



10. Authorisation Challenge

Authorisations May Have a Direct Impact on License Fees

Buy cheap, buy twice.

SAP offers two primary licensing models: **Product-Based Licensing** and **User-Based Licensing**. Many organisations that choose the Private Cloud Edition opt for the User-Based Licensing model, in which license fees are determined by user types defined based on the authorisations assigned to each user.

Organisations that cut costs by minimising effort in creating and assigning roles may later find themselves needing a complete redesign of roles. This is necessary to better align roles with actual job responsibilities, to protect your data, ensure compliance, and reduce licensing costs. To avoid cost overruns from role redesign or excessive license fees, it's necessary to consider proper roles and authorisation design early in your SAP S/4HANA implementation project. But first, let's look at the new licensing model and how it influences authorisations.

Full Use Equivalent (FUE)

Migrating to the SAP S/4HANA Cloud Edition introduces a new licensing model. The legacy user-type-based model in SAP ECC is replaced by a more flexible approach based on **Full Use Equivalent (FUEs)**. Instead of licensing each user individually, customers convert different user types into FUEs using specific weighting factors.

SAP S/4HANA defines the following use types:

- Advanced Use Type
- Core Use Type
- Self-Service Use Type
- Development Use Type

Each use type corresponds to a different FUE ratio:

Use Type	Use Type to FUE Ratio	Meaning
Advanced	1 : 1	1 Advanced user consumes 1 FUE
Core	5 : 1	5 Core users consume 1 FUE
Self Service	30 : 1	30 self-service users consume 1 FUE
Developer	0.5 : 1	1 Developer consumes 2 FUEs

Table 1: Use Types in SAP S/4HANA Cloud and Corresponding FUE Ratios

The use type classification is based on the authorisations assigned. SAP Note [3113382 - Permission-based SAP S/4HANA User Simulation / FUE Projection](#) provides a report to analyse roles and profiles in SAP ECC and estimate future licensing requirements. This note includes an Excel-based ruleset for classifying use types based on authorisations.

The ruleset contains over 3,000 entries – each representing an authorisation (a combination of an object, a field, and a value) and its corresponding use type.

Key Considerations for Role Design and Assignment

- FUE licensing applies to **named business users** who access the system directly.
- The **Self-Service** classification includes **all display and approval rights**.
- If a user has capabilities across multiple use types, the **highest-consuming use type** will be used for classification. For example, a user with both Self-Service and Advanced capabilities will be classified as Advanced, regardless of the number of each capability assigned.

STAR Service from SAP

STAR stands for **S/4HANA Trusted Authorisation Review**, a free SAP service available upon request: [S/4HANA Trusted Authorisation Review](#)

Customer implements the ABAP report SLIM_USER_CLF_HELP from SAP note [3113382 - Permission-based SAP S/4HANA User Simulation / FUE Projection](#) into their SAP ECC system(s), runs the report, and shares the simulation results with SAP.

SAP then simulates future licensing needs by mapping user activity and authorisations to FUE classifications. The result is a PDF report showing FUE consumption by user, identifying potential optimisations for legacy roles.

Impact of the New License Model on Role Design

It's important to consider use types and the licensing model as early as the business role design phase. For example:

- Categorise roles by use type (see example below).
- Create **display-only roles** for users who don't need to change data – these users fall under **Self-Service**, which is the least costly category.
- Assign **Advanced Use Type** functions only to designated **Super Users**.
- Assign **Core Use Type** functions to standard end-user roles.

Since **Developer Use Type** is the most expensive (2 FUEs per user), many clients create a dedicated **Developer role** assigned to a limited number of users. SAP module owners typically don't receive this role, though they may occasionally request it – for example, to implement an SAP Note or adjust a form.

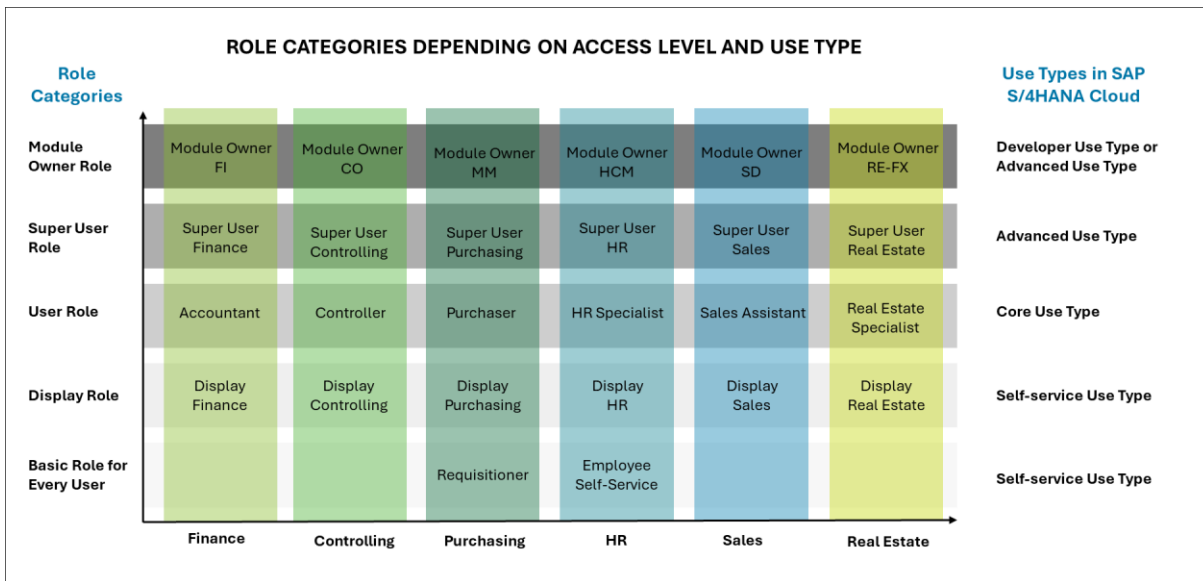


Figure 1: Role Categories by Access Level and Use Type

You might also reflect the assigned use type in role names or short descriptions as part of your naming convention.

Whatever approach you choose, be sure to document it in your SAP S/4HANA authorisation concept and conduct **informational sessions** with stakeholders and the project team so they understand how licensing fees relate to authorisations.

How to Optimise License Costs After Go-live

Post-go-live license optimisation measures will vary depending on your organisation’s size and needs. Some of the most effective strategies include:

- **Periodic User Access Reviews** – Essential for compliance and cost optimisation.
- **Automated Offboarding Process** – Ensures timely removal of access.
- **Monitoring Inactive Users** – Use standard SAP report RSUSR200 to identify users who haven’t logged in within a defined period.
- **Role Governance** – Ensure that role changes maintain alignment with their original classification.
- **Emergency User Concept** – Provide temporary access to high-privilege roles when needed (e.g., for developers).
- **Use of Optimisation Tools** – Implement SAP’s **SAM4U Solution** (SAP Note [3298562 - SAM4U Solution | Fiori Application](#)) or a third-party tool for license optimisation.
- **Organisational Measures** – For instance, appoint assistants in departments like Purchasing or Sales to handle system entry, allowing managers to retain display-only access and focus on strategic activities.

How Deloitte Can Help

Deloitte helps clients navigate SAP licencing and S/4HANA transitions by combining global scale, industry knowledge, and deep licence expertise. Key services include:

- Contract and licence analysis, technical baselining, and audit support.
- S/4HANA conversion assessment and user-model mapping.
- Indirect-usage and Digital Access evaluation.
- Cloud product transition and licence migration (e.g., Analytics Cloud).
- SAM tool selection, implementation, configuration, and governance.
- Negotiation support, risk quantification, and optimisation recommendations.

This approach delivers transparency of entitlements, reduced risk and cost, efficient licence deployment, and a sustainable licence-management operating model with measurable savings and compliance early in projects.

References

[Did you say FUE? A definition. - SAP Community](#)

[Thoughts on how to plan, monitor and control your ... - SAP Community](#)

[S/4HANA Trusted Authorisation Review](#)

[3113382 - Permission-based SAP S/4HANA User Simulation / FUE Projection](#)

[3298562 - SAM4U Solution | Fiori Application](#)

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