



1. Authorisation Challenge

Is Your SAP ECC Authorisation
Concept Fit for SAP S/4HANA?

Out with the old, in with the new

When transitioning to SAP S/4HANA, one of the first critical decisions concerns your current ECC authorisation concept. Key questions to consider are:

1. Can the ECC authorisation concept be directly migrated to SAP S/4HANA?
2. Can the existing concept serve as a solid foundation for designing new roles tailored to the S/4HANA environment?

1. Can the ECC authorisation concept be directly migrated to SAP S/4HANA?

The answer to the first question depends on several key factors:

Migration Approach

Is the transition to SAP S/4HANA planned as a greenfield, brownfield, or hybrid? As a rule of thumb, greenfield implementations typically require the creation of new roles, while brownfield projects may benefit from reusing and adapting existing roles.

A **greenfield implementation of SAP S/4HANA** refers to the process of deploying the SAP S/4HANA system from scratch, without carrying over any existing systems or processes. This approach is akin to starting with a "clean slate," allowing organisations to redesign and optimise their business processes according to best practices and the capabilities of the new system.

A **brownfield implementation of SAP S/4HANA** refers to the process of upgrading or migrating an existing SAP system to SAP S/4HANA. Unlike the greenfield approach, which starts from scratch, the brownfield approach involves adapting and transforming the current system to the new environment.

The **hybrid or bluefield approach to SAP S/4HANA implementation** combines elements of both greenfield and brownfield strategies. It aims to provide a balanced solution that allows organisations to selectively transform their systems while retaining certain existing processes and data.

Current State of the ECC Authorisation Concept

Is the existing model:

- Up to date with business requirements?
- Compliant with data protection standards and segregation of duties (SoD) rules?
- Aligned with internal controls?

In many cases, organisations acknowledge that their authorisation concept has evolved organically over the years without a clear structure. So often, roles, and even more so their assignments, have accumulated authorisations over time. This makes the S/4HANA migration a unique opportunity to start afresh with a streamlined concept.

Primary User Interface Strategy

Will users primarily access the system via SAP GUI or the more user-friendly Fiori Launchpad? Organisations adopting a “Fiori First” strategy must incorporate Fiori-specific authorisations into their roles. Given the direct impact Fiori roles have on the end-user experience, it is often more effective to design new roles specifically for Fiori apps rather than retrofitting legacy roles.

2. Can the existing concept serve as a solid foundation for designing new roles tailored to the S/4HANA environment?

Reusing Business Roles

Even when PFCG roles in SAP S/4HANA are created from scratch, especially in greenfield implementations, it is worth considering reusing existing business roles, especially if they are well-defined and actively maintained in your Identity and Access Management (IAM) system.

As shown in the example in the figure below, there is a job title “Accounting Manager”, and there is a business role “Accounting Manager” in the organisation’s IAM system. This role acts as a container for technical roles across various applications. In SAP ECC, it may include a specific PFCG role; in your HR system, it might include roles for both employee and manager functions.

When migrating to SAP S/4HANA, the business roles in IAM will largely remain the same, but their technical content will change – new PFCG roles in SAP S/4HANA will be added to the business roles. The Accounting Manager will perform similar functions (e.g. financial oversight, month-end and year-end closing, and reporting). However, these tasks will now be executed through Fiori apps rather than SAP GUI transactions.

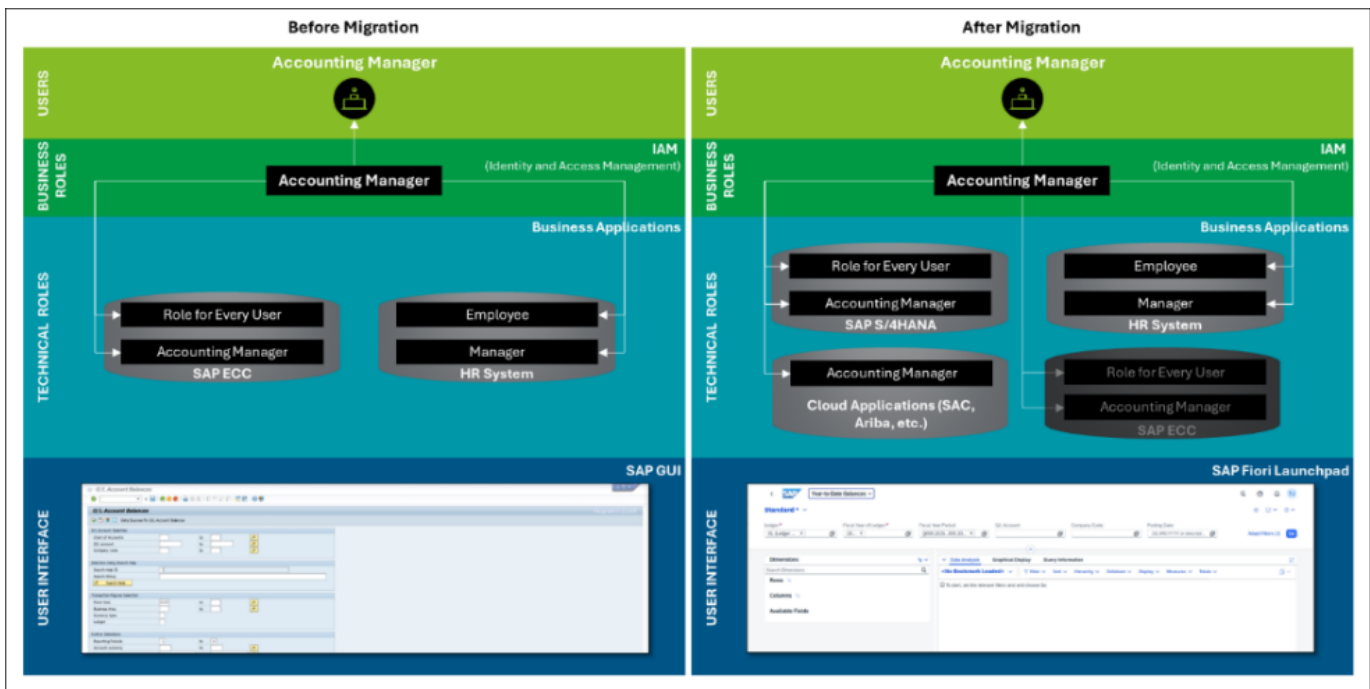


Figure 1: Business Roles Before and After Migration to SAP S/4HANA

How Deloitte Can Help

There are multiple factors to consider when deciding how to migrate your ECC authorisation concept to SAP S/4HANA. Deloitte consultants bring extensive knowledge and practical experience to guide you through this journey. Our services include:

- Assessment of the current SAP ECC authorisation concept
- Evaluation of migration options with effort estimation and pros and cons for each option
- Analysis of audit findings and translation into design guidelines
- Delivery of best practice templates for documentation and business role definitions
- Upload of best practice template roles for SAP S/4HANA admin functions (ABAP Developers, SAP Basis Administrators, User Administrators, Authorisation Administrators, and Module Owners)
- Design of new roles considering business process requirements, Fiori Launchpad user experience, SoD, and compliance constraints, as well as the potential influence on licensing costs
- Creation and testing of new roles in the system, as well as post-go-live support

Deloitte’s methodology for upgrading and migrating roles and authorisations is fully integrated within our comprehensive S/4HANA framework, ensuring that role-related deliverables are scheduled at the optimal stages of your project. Additionally, a range of tools and accelerators is available to support efficient and effective delivery.

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