Give your SAP ERP a new lease on life

Add Power Platform to SAP for better innovation and agility

Are you getting the most out of your SAP?

Every business wants to meet rising customer expectations, stay ahead of the competition, and become more innovative, agile and secure. But how it gets there depends on where it is now.

For many businesses, where they are now is with SAP as their ERP platform. But even organizations satisfied with their SAP deployment wonder if they're taking maximum advantage of its capabilities. Are they leaving untapped value locked within those investments? Do they have agile, cost-effective roadmaps to the future, or are they increasingly traveling down a potential dead end?

Those questions are compounded as we begin to see how AI is transforming ERP in many organizations, enabling systems to write code, automate financial operations, and convert business logic into actions with less human effort. These AI advances make ERP more accessible and can bridge the talent gap in legacy systems.

Meanwhile, other pressing issues loom. SAP was born in an era when big tech budgets and large-scale capital spending on multiyear upgrades was the norm. That time is long gone. Now, budgets are pressed like never before and upgrades need to be incremental and continuous to meet agility requirements. Innovative, effective solutions require increased collaboration and interoperability with non-SAP systems.

Data security drives a need for comprehensive governance.

Even more concerning, SAP Business Suite 7, including Enterprise Central Component (ECC), will reach end of life in 2027. Gartner estimates that SAP is behind its own schedule for migrating customers off ECC[1].

No company wants the time, expense and risk of a major migration away from SAP, nor a write-down on their SAP investment. So, where do those companies go from here?

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[1] "SAP barely moving needle to migrate users off ECC before support ends," Lindsay Clark, The Register, October 11, 2023, www.theregister.com/2023/10/11/sap ecc migration s4hana/

No-code/low-code is remaking ERP

Fortunately, there is an alternative to the massive, multiyear upgrades typically required for SAP systems. It's the no-code/low-code revolution that's been remaking ERP systems at companies of all sizes.

No-code/low-code replaces traditional development methods with a visual approach to building apps and workflows. That approach democratizes software development by lowering the technical knowledge barriers to solving business challenges with technology.

Business users become citizen developers who can quickly, directly and effectively use technology to address the challenges their companies face. These business users can also solve problems more collaboratively with their IT and development teams.

Meanwhile, all this decentralization of control doesn't lead to chaos because IT oversees highly automated governance that keeps citizen developers working within approved corporate guardrails. That governance also frees IT to focus on other work that delivers higher value.

Microsoft Power Platform:
The popular choice for no-code/low-code

For companies seeking a no-code/low-code technology, the popular choice is Microsoft Power Platform, with more than 33 million monthly active users, growing 50% year over year[2].

Power Platform is everyone's platform for transformation. For no-code users, it offers PowerPoint-like drag-and-drop experiences. Low-code users can do even more via Excel-like formulas. And code-first professional developers can use Power Platform across their enterprise environments.
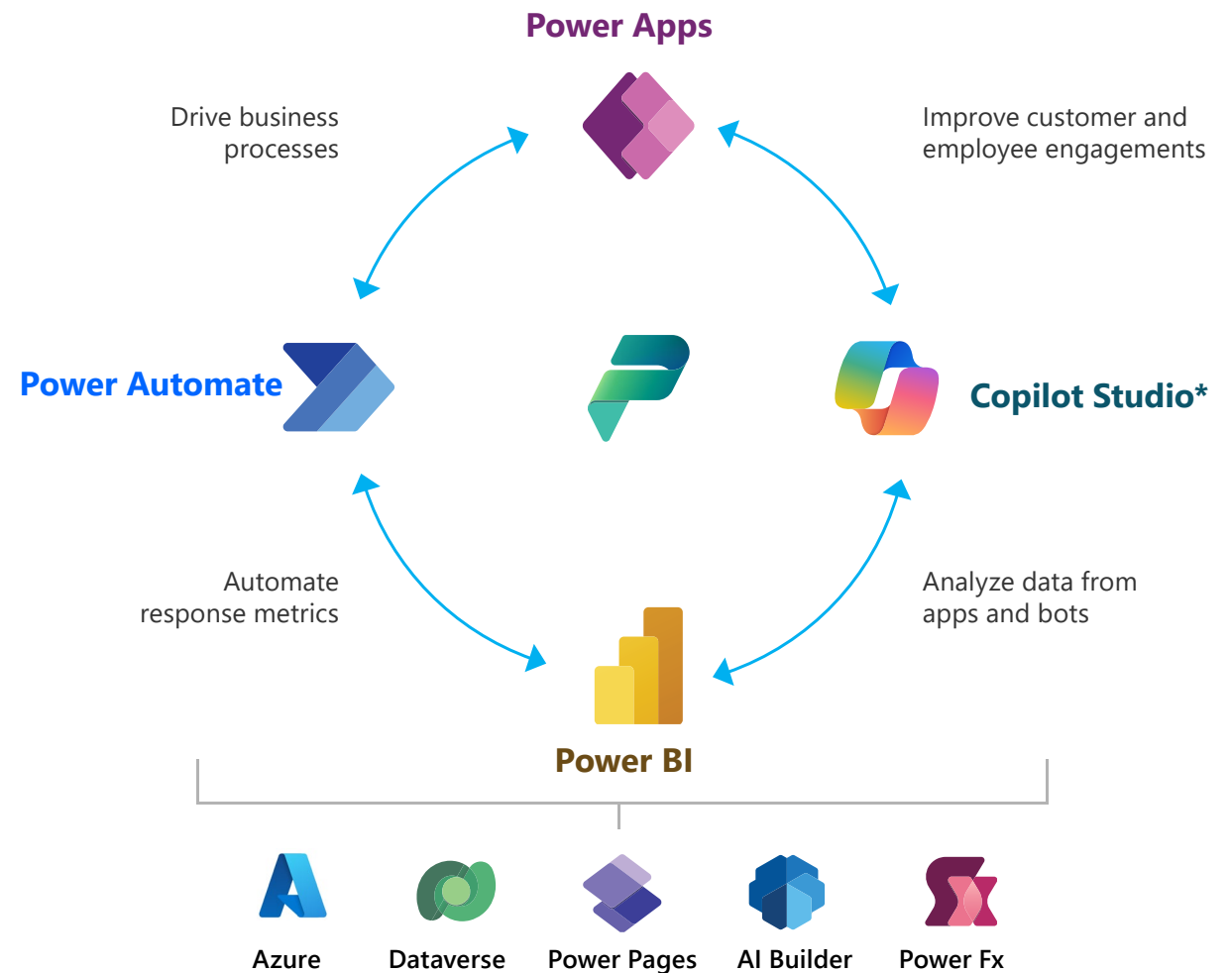
The platform includes **Power Apps** to create applications and business processes, **Power Automate** to automate those apps and processes, **Power BI** to analyze data from apps and bots, **Copilot Studio** to improve engagements with customers and employees (the capabilities and features of Power Virtual Agents are now part of Copilot Studio), and **Power Pages** to quickly build low-code customer-facing websites. **Copilot Studio** and **Copilot for Power Platform** provide even more possibilities for customization and integration, while additional tools enable low-code websites and AI use, optimal data use, and more.

Power Platform:
A transformation platform for everyone

Power Apps

Drive business
processes

Improve customer and
employee engagements

Power Automate

Copilot Studio*

Automate
response metrics

Analyze data from
apps and bots

Power BI

Azure   Dataverse   Power Pages   AI Builder   Power Fx

*The capabilities and features of Power Virtual Agents are now part of Microsoft Copilot Studio.

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SAP + Power Platform > SAP alone

Enterprises are now using Power Platform's low-code tools together with Avanade's industry expertise to realize greater value and ROI from their SAP deployments.

For example, organizations see faster time to value by interoperating Power Platform components together with SAP. They add functionality when and as they want, without having to budget and wait for a massive SAP upgrade. They enable more collaboration around their SAP data with native Microsoft 365 integrations to Office, Teams and related applications. And they clear backlogs and better serve their business users by offloading collaborative apps to the low-code environment.

By wrapping Power Platform's ease-of-use around SAP functionality, organizations ensure that more citizen developers can create more no-code/low-code apps and processes. The ease and accessibility of those apps and processes drive up active use throughout the organization, generating more value from SAP than it can generate on its own. Power Platform can also help organizations begin to tap into the potential of AI, with new Copilot experiences and embedded automation tools. Meanwhile, comprehensive platform governance helps control the risk inherent in more broad and decentralized data access and use.

What about Fiori?

Power Platform isn't the only no-code/low-code option for extending SAP. Another is the ERP vendor's own SAP Fiori, which also enables the easier creation of business apps.

While your mileage may vary, as the automobile ads say, it's been our experience at Avanade that Power Platform generally offers lower total cost of ownership than SAP Fiori.

Saving money is good, but perhaps even more important is that only Power Platform is designed from the ground up to integrate with the Microsoft applications you'll want to use to extend SAP. That includes communications and collaboration apps such as Microsoft Outlook, SharePoint and Teams, as well as business productivity applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

As a result, SAP integration with the Microsoft ecosystem via Power Platform is faster, easier and more reliable than integrations via non-Microsoft technologies.

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Power Platform/SAP connectivity: The options

Connectors

Microsoft offers a range of connectors to interoperate Power Platform with SAP – both SAP ECC and SAP S/4HANA.

At the level of the graphical user interface (GUI) , Power Platform components such as Power Automate and Power Apps can call any SAP screen via a connector that uses robotic process automation to access the SAP GUI.

Working at the application level, Power Platform can use an SAP ERP connector to invoke standard business application programming interfaces (BAPIs) and custom remote function calls (RFCs) in SAP.

And at the data level, Power Platform components can use custom connectors to query and update SAP data via SAP Odata APIs.

Prebuilt Power Apps and templates for SAP

Organizations can use Power Platform connectors to SAP to create many different integrations, but they don't have to. Microsoft provides a range of prebuilt Power Apps for SAP covering most business processes. Businesses can take advantage of these prebuilt Power Apps immediately and easily configure them to meet specific needs. These improvements also include new enhanced SSO integration, support for load balanced connections, and a Microsoft SAP OData connector in public preview.

Prebuilt Power Apps for SAP include the following:

Order to Cash – Quotes, Sales Orders, Deliveries, Customer Invoices, Customer Payments and Mass Pricing Updates

Procure to Pay – Requisitions, Purchase Orders, Goods Receipts, Vendor Invoices and Vendor Payments Updates

Record to Report – Financial Postings, GL Accounts, Cost Centers, Profit Centers, Cash Application and Mass Journal Entry Upload

Make to Stock/Make to Order – Production/ process Orders, Materials, Goods Movements, Equipment, Work Orders and Shipments

Power Platform enterprise templates from Microsoft are available on AppSource. They're engineered to digitally transform wide-ranging and intricate business processes for specific lines of business or across an entire organization. Enterprise-ready SAP Procurement solutions require customization, deployment, and ongoing management by a central team. This centralized approach ensures consistent governance and security across procurement activities.

Avanade can demo all of these PowerApps and templates, so you can better understand how to integrate them into your workflows and apps like Teams.

Avanade Assets and Accelerators

In addition to connectors and prebuilt apps and templates for Power Platform, Avanade has spent years to create assets and accelerators to speed and streamline your extension of SAP.

These resources, available only from Avanade, include such industry and SAP-specific solutions as:

- **Equipment360™ for SAP**
- **Advantage Sales™ for SAP**
- **PO Verification for S4/HANA**
- **Employee Experience for SAP**
- **Manufacturing Sustainability App**
- **Material Swap App for Manufacturers**

Companies worldwide benefit by adding Power Platform to SAP

Electric utility enhances field service with Power Platform

How do you get the benefits of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Field Service when you're running SAP? If you're a major Spanish electrical utility company, you engage Avanade to help leverage Power Automate and SAP connectors.

Now, field service workers have an easy-to-use Dynamics Field Service mobile app to access SAP work orders and upload documentation after they visit remote locations to clear brush and remove fallen trees from power lines and towers. That triggers related workflows within SAP, which generates invoices and sends them to Dynamics 365 Field Service.

European insurer cuts time to open accounts by 97%

One of Europe's largest insurance companies had a manual process for opening accounts in SAP that was time-consuming and tedious, satisfying neither customers nor employees. Avanade helped the company to adopt a Power Platform-based front end that integrated with SAP and automated the process.

The solution: The time to open accounts fell by 97% — from one month to one day. Data is more accurate and up-to-date, both customers and employees are more satisfied with the process, and employees are now free to devote more time and attention to customer service.

Avanade eats its own dogfood to successfully integrate an acquisition

Avanade doesn't just help other companies extend their SAP environments with Power Platform; it practices what it preaches. When it came time to integrate acquisition KCS.net into its operations, Avanade worked with Accenture to align business processes between Avanade and KCS.net, and to handle the increase in invoice volume.

The solution: They paired the legacy SAP system with Microsoft Dynamics 365 to create a faster, easier and more agile invoicing solution than the SAP system could enable on its own. Time to create invoices was cut from days to minutes, and employees now manage invoices and client relationships on Dynamics 365, which seamlessly integrates with SAP on the back end.

Retailer boosts vendor relations with Power Platform and SAP

A major retailer maintained suppliers' records in SAP. But updating all that information for a growing group of suppliers was increasingly time-consuming, expensive — and painful.

The solution: Avanade created a suppliers' portal in which suppliers access and update their own SAP information, relieving the retailer of the task. Avanade created the portal and its interoperability with SAP via Power Apps, Power Automate and Microsoft Dataverse. Suppliers that use the portal can get their questions answered via a chatbot powered by Copilot Studio

Why Avanade?

Only Avanade is the #1 strategic partner for Microsoft technologies, including Power Platform. We combine that with the in-depth expertise in SAP technologies of our parent Accenture. Together, Avanade, Microsoft and Accenture can help you to extend SAP with Power Platform like no one else.

Our cross-functional, global talent and end-to-end services include:

Over 6,000 Power Platform professionals

Over 3,700 Power Platform certifications

[Global advisory practice](#) to co-create and orchestrate practical strategies that drive outcomes faster

Full-service Digital Innovation Studios and [experience design practice](#)

3,500 [analytics](#) professionals and deep knowledge of Power BI

4,200 [automation](#) experts, 6,000+ successful automations for more than 350 clients

[Managed services](#) with 24x7 ongoing management and support, using a rigorous industrialized operating mode

Ready to get more out of SAP?

Learn more about how to extend your legacy SAP environment with Power Platform:

www.avanade.com/en-us/technologies/microsoft-power-platform

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Do what matters

Contact Us

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Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital, cloud and advisory services, industry solutions and design-led experiences across the Microsoft ecosystem. Every day, our 60,000 professionals in 26 countries make a genuine human impact for our clients, their employees and their customers. Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation. Learn more at www.avanade.com