. That way you can always demonstrate compliance to auditors or other regulatory bodies.

Making it work: Mid-migration success stories

Our best-in-class customers achieve results high above industry benchmarks. Explore how they are leveraging AP automation to drive real value while upgrading their ERP systems.



Imerys: Integrating AP automation across continents

This global mineral specialist needed a scalable and adaptable AP solution to **manage compliance requirements across 40+ countries**. They turned to us, and we delivered.

- 10 ERPs integrated
- 7-day average invoice processing time
- 14 countries implemented in 6 months

[Read their story](#)



Carlsberg: Taking the next step to scale

Facing impending postage cost increases, Carlsberg knew it was time for a change. Using Basware, they quickly **ramped up their e-invoice rate to an impressive 96%**.

- 96% e-invoice rate
- 48% postal cost savings
- 79% emailed invoices

[See the impact](#)



Kion: Achieving remarkable efficiency milestones

Fragmented systems prevented this leading forklift truck and warehouse manufacturer from realizing its efficiency goals. **A partnership with Basware turned things around.**

- 50% decrease in invoice cycle time
- 90%+ spend under control
- 66% e-invoicing rate

[Find out how](#)



Now is the time

ERP migrations are a marathon, not a sprint, so it's critical to secure short-term value wherever possible. And with new compliance regulations rolling out across the globe, the stakes are higher than ever.

By separating your AP automation from your ERP, you'll get the best of both worlds: fast results that keep things moving forward and the confidence that you're on top of the latest compliance demands.

Why wait? Let's get started.

Contact us

Basware is how finance leaders in global enterprises can finally automate their complex, labor-intensive invoice processes and stay compliant with regulatory change. Our AP automation and invoicing platform helps you achieve a new level of efficiency – in a matter of months – while reducing errors and risks. We bring a unique combination of true automation, complete coverage, and deeper expertise to make it all just happen for our customers. That's why the world's most efficient AP departments rely on Basware to handle millions of invoices per year.

Basware. Now it all just happens. ©Basware 2024

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