



**BUILDING A SOLID
FOUNDATION FOR
DATA MIGRATION
A PRACTICAL
MINI-GUIDE**

XMATERIA
DATA-LED SAP TRANSFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

With SAP's 2027 end-of-support deadline looming, many organisations are facing major transformation projects. Whether you're moving to SAP S/4HANA, modernising your tech stack or navigating a merger or acquisition, one thing remains at the heart of your project - your data.

Gartner reports that 83% of data migration projects end up over budget or run into disruptions. Why? Because migrating data is tough. You're dealing with huge volumes of messy data that need cleaning, sorting and integration. And when things get complicated, it's all too easy to fall into what we call data procrastination, putting off the hard work until it's almost too late.

As experts in data, we completely get it. Hidden data issues, tricky integrations and unexpected delays can throw even the best teams into analysis paralysis. While it might seem easier to ignore the data for now, postponing this critical step only makes the challenges worse down the line.

At Xmaterial, we've seen first-hand how delaying data discovery can derail projects. That's why we're firm believers in tackling your data head-on right from the start, so you can seize the data advantage and keep your SAP transformation on track.

THE **PITFALL** OF DATA PROCRASTINATION

When organisations plan a SAP transformation, the focus is often put on the exciting parts of change: defining new processes, unlocking business efficiencies and implementing modern technologies.

With so much happening, data can end up being an afterthought. It sits in the background, seemingly static and unimportant, until suddenly it becomes the single biggest obstacle to your progress.

With SAP ending support for ECC in 2027, many businesses are being forced to re-evaluate their current systems. And it's not just current SAP users who are facing this challenge. Modernisation, mergers and acquisitions are pushing a whole range of organisations to reassess their tech foundations. Yet despite the clear need for change, many companies fall into the trap of data procrastination, delaying the necessary deep dive into their data until the very last minute.

This delay can have serious consequences. Transformation projects promise streamlined operations, smarter decision-making and improved agility. However, if your data isn't clean, accurate and aligned with your new system, you're setting yourself up for delays, unexpected costs and rework.

The good news? You can get ahead of this problem by starting with a clear roadmap for your data.



DEFINING **CLEAR** PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Before you dive into data migration, you need to define what success looks like. A common mistake is assuming that data migration is just a technical task, when in reality, it's a strategic enabler of your transformation. Getting this right starts with setting clear objectives that align with your business priorities. Ask yourself...

What's the end goal?

Are you looking to improve data quality, redefine business processes, or streamline operations?

How will you measure success?

Set concrete targets (improved accuracy, cost savings, faster processing) so you know when you've hit the mark.

What's involved?

Make sure IT, business leaders and project teams are aligned. Clear communication prevents confusion and keeps the project moving.

By defining these objectives before you start, you will lay the foundation for a more predictable and controlled migration. But this is only the first step. To truly take control, you need to understand your data and that's where data discovery assessments come in.



THE **CRUCIAL** ROLE OF A DATA DISCOVERY ASSESSMENT

Knowing what data you have is just as important as knowing where you're going. A data discovery assessment is the first step to taking the guesswork out of your migration. It provides a clear, structured inventory of your data, giving you full visibility before your project even kicks off.

At Xmaterial, we always recommend bringing data discovery forward in the project timeline. Addressing your data early not only avoids the pitfalls of data procrastination, but it also helps create a realistic migration plan.

By completing this data discovery assessment at the start of your transformation you will gain:

- **Clarity on objectives** – Pinpointing exactly what you want to achieve in the migration.

- **A data inventory** – Documenting volumes, quality levels and structural dependencies.
- **Risk mitigation** – Identifying potential challenges early and resolving them before they escalate.
- **Cost control** – Avoiding unexpected expenses by tackling data issues before they disrupt the project.

By completing this assessment upfront, you'll have a solid understanding of your data landscape, allowing you to make smarter, more informed decisions.



UNDERSTANDING **YOUR** DATA LANDSCAPE



Once you've completed your data discovery assessment, the next step is to analyse and segment your data. Many organisations underestimate just how complex their data environment is. More often than not, it's spread across multiple systems, formats and business functions. Failing to recognise this early on can lead to complications further down the line.

For SAP users, this process can be dramatically accelerated by using automated approaches such as our industry-leading Pioneer tool, which:

- **Scans and classifies your systems** - Identifying which data is active and what can be archived.
- **Assesses data quality** - Detecting duplicates, inconsistencies, or inaccuracies before they cause problems.
- **Maps data relationships** - Understanding dependencies so that nothing critical is left behind.

With a clear view of your data landscape, you can make smarter, more strategic decisions about what to migrate, what to clean, and what to discard. But to ensure success, you also need the right tools and approach.



CHOOSING THE **RIGHT** APPROACH

For a successful migration, not only do you need to move the data from your current system to your new platform, but you need to do so in a way that preserves business continuity and maximises efficiency. That's why selecting the right methodology is critical.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution. Your approach should be guided by:

- **The complexity of your data** – Is it structured, unstructured, or spread across multiple systems?
- **Technical compatibility** – Will your chosen tools work seamlessly with both your current and future platforms?
- **Flexibility and scalability** – Can your tools handle last-minute changes or unexpected data issues?

By combining advanced technology (like our Pioneer tool we mentioned earlier) with human expertise, you create a migration strategy that is proactive, not reactive. Reducing risk and increasing the likelihood of a smooth transition to your new system.



ARE YOU READY TO EMBRACE YOUR DATA?

In a world where technology and data challenges evolve at breakneck speed, a well-planned data migration is more important than ever. With SAP's deadline fast approaching, businesses that prepare their data early will gain a significant competitive advantage when it comes to their migrations.

The key to success? Don't wait. Start preparing your data today. Your future transformation depends on it.

At Xmaterial, we help businesses turn data migration into a competitive advantage. Whether you need help planning your transformation, conducting a data assessment, or executing a smooth migration, our team is here to support you.

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