

Friday, February 18, 2022

10:30 AM – 10:50 AM

The Focus on Agility and How It is Transforming the Migration from Legacy to Modern ERP Systems

Ray Wulff

Industry Lead for Global Defense and Intelligence Programs

Appian

Abstract:

Throughout the United States Department of Defense and Civilian Agencies, organizations are currently running the legacy edition of SAP's ERP system known as ECC and are facing a similar migration effort as the United States Navy. SAP many years ago stated they would be sunsetting this version of this ERP offering and directing they modernize to their new ERP instance known as S/4 HANA.

As customers have begun this migration, there are several challenges relating to process flow, challenging interface design and a fear that if there is any diversion from the path provided by SAP, the migration is at risk. During this migration, customers need to run their legacy ECC and future S/4 Hana concurrently resulting in multiple logins, dual interfaces, and transactions occurring in multiple systems simultaneously.

A solution that can orchestrate Business Processes, extract, transform and load master and transactional data, has a customizable front-end for a unified user experience, and is preferably low-code so that an organizations functional resources are empowered to create the solutions is being sought. Users need to have one single source of truth during this migration and have a platform where new technologies like automation, intelligent document processing, and mobile/cloud first can be designed and deployed.

The result is a significant reduction in redundant interfaces. The "Agility Layer" By implementing an agility layer providing the needed missing features this layer acts as a process coordinator and "broker" between both legacy and emerging ERP systems. Users will be able to reap the benefits of a clean user experience, RPA bots, IDP, and advances in automation without disrupting the migration schedule.

The key to this agility layer is providing the end user with:

- Automated Read/Write between ECC, Appian, and S/4 Hana Environments
- Mobile ready interface -Platform for Automation, Robotic Process Automation, and Intelligent Document Processing
- A single interface where users in theatre can update multiple ERP systems simultaneously in one interface
- Low-Code Platform for rapid design, and deployment
- Single source of truth across legacy and modern ERPs during the modernization program
- One location where infrequent users can complete a task or specific transaction and the results can be written to both ECC and S/4 Hana concurrently. (Ensuring clean data)

-A platform by which advances like automation, intelligent document processing, and machine learning can be deployed WITHOUT upsetting the baseline ERP system

-A transparent process flow design and management in an agile environment

These major ERP systems take many years to migrate, new requirements are rarely able to be incorporated into the baseline due to the fear of delaying or modifying the core underlying system. (Another avenue where Appian's flexibility and agility shine) The goal is to improve the processes as the migration is in flight and to provide an agile platform to enable the end-users as the ERP platform is being modernized.