S/4HANA or RISE with SAP

Which is the right choice for you?

Two SAP cloud solutions: how do they compare?

There's no doubt that two of the hottest SAP related topics today are migration to S/4HANA and RISE with SAP. From talking to our customers, we know that there's continuing uncertainty about the difference between them.

The headline explanation is very straightforward:

- S/4HANA is SAP's latest, most powerful cloud ERP software
- RISE with SAP is a bundle of services to drive business value, which **includes** S/4HANA **plus** a host of other features

However, as the 2027 deadline for migration to S/4HANA looms ever closer, it's a good idea to put both solutions under the microscope. By delving deeper to discover exactly what each offers, organizations can ensure that they choose the right option to support them on their path towards successful cloud migration and business transformation.

It's also important to understand the distinction between the two different editions of RISE with SAP: public cloud and private cloud. As we'll explain, the terms "public" and "private" don't necessarily mean what you might think when it comes to RISE with SAP.

S/4HANA: migration to the cloud

December 31 2027 is the deadline for all SAP environments to adopt S/4HANA, as the old on premises ECC system becomes obsolete. The majority of SAP organizations have yet to make the move, but there's no time to lose. Migration is a complex process which can take two to three years, from planning to licensing to rollout.

It's well worth the effort. In addition to becoming compulsory for all SAP users, S/4HANA has multiple business advantages, including:

- An in memory database providing data and insights on demand

- Embedded AI and machine learning

- Options for hosting on prem, hybrid or in the cloud with a hyperscaler

S/4HANA empowers you to move to the cloud and also retain significant control over your environment.

And the disadvantages? As a standalone, S/4HANA doesn't provide the wide range of business transformation solutions and services that many organizations need, so they require additional subscriptions and contracts; this adds to complexity and cost.

Make the most of S/4HANA with Avantra

The Avantra hybrid AIOPs platform provides observability and automation to support teams to plan, prepare for and implement migration.

Testing and audit tracking simplify the process and minimize disruption, even across complex landscapes.

Talk with an SAP expert

RISE with SAP: accelerating business transformation

What if you want to find a way to migrate to S/4HANA which also gives you access to a suite of solutions to drive business value and strategic growth?

Take a look at RISE with SAP.

This is a subscription service which bundles the tools avd most of the necessary services for managing your SAP environment into a single contract, at a single price. One of these tools is S/4HANA, but there are several other components which empower organizations to cut through IT and process complexity.

Described by SAP as "business transformation as a service", RISE with SAP's holistic offering includes:

- **S/4HANA Cloud** – RISE with SAP is a cost effective way to manage migration by the 2027 deadline
- **Business Process Intelligence** for data driven insights, better decision making and smarter operations
- **Business Technology Platform** to accelerate digital innovation by extending, personalizing and unlocking the potential of SAP applications
- **Business Network** for optimizing connections with external partners such as suppliers and distributors
- **Technical tools and services**, including a custom code migration app to support the move to S/4HANA

We've noticed that the Business Technology Platform feature (SAP BTP) is creating a particular buzz because of its reputation for adding value through improved use of data. By bringing together high quality data and analytics, AI and automation, SAP BTP ensures richer reporting and greater agility in decision making.

Another point in RISE with SAP's favour is that Christian Klein, SAP CEO, has been hinting that in the future most new SAP innovations and capabilities will only be available within RISE with SAP and not to customers who have S/4HANA on its own.

However, there's one feature of RISE with SAP which is causing confusion: the difference between its public and private cloud editions. One of these allows you to choose which public cloud provider you use and to make structural SAP changes, while the other does not – but which is which? The answer is not what you might expect...

RISE with SAP public cloud edition

We all know what the public cloud is: on demand computing services offered by third party IaaS providers such as the hyperscalers. So it would seem to make sense for the RISE with SAP public cloud edition to be the one where you can select your public cloud provider.

It isn't.

The public edition is, in fact, managed by SAP. This is a multi tenant, SaaS solution with pre defined processes which are efficient, economic and scalable. However, it's highly standardized and there are limited options for customization. For example, customers can't make structural changes or modify source code.

RISE with SAP private cloud edition

By contrast, the private cloud edition gives you, the customer, some flexibility at the public cloud layer with partners such as AWS, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud. You choose your preferred hyperscaler.

Because this is a single tenant edition with a dedicated environment, there is a higher degree of flexibility, control over the landscape and customization to specific business needs - including structural changes and source code modification.

Whether you opt for the public or the private edition, there are disadvantages to RISE with SAP. The single contract doesn't cover everything, saddling customers with the responsibility for key technical tasks such as batch jobs, iDocs and upload times. Most organizations – especially larger ones – have complex landscapes which include third party applications and non SAP environments. RISE with SAP doesn't necessarily bring visibility and transparency to these hybrid ecosystems.

Make the most of RISE with SAP with Avantra

Avantra is certified to work with RISE with SAP.

Enterprises

The Avantra Cloud Edition for RISE with SAP is designed to overcome the solution's disadvantages. It integrates natively into any RISE with SAP environment and gives our customers complete visibility of their hybrid enterprise, including on premise, non SAP and third party applications.

It takes care of more than 100 customization and general maintenance services which are not part of the RISE with SAP contract. These include batch jobs, upload times, short dumps, client settings and much more.

Customers can also unleash the endless possibilities of AIOps for intelligent automation and hyperautomation, creating time to innovate and drive growth, quality and operational efficiencies.

Managed Service Providers (MSPs)

Enjoying all of the above advantages of the Avantra Cloud Edition for RISE with SAP, MSPs can utilize the software to add demonstrable value for their clients as they support them to move to the cloud.

They can manage the services not covered by RISE with SAP on behalf of their customers and provide observability for each client's entire landscape in one place. The multi tenant Avantra edition also empowers MSPs to observe all of their customers from a single panel.

S/4HANA vs RISE with SAP: at a glance

	RISE with SAP	S/4HANA Cloud
Features	Includes S/4HANA Cloud and additional services and features	S/4HANA only
Subscription	One subscription for all solutions, one price	For S/4HANA only – other services need to be done in house or selected through an independent services provider
Contract	Single contract	Potentially multiple contracts for services if not done in house
Affordability	Lower total cost of ownership (TCO) because of single contract	Additional contracts and subscriptions may increase TCO

SAP cloud solutions: it's time to get started

Wherever stage you've reached on your journey to the cloud, you can't ignore the 2027 deadline for migration to S/4HANA.
If you are determined to retain as much control over your environment as possible, then a straightforward move to S/4HANA only could be the best route for you.

However, RISE with SAP not only provides – and facilitates migration to - S/4HANA, but also gives access to a larger pool of services and tools to transform your business processes and workflows and maximize value.

Whichever solution you choose, Avantra will help you to make the most of it.

Talk with an SAP operations expert from Avantra

UK Headquarters

Parkshot House
5 Kew Road
Richmond
TW9 2PR
United Kingdom

Switzerland

Lautengartenstr. 6
4052 Basel
Switzerland

North America

33 West Monroe Street Suite 1025
Chicago Illinois 60603
United States

Document Version:

August 2023

www.avantra.com