

All RISE

A practical guide to RISE with SAP



Introduction

For many SAP customers, the move to SAP S/4HANA is no longer a question of *if*, but *how*.

One of the most popular transformation routes is **RISE with SAP**, SAP's business transformation offering designed to help organisations modernise their ERP landscape through a combination of software, infrastructure, tools and services.

Yet despite its popularity, many organisations still ask:

What exactly is RISE with SAP?

How does it differ from a traditional implementation?

What responsibilities remain with the customer?

Is it the right choice for our organisation?

This guide provides a practical overview of the RISE methodology and what businesses should consider before deciding on their transformation approach.

What is RISE with SAP?

“At its simplest, RISE with SAP is designed to provide a single commercial framework for business transformation. Rather than purchasing software, infrastructure, technical services and support separately, organisations can access them through a single subscription model.”



John Cotton,
Senior Solutions Architect, TCT

RISE combines:

SAP S/4HANA Cloud

Infrastructure services

Business process intelligence tools

Migration and transformation services

SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP) capabilities

Lifecycle management and innovation services

The objective is to simplify the move to a cloud-based Digital Core while helping organisations continuously modernise business processes and technology landscapes.

Why SAP created RISE

Historically, ERP programmes often involved multiple suppliers, contracts, infrastructure providers and support arrangements.

This created complexity across:

Procurement

Vendor management

Governance

Service delivery

Transformation planning

“RISE was introduced to streamline this experience by providing a more integrated transformation model focused on business outcomes rather than purely technical implementation. For many organisations, this provides a simpler route to SAP S/4HANA adoption and cloud transformation”.

Emma Foreman,
Solutions Architect, TCT

The five pillars of RISE with SAP

1. Business process transformation

Transformation should begin with processes. RISE encourages organisations to analyse current business processes, identify inefficiencies and align future operating models with SAP best practices. This helps businesses move away from heavily customised environments and towards more standardised operations.

Key benefits

Process visibility

Benchmarking opportunities

Continuous improvement

Reduced complexity

2. Cloud ERP

At the core of RISE is SAP S/4HANA Cloud. Depending on business requirements, organisations may choose:

Private Cloud Edition

Public Cloud Edition

Each option provides different levels of flexibility, standardisation and operational responsibility. The goal is to provide a modern ERP platform capable of supporting future innovation and growth.

3. Technology platform

RISE includes access to SAP Business Technology Platform (BTP). This helps organisations:

Extend SAP functionality

Build innovations

Integrate applications

Enable automation

Support analytics and AI initiatives

Rather than customising the core ERP, organisations can utilise BTP to create flexible extensions that are easier to maintain over time.

4. Infrastructure and operations

One of the biggest changes under RISE is operational responsibility. SAP manages much of the underlying infrastructure and technical operations, helping organisations reduce the burden associated with managing ERP environments.

Benefits often include:

Improved scalability

Enhanced resilience

Reduced infrastructure management

Simplified upgrades

This enables IT teams to focus more on innovation and less on system administration.

5. Transformation services

RISE is not simply a software subscription. It is intended to support the transformation journey through a combination of tools, guidance and methodologies, including SAP Activate. These services help organisations move from strategy and planning through implementation and ongoing optimisation.

Understanding the RISE journey

Successful RISE programmes typically follow a structured path.

Step 1: discover

Organisations assess:

Current challenges

Business objectives

Transformation drivers

Expected outcomes

This stage helps establish a business case and strategic vision.

Step 2: prepare

The programme is formally mobilised. Activities include:

Governance setup

Team mobilisation

Planning

Environment preparation

Risk assessment

Step 3: explore

Business teams review SAP best practices and future-state processes. The focus shifts from "how we work today" to "how we should work tomorrow."

Step 4: realize

Configuration, development, testing and migration activities are completed. The future Digital Core begins to take shape.

Step 5: deploy

The organisation prepares for go-live. Key activities include:

Training

Data migration

Cutover planning

Operational readiness

Step 6: run

Transformation continues beyond go-live.

Organisations focus on:

Adoption

Optimisation

Innovation

Continuous improvement

Is RISE with SAP right for you?

RISE can be an excellent choice for organisations seeking:

Reduced infrastructure management

Cloud-first transformation

Simplified commercial models

Faster innovation cycles

Improved process standardisation

Long-term operational simplicity

However, organisations should also consider:

Existing investments

Regulatory requirements

Customisation levels

Integration complexity

Internal capabilities

Transformation objectives

The right answer depends on business priorities, not simply technology preferences.

Signs you may be ready for RISE

You are likely a strong candidate if:

Your ECC system requires modernization

Cloud adoption is a strategic objective

Infrastructure management is becoming costly

Business processes require simplification

Future innovation is a priority

Leadership supports transformation

If several of these apply, RISE may provide a compelling path towards a modern Digital Core.

Common misconceptions about RISE

Kim Morrow, Digital Core Lead at TCT debunks the common misconceptions about SAP RISE.

"RISE is just hosting." It isn't. RISE combines software, infrastructure, transformation services and business process improvement into a broader transformation offering.

"RISE removes the need for planning." It doesn't. Successful programmes still require strong governance, preparation and business engagement.

"RISE guarantees transformation success." No solution can guarantee success. People, processes, data and leadership remain critical factors in every programme.

"RISE is purely an IT decision." The most successful RISE programmes are driven by business strategy and organisational objectives.



Kim Morrow,
Digital Core Lead at TCT

What should you do before choosing RISE?

Before making a decision, organisations should complete:

- Current-state assessments
- Process reviews
- Data readiness analysis
- Architecture evaluations
- Business case development
- Stakeholder alignment workshops

A clear understanding of your starting point is essential to selecting the right transformation path.

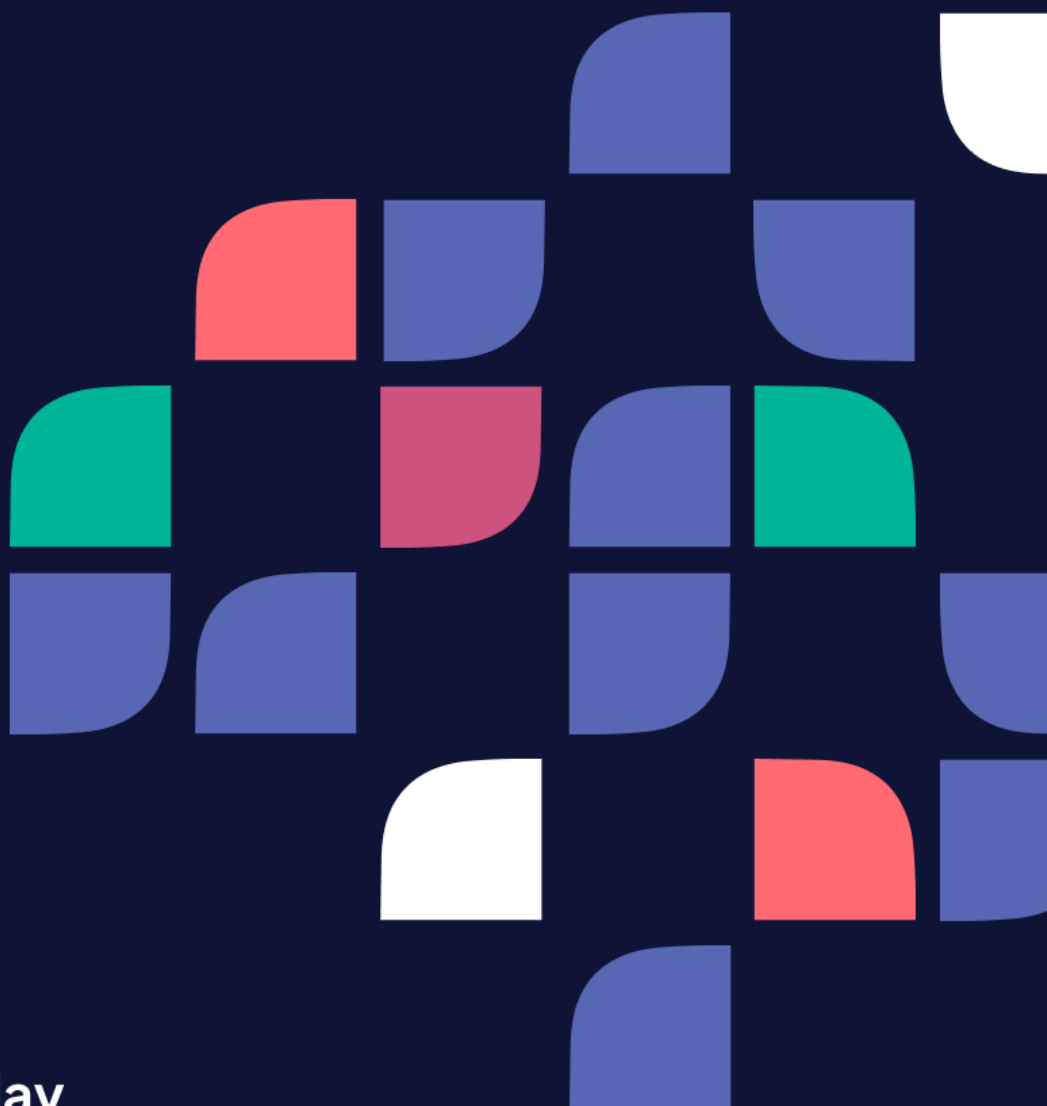
How TCT helps

TCT helps organisations evaluate, plan and execute successful Digital Core transformations. Whether you're exploring RISE with SAP, assessing ECC readiness, or defining your S/4HANA roadmap, our consultants help you:

- Understand available options
- Assess current-state readiness
- Develop transformation strategies
- Build business cases
- Create practical roadmaps
- Reduce programme risk

Our objective is simple: Help organisations move to SAP S/4HANA with confidence, clarity and a clear focus on business value.

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