



# **FAQs on Compatibility Packs for SAP S/4HANA®**

## SAP S/4HANA Solution Management

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*Public*

**SAP S/4 HANA**



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Note:** For the purpose of this document, compatibility pack is abbreviated as “CP.” Please be aware that this abbreviation has other meanings in the industry, such as “consumer products.”

### What is a compatibility pack for SAP S/4HANA®?

A compatibility pack (CP) is a version of a standard SAP® Business Suite software product that is compatible with SAP S/4HANA. Customers that have licensed the selected SAP Business Suite software product indicated in the [SAP S/4HANA Compatibility Scope Matrix](#) and meet the SAP S/4HANA Enterprise Management prerequisite, can obtain rights to use the **SAP S/4HANA compatible version** (at no additional license fee) of the product on their SAP S/4HANA installation.

Standard SAP Business Suite software products cannot run on SAP S/4HANA installations.

Compatibility packs:

- Cover functionality from SAP ERP core or line-of-business (LoB) or industry solutions
- Comprise the complete or partial scope of the related SAP Business Suite product

The aim of a CP is to allow business continuity with SAP S/4HANA: customers can use the compatible version of the related SAP Business Suite product in SAP S/4HANA while SAP may be developing comparable business functionality for SAP S/4HANA in parallel.

CPs only apply to on-premise licensing of SAP S/4HANA; cloud licensing models follow different patterns.

The right to use a CP is restricted in time. CPs expire at the date given in the SAP S/4HANA Compatibility Scope Matrix.

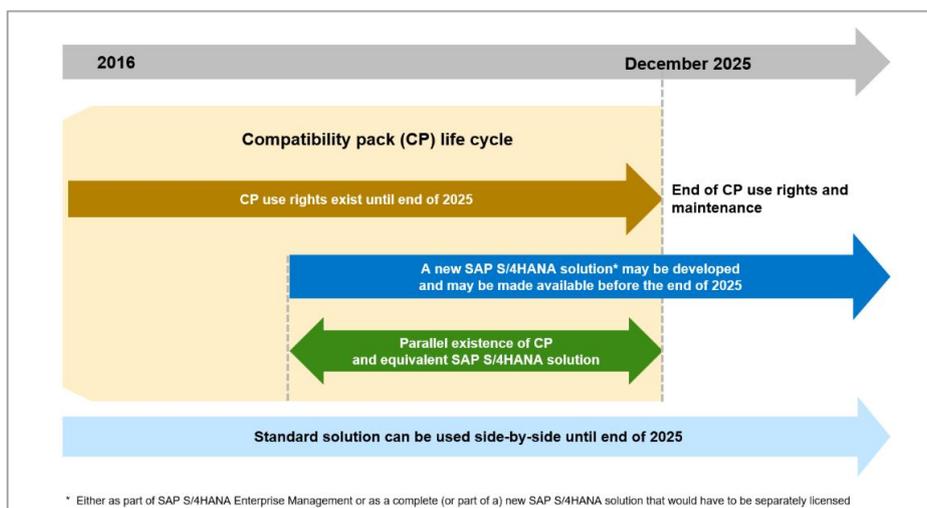


### What happens to CPs at the end of their restricted use (2025)?

On December 31, 2025, the right to use CPs will expire. At that time, CPs must not be run any longer.

This applies only to the right to run the CP version. Since the customer has licensed the related SAP Business Suite products, the customer may continue to use the standard SAP Business Suite products in their non-SAP S/4HANA environment according to the specific end-user license agreement. See the information below about side-by-side installation.

SAP’s current plan (subject to change at SAP’s sole discretion) is to make a separate new SAP S/4HANA product or another offering available at some point. This offering may have similar functionality to that within the CP software and may have a separate license.



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### What is the target audience for compatibility packs?

Customers that have licensed SAP S/4HANA Enterprise Management, as well as the CPs related to an SAP Business Suite product, can use the applicable CP provided they have been properly licensed. Thus, CPs are available to both installed base customers and net-new customers.

### Where do you find these compatibility packs and additional details?

All CPs are listed in the [SAP S/4HANA Compatibility Scope Matrix](#).

For more information, see the following:

- SAP Note [2269324](#) offers more details, including valuable information about license material numbers and solution capabilities that better describe the functional scope of each CP.
- Section 1.5.2 of the current [SAP Software Use Rights](#) document also contains a link to the [SAP S/4HANA Compatibility Scope Matrix](#).
- Chapter 5 of the [Feature Scope Description](#) document on SAP Help Portal also describes CPs, elaborating on the functional scope of SAP S/4HANA.

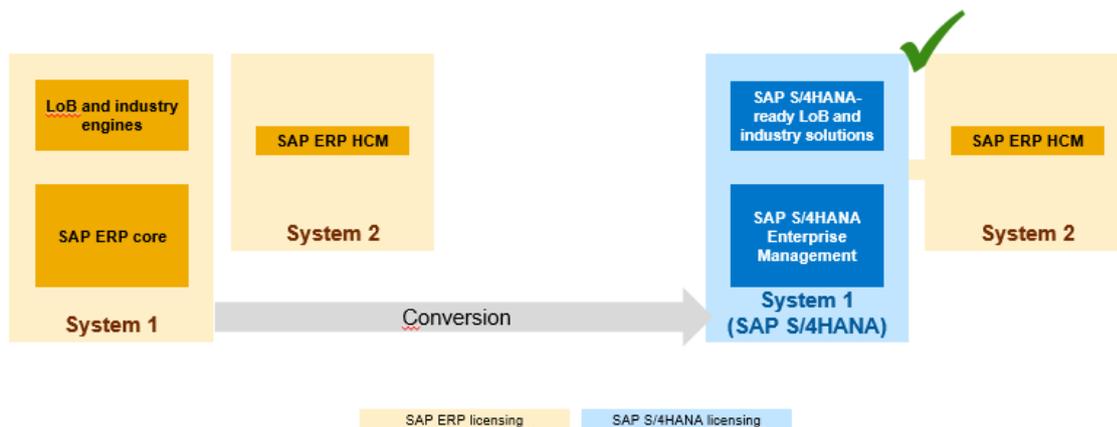
### Are compatibility packs (re)defined for each release of SAP S/4HANA?

No, the [SAP S/4HANA Compatibility Scope Matrix](#) is **static**: it is independent of releases, and is frozen. No new editions will be added to it.

### What about products that run side-by-side?

If a customer has licensed an SAP Business Suite software product and runs it on the customer's own server, it is an SAP Business Suite installation, and all SAP Business Suite terms and conditions and rules apply. Terms and conditions and commercial rules related to SAP S/4HANA and CPs **do not apply here**.

In other words, running an SAP Business Suite software product side-by-side and connected to an SAP S/4HANA installation **does not** require a compatibility pack. An example is a side-by-side installation of SAP ERP Human Capital Management, as shown in the figure below.

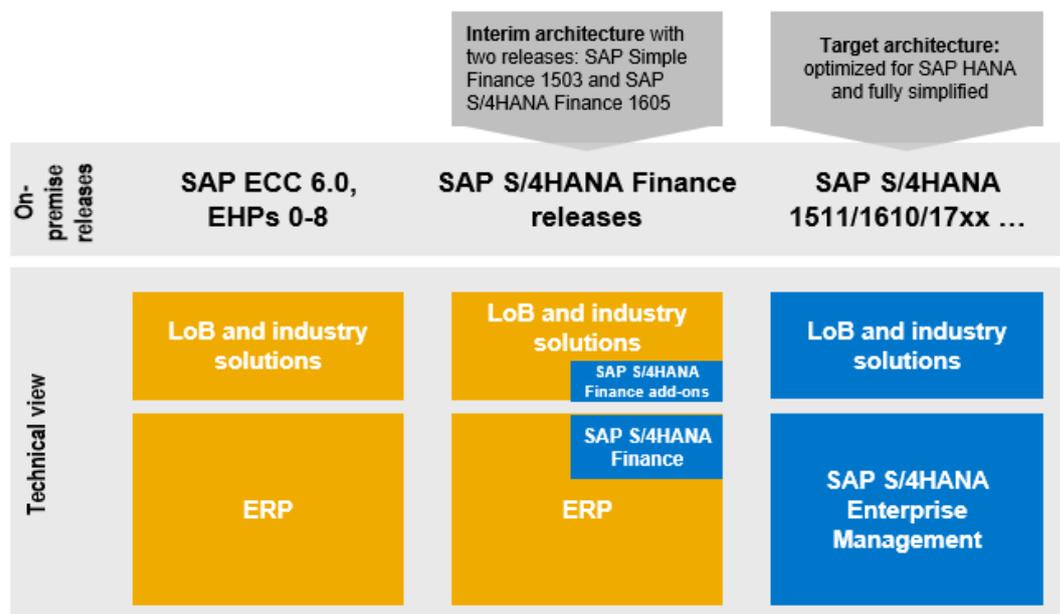


### What are the architecture choices available to me?

Customers that have licensed SAP S/4HANA have the choice to implement it either on the SAP S/4HANA target architecture or on an SAP S/4HANA Finance interim architecture.

The technical differences for the two architecture choices are as follows:

- The **SAP S/4HANA target architecture**, with SAP S/4HANA Enterprise Management as the new digital core, is a completely new development in all functional areas optimized for SAP HANA. Its first release was November 2015 (1511), to be followed by October 2016 (1610), with one new release planned each year.<sup>1</sup>
- The **Interim architecture for SAP S/4HANA Finance\*** releases technically consists of SAP Simple Finance aimed at the finance LoB finance and SAP ERP Central Component (SAP ECC)/SAP HANA for non-finance areas. Its first release was March 2015 (1503), followed by May 2016 (1605). No further new releases are planned after 1605.



The differences between the road maps for these two types of architectures can be crucial to our customers' IT strategy:

- New SAP S/4HANA developments outside those for the finance LoB will be available **only** on the target architecture.
- No further releases of SAP S/4HANA Finance are planned.
- Converting from release 1605 to 1610 is not just considered an upgrade, as the SAP ECC base is replaced with the SAP S/4HANA target architecture, built on SAP S/4HANA Enterprise Management.
- As the target architecture keeps evolving, the conversion from finance to target architecture will become increasingly disruptive.

For this reason, there are two types of CPs: universal and limited.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to change at SAP's discretion

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## What are the differences between the universal and the limited CPs?

### Universal CPs:

- Are valid for all on-premise releases of SAP S/4HANA
- Allow installed base customers to use selected SAP Business Suite functionality, on a time-limited basis, with the intent of replacing it with native SAP S/4HANA functionality before the end of the CP usage right
- Are planned to be adapted to new SAP S/4HANA releases until the end of the usage right

### Limited CPs:

- Are valid only on SAP S/4HANA Finance releases\* and may only be run on these releases
- Allow installed base customers to keep on using their add-ons (especially non-finance add-ons), but only in an SAP S/4HANA Finance\* environment
- Will not be adapted to any other SAP S/4HANA Finance\* releases beyond 1605

\* SAP Simple Finance 1503, on-premise edition; SAP S/4HANA Finance 1605

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