

AUTOMATORS

BELIEVE IN TRANSFORMATION

How to get your testing ready

for SAP S/4HANA now

Digital Transformation

In today's competitive business environment, IT has taken a center-stage in core business functions and is playing a critical role in satisfying business requirements. More and more value-adding business processes are mapped in IT using SAP systems. With SAP S/4HANA integrated systems, businesses can now utilize the immense power of using real-time technology platforms as a disruptive factor in today's digital economy.

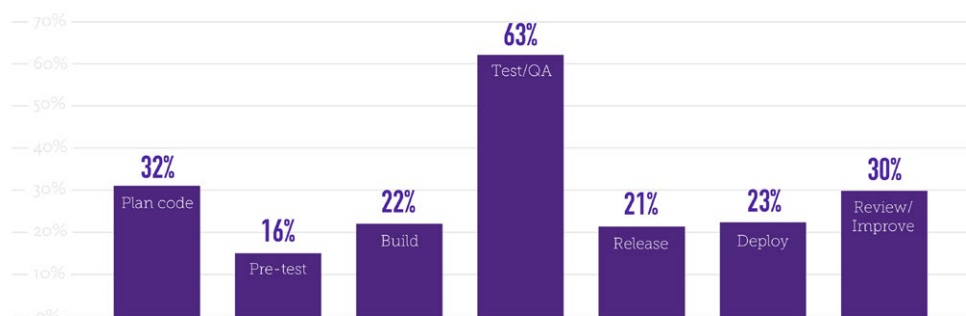
Now, say you're looking to buy a custom-made bike for your kid. Like most people, you'll probably want to use smart systems to tailor your bike to the last of your specifications. On the click of a button, you're likely to initiate an order and have your custom-made bike delivered right to your doorstep. ABC easy! Now, that's convenience. Smooth digital transformation in retail space. But implementing and managing such convenient and integrated systems is hard!

"60% of digital businesses likely to suffer major service failure by 2020" Gartner

For testers, modelling and testing such integrated SAP systems is no walk in the park. It's like going from a tricycle (small-business accounting software) to a race car, SAP S/4HANA, where all newly acquired functionalities and processes must be tested and documented so that the smooth running of business processes can be guaranteed.

1. Test is the Bottleneck for Digital Transformation

Computing recently conducted a survey looking to establish the main holdups in the software development process. Surprisingly, it was revealed that a whopping 63 percent of practitioners believed that the biggest delays in software development occur in the Test/QA phase. This confirms the fact that testing is one of the most critical bottleneck activities in the software implementation process.



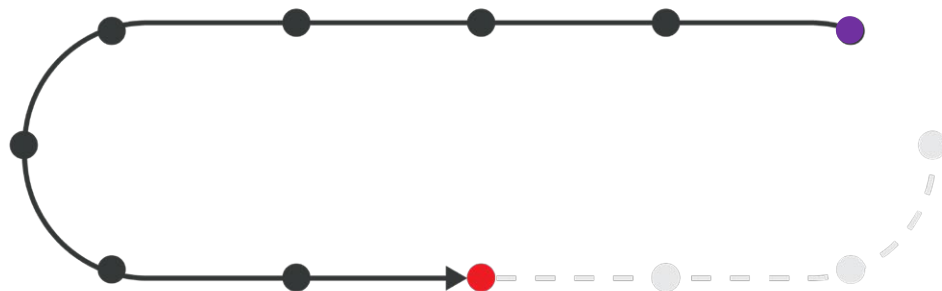
Look, for the bike company above to bring convenience to their customers, they'd need to create synergy between real-time SAP enterprise technology and their brick and mortar business operations. SAP S/4HANA would enable the company to increase their productivity, provide detailed insights into action summaries and increase automation of time-consuming tasks. Ultimately, creating a best-run business where everyone is involved.

This is Digital Transformation! It's bringing people, data and processes together to create value for your customers and maintain a competitive advantage. But for such interactions to be successful, the SAP responsible persons need to undertake frequent regression tests on the SAP S/4HANA system to ensure that its fidelity is maintained after every update.

2. Software Dependencies Become More

Digital transformation also encourages the use of new and innovative business models, improves the experience of customers, employees, partners and stakeholders through the use of technology. This undoubtedly leads to more software and system dependencies.

Like a chain, your important business processes consist of various chain links – your different systems. And as we all know; a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. If one part is malfunctioning, the whole business process chain is at risk. That means more dependency leads to more risk. So, to make sure your value-adding business processes are still working, you have to test them every time there is a change in one of its dependencies.



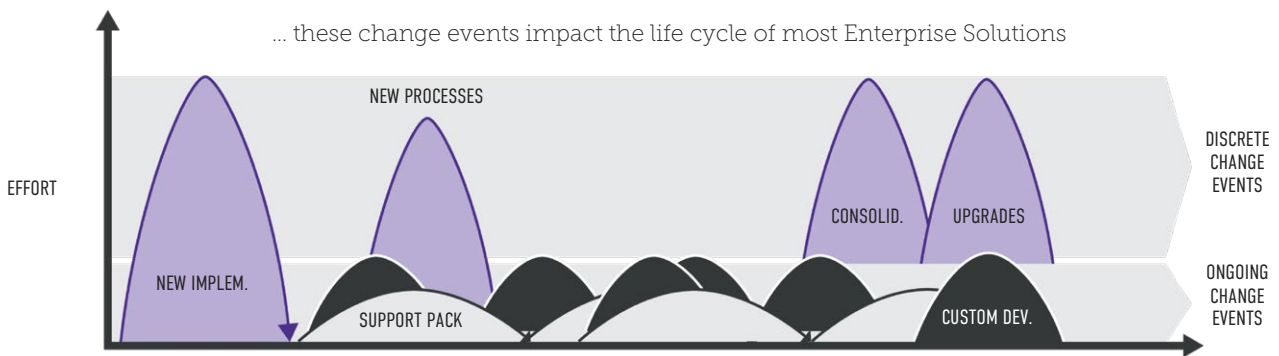
Back to the digital shopping experience...

Obviously, our bike company would need several integrated systems – to handle the analytics, procurement, manufacturing, inventory, finance, and supply. Such interdependencies within various in-house and cloud-based software assets require frequent rigorous retesting to ensure they are all in harmony and consistently delivers as they should. The need for regression testing therefore arises. Running such robust regression testing can massively reduce post-release critical issues.

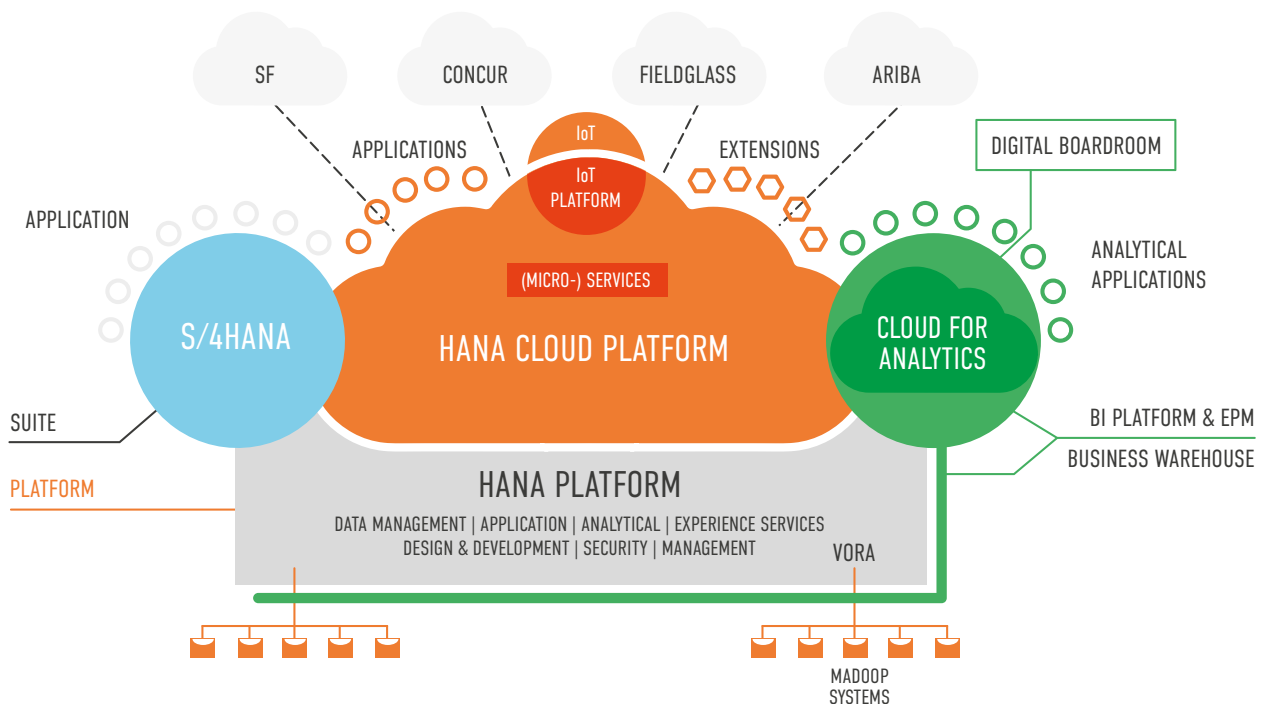
3. SAP Updates Are Becoming More And More

SAP systems are at the core of business operations. These systems are the enterprise-based technology backbone that actively empowers businesses to innovate, operate better, and make more insightful data-backed decisions. They are massively influenced by:

- Business Drivers – business processes, development of new products, merger & acquisitions.
- Compliance Drivers – risk management and governance.
- Technology Drivers – maintenance and frequent upgrades.



Yet, not only are the changes getting more – because of business, compliance and technology drivers, but SAP release cycles are also getting shorter leading to even more changes. Support-, Enhancements- and Feature packs are becoming more.



And as an integral resource at the core of the business support, SAP S/4HANA's efficiency is as good as its last update. Often requiring recurring updates, it's therefore imperative to have in place a comprehensive regression testing after every update.

Ordinarily, testing should be at the core of software development. It should happen early and often. But this is not always the case! Standard SAP systems would not need to be retested if there were no customizations. It would also be unnecessary to retest a system if there were no updates.

Then again, every major company has to customize and extend the SAP standard functionality to some certain extent and that leads to risk when changes are coming. It's not enough only to test the customization isolated because every customization can have implications for the whole business process. Regression testing is therefore unavoidable! A check on the integrity of most business-critical functions must be done.

Our Final Take

In today's competitive business environment, more and more business processes are mapped in IT using SAP systems. Real time technology with SAP/HANA allows to integrate and track your business activities on the whole value chain sharing real time information with your most important stakeholders.

This Digital Transformation allows to boost business processes and brings people together. However, digital transformation also leads to more software and system dependencies. The increase of dependencies exposes your value-adding business processes to more risk.

SAP systems are at the core of these business operations and they are massively influenced by business, compliance and technology drivers. Together with SAP's more frequent updates, this will drive more and more changes in your SAP system, but this changes also puts your customization at risk.

Therefore, it is crucial to understand the strategic importance for regression testing in determining your success of SAP systems.

Ultimately, tomorrow's most successful companies will have to integrate regression testing as part of their QA agenda without exposing themselves to risk and high costs errors. Only then will a company increase its efficiency and effectiveness and survive fierce competition.



[Want to know more? Get in contact now.](#)

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