

# 5 guiding principles of clean core

Build the foundation for an Autonomous Enterprise

## Adopt a clean core for faster ERP modernization and trusted AI

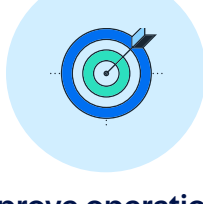
Clean core helps organizations reduce complexity, modernize ERP, and create a trusted foundation for enterprise-grade AI. By choosing RISE with SAP, customers can move from highly customized on-premises ERP environments to cloud ERP built for agility, governance, and continuous innovation.



Drive enterprise agility



Foster constant innovation



Improve operational excellence



Lower total cost of ownership (TCO)



Support system reliability and security



## 5 guiding principles of clean core



### Business processes

Maintain competitiveness and minimize complexity by adhering to the SAP standard, adding extensions only for the clearly differentiating processes that provide measurable value.



### Data

Standardize data and keep it compliant by ensuring it's connected, trusted, aligned to current standards, and managed at scale, supported by continuous quality and governance.



### Extensibility

Decouple extensions from the core and run them on-stack or side-by-side on SAP BTP, enabled by released APIs and strong governance.



### Integration

Connect systems built on standardized, secure, and scalable technologies to ensure reliable, future-ready integration and seamless end-to-end processes.



### Operations

Embed best practices in governance, people, processes, and tools, enabling agile IT and business transformation.

Rigid, highly customized legacy systems limit adaptability and innovation, while poor data quality and a lack of standardization make operations slow and unnecessarily complex. As a result, organizations struggle to respond to change, adopt new technologies, and scale AI across the business, while continuing to incur high maintenance costs.

Adopting a clean core strategy helps organizations modernize their ERP environment and create a trusted foundation for the Autonomous Enterprise.

| Challenge                                 | How clean core helps overcome it                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Complexity and high technical debt</b> | Standardized systems and clean, integrated data make upgrades, maintenance, and troubleshooting easier and less resource-consuming.    |
| <b>Constrained innovation and agility</b> | Clean core makes it easier to adopt new SAP technologies and respond to market changes, regulatory shifts, and business opportunities. |

of 250 processes are clean core compliant, enabling faster adoption of innovations.

[Read the Pandora customer story](#)



|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Lower system reliability and increased risk</b> | High-quality data, robust governance, and standardized processes strengthen security and reduce both operational and cybersecurity risks.                                                        |
| <b>Inefficient operations and high costs</b>       | Without siloed data, inconsistent processes, and a patchwork of manual workarounds creating bottlenecks, IT teams can reduce the TCO of existing systems and time to value (TTV) of innovations. |



saving in time spent on system maintenance.

[Read the CAP Group customer story](#)

|                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Difficulty scaling and supporting business growth</b> | Minimal customization, reduced technical debt, and strategic use of only business-differentiating extensions enable IT to scale and adapt systems to support business growth and transformation. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Adhering to a clean core strategy on cloud ERP helped execute a merger-and-acquisition strategy.

[Read the H.B. Fuller Company customer story](#)

## How SAP can help you build a clean core

SAP helps you establish the organizational structure, technical foundation, and transformation methodology needed to execute an effective clean core strategy—supported by measurable KPIs and clear business outcomes.



### Comprehensive visibility

Gain a unified view of your clean core transformation through dashboards that deliver actionable insights and allow you to track progress in real time.



### Customized guidance

Access tailored advisory services from SAP experts, with recommendations on tools, governance models, and skills essential for maintaining a clean core.



### Implementation and migration support

Follow an expert-led, step-by-step implementation plan that ensures smooth integration with existing systems and minimizes disruption during transition.



### Enablement and coaching

Benefit from personalized training, hands-on workshops, and expert coaching to accelerate solution adoption and embed best practices.



### Trusted data foundation for AI and analytics

Build on enterprise data that's harmonized, semantically connected, governed by a clear framework, and compliant with global standards—creating a reliable base for AI and analytics.



## RISE with SAP

[Discover SAP's clean core strategy](#)