# Data Conversion for SAP

Using Accenture's "load right" method to improve data quality from extraction through transformation to load

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# The importance of data conversion

As organizations drive to reduce costs and improve efficiency in their SAP ERP systems through consolidation and modernization initiatives, effective data conversion is becoming more important.

Data conversion – the process of transforming and transferring data between systems – is required when organizations change, upgrade or merge their computer systems.

Mastering and applying the techniques and disciplines of data conversion helps ensure that the potential value of the IT investment is maximized and costly delays are avoided.

But data conversion is not just about moving data. Crucially, it is about ensuring that the data works in the target system, that it is consistent and that its high quality can be assured.

# Data conversion challenges

With complex data issues across legacy systems, surging volumes of structured and unstructured data that need to be migrated and restrictive project timelines, organizations encounter multiple challenges in data conversion.

Accenture's experience shows that the following areas have a profound impact on the success of data conversion efforts:

**Business engagement** – ensures that data conversion is not just seen as a technical activity, but one designed to meet business needs. With business engagement, there is ownership of data validation and quality

**Data standards** – ensure that data quality targets are defined and measured and provides a baseline for improvements

**Data profiling and cleansing** – ensure the quality of go-live data for accurate financial balance reconciliation and inventory valuations

**Clear data quality entry/exit criteria** – ensure visibility into data readiness for test phases and go-live thereby avoiding unpleasant surprises when end-users get access to the system
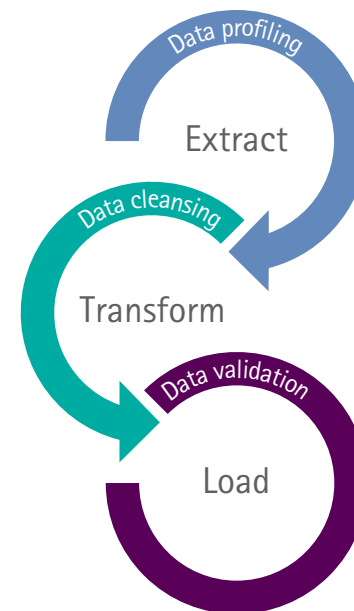
**Data governance and data management** – ensure that duplicate master data is eliminated, removing the risk of incorrect transactions and unreliable reports.

# How can Accenture help?

Data conversion is a key pillar of Accenture's Enterprise Data Management framework, our holistic approach to harnessing all data (master data and unstructured data) and unleashing its potential as a source of competitive advantage.

### Spanning the data conversion lifecycle

**Accenture's approach to data conversion for SAP** is suitable for one-off SAP ERP implementations as well as ongoing exchanges and/or integration of data between systems in production. It spans every stage of an organization's SAP data conversion project – from conversion strategy and planning, design and build, data quality/cleansing to construction/enrichment, validation and cutover strategy and planning (see Figure 1).

**Data integration**

Manual or automated data extraction from source system

Technical and business conversion rules, based on Accenture's knowledge capital and industry best practices

Manual or automated data load into target system (with pre and post validation which are key for conversion success)



**Figure 1: The data conversion lifecycle**

## "Load right" method: Improving data quality and accelerating results

By focusing on data quality throughout the conversion process, organizations can maximize the benefit of each data load, enable proper testing of the ERP solution and ensure a smoother go-live.

Leveraging our market-leading experience in SAP solutions, our deep knowledge of industry best practices and our proprietary technical assets, **our approach to data conversion for SAP**

can accelerate and enhance the data conversion process. It can also significantly improve data quality. From extraction to load, Accenture's "load right" method ensures that objective entry and exit criteria are set for each load cycle, and that quality is verified before the load cycle to maximize the benefits of each load.

With industrialized processes, a skilled global workforce and a common delivery methodology, we have the flexibility needed to scale resources on demand (see Figure 2).

We reduce time and cost during all phases of a data conversion project using pre-prepared templates, proven project accelerators and proprietary assets.

Our dedicated knowledge capital, which speeds and simplifies delivery, includes:

**Accenture Delivery Suite (ADS)** – providing a proven, reusable approach and methodology for data conversion, with templates and documentation spanning conversion strategy, conversion planning, data construction, data validation, data quality and conversion project management best practices.

**Accenture Advanced Enterprise Solutions (AAES)** – containing assets for accelerating data conversion based on successful projects and proven solutions. AAES includes data definitions, conversion functional and technical designs and fields mapping and construction design templates, as well as in-house tools for data mapping, data construction, data de-duplication, data enrichment, data reporting, product costing analytics engine and a pricing variance analysis tool (see Figure 3).

**Accenture Reusable Technology Library (ARTL)** – including reusable codes for data conversion, and assets including migration rules and loading programs harvested from successful projects.

**Global resources** – our network of global delivery centers and innovation centers helps clients, wherever they are located, to drive value from their data predictably and cost-effectively. The network includes dedicated data factories in India through which we can provide not only the tools and assets, but also the resources needed to manage all our clients' data needs.

By bringing this unique combination of assets and resources to bear, we can help our clients to drive value from their SAP data wherever they are located.

## Data conversion combines organization, process and technology components

- **Industrialized** delivery
- **Proven** methodology and approaches – "load right" method
- **Reusable** templates and documents
- Industry **templates** and conversion **accelerators**

- **Specialized** workforce
- **Global** network of resources
- **Scalable** data factory model

- **Industrialized** technical assets
- **Repeatable** technical procedures
- Use of **technical consolidation** approach
- Support for all market leading **platforms:**
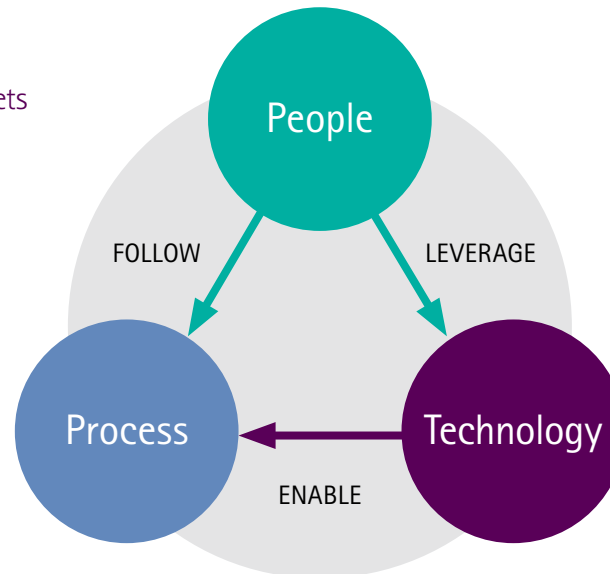  - IBM
  - Informatica
  - Microsoft
  - SAP



Figure 2: Accenture's approach to data conversion for SAP

# AAES for data conversion: enhanced Extract – Transform – Load (ETL) technology

⊞ AAES data conversion accelerators

⊞ Product costing analytics engine

⊞ Data mapping tool

⊞ Pricing variance analysis tool

⊞ Data readiness and pre-load report

⊞ Data post-validation report

**Extract** **Transform** **Load**

| SAP system | Non SAP system |
|---|---|

Relevancy rules

SOURCE_MAPPING

Source_Field_1
Source_Field_1
Source_Field_1
...
Source_Field(n)

TARGET_MAPPING

Target_Field_1
Target_Field_1
Target_Field_1
...
Target_Field(n)

LSMW

IDoc

SAP system

⊞ Data extraction tool

⊞ Data construction tool

⊞ Pre-built data conversion rules

⊞ Data enrichment tool

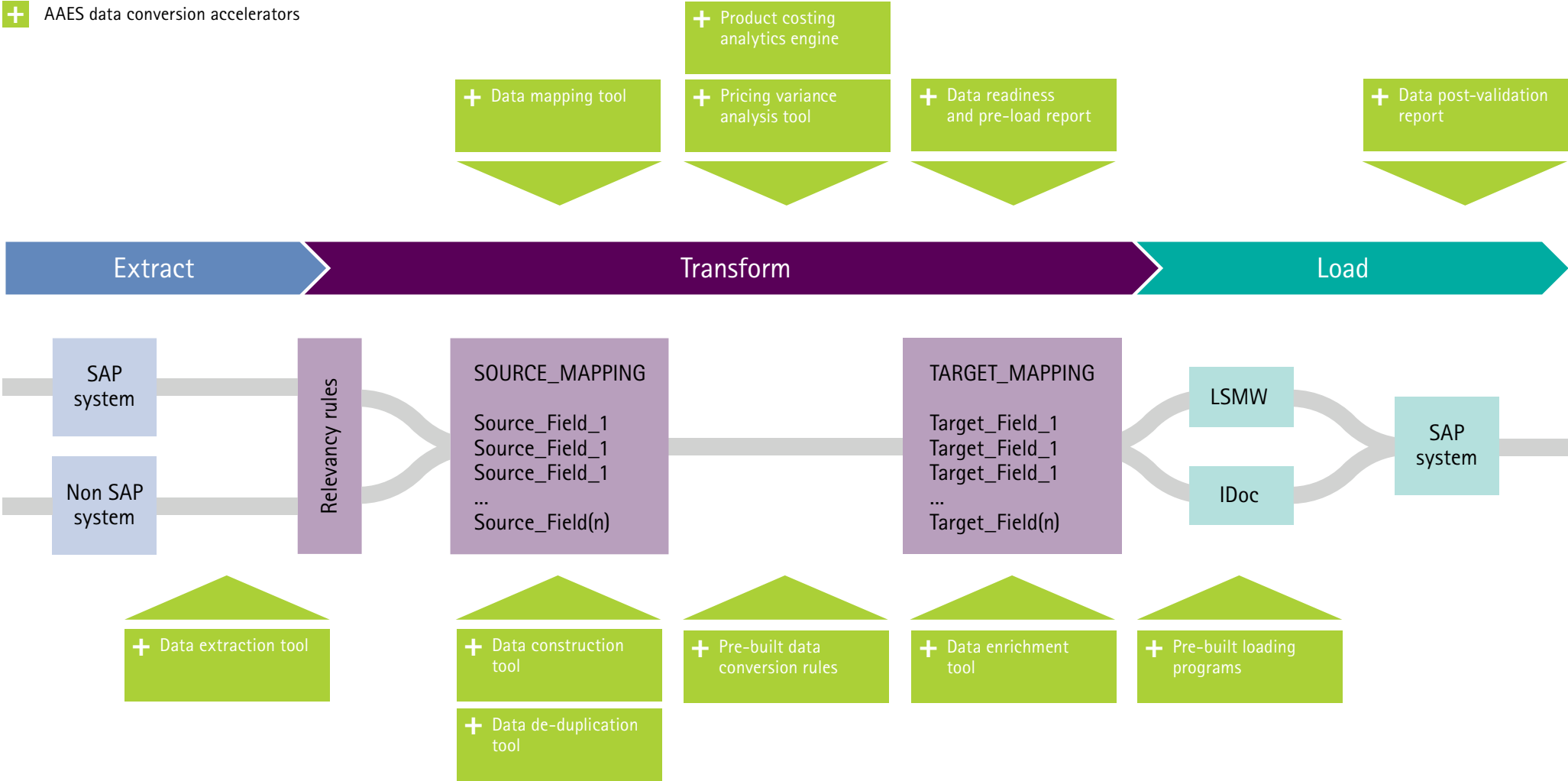⊞ Pre-built loading programs

⊞ Data de-duplication tool

Figure 3: AAES accelerators for data conversion for SAP

# Value delivered

Accenture has already helped many organizations to manage the core challenges arising in SAP data conversion projects and realize accelerated, high-quality outcomes.

The value delivered by our data conversion approach includes:

- Reducing cost of delivery by 30 percent
- Accelerating delivery and achieving on-time go-live
- Enhancing data quality (up to 20 percent improvement)

- Reducing the development effort for main data objects by 60 percent
- Reducing the number of load cycles required for a successful go-live by 60 percent
- Delivering one "single version of the truth" for fact-based decision-making
- Improving compliance (through automated data profiling, cleansing and remediation)
- Enabling effective ongoing management of data (through clear data ownership).

# Next steps

Interested in finding out more?

We provide a number of options:

**Live and recorded demos of our tools –** to help you better understand and take a deeper dive into the components of our data management solution

**Initial data quality assessment –** within two to four weeks, Accenture Data Diagnostic for SAP provides an initial data quality assessment, customized recommendations and a roadmap for improving data quality

**Data strategy assessment –** a deep-dive diagnostic of your current data-related business challenges, this two to three month assessment identifies opportunities for driving business value from your SAP data, including a detailed data strategy and roadmap for embarking on your data journey.

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## About Accenture

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