

IAGM Whitepaper

SAP S/4

Transformation & Authorizations

February 2021



S/4-Transformation & Authorizations

Introduction

An S/4 Transformation, often starting from an R/3 dominated SAP environment, can encompass a fairly wide span of different activities and efforts either related to

- **Functional & System Landscape Changes:** ranging from the pure technical migration of all R/3-systems to the new S/4 HANA systems via consolidating your SAP System landscape and introducing an extensive Fiori Strategy to extending or replacing functions to new S/4 features (e.g. SAP MDG), SAP Non-Netweaver solutions (e.g. Ariba, Hybris, Concur, SuccessFactors) or Non-SAP solutions (Salesforce).
- **Authorization Improvement & Automation:** taking the chance to improve weaknesses of the overall authorization environment and prepare for the challenges of digitalization and landscape proliferation such as authorizations optimization, intersystem improvement, Solution Manager Integration and authorization automation.

For all of these activities, you will have to evaluate the impact on users and authorizations and decide on your individual approach how to adequately reply to it.

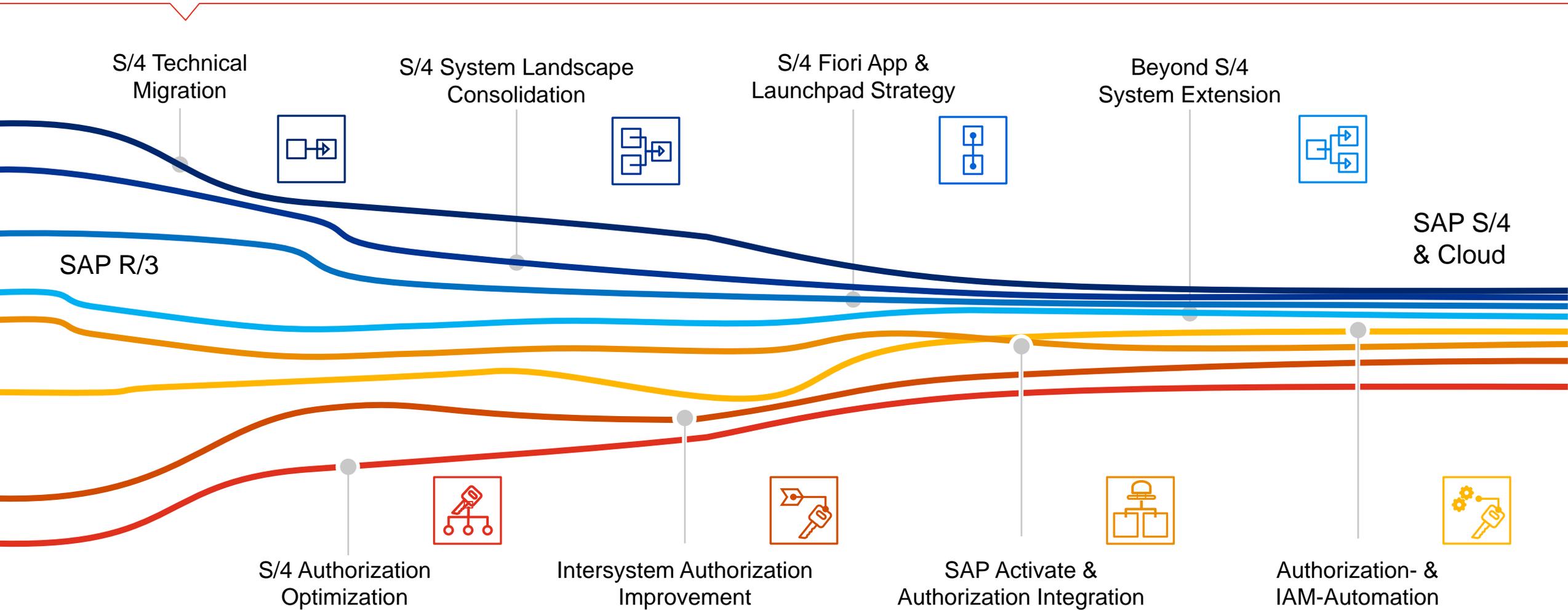


1

S/4 Transformation & Authorization Impact



S/4 -Transformation & Authorization Impact Overview



S/4 Activities with Authorization Impact

Details

The core challenge, when approaching a transformation from R/3 to S/4 are impacts on authorization induced by Non-Authorization transformation components.

This outer triggers extend from a purely minimal technical migration via a workover of the historically grown and partially redundant system landscape and a new UI5-Frontend and Navigation Strategy to the replacement and enhancement of functions with new Cloud solutions:

S/4 Technical Migration



Whatever else you intend to do as part of your S/4 Transformation, the following authorization activities are mandatory:

- Clean out any retired transactions from your existing role concepts
- Exchange existing roles with new roles with regard to the replaced functions specifically for the new g/l and the central maintenance of customers and vendors via business partners
- Identify transactions retired in favour of Fiori Apps and design an at least minimum Fiori App & Launchpad Role Concept

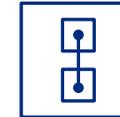
S/4 Landscape Optimization



In case you plan to combine the S/4 transition with a consolidation of your system landscape, the authorization impacts may be as follows:

- Identify, if roles from different now consolidated systems have overlapping functions and decide on lift and shift, reshaping or redesign approach
- Consolidation of roles from different systems covering the same functions
- Reshape missing organizational and functional segregations in existing roles / derivations

S/4 Fiori App & Launchpad Strategy



Fiori Apps & the Fiori Launchpad are a nearly unavoidable new layer on top of the S/4 application layer with the following authorization aspects:

- Identify, if the Fiori is installed on a separate instance than the S/4 backend or on a shared instance
- Identify, if the Fiori Launchpad shall be solely used for Fiori Apps or also for Transactions and WebDynpros
- Take a design decision on the relation between front- and backend-system
- Take a design decision on using joint or separate backend roles for transactions and Fiori Apps

Beyond S/4 System Extension



A transformation may not only refer to the continuation of existing R/3 with S/4-systems, but also to a replacement or enhancement with new SAP and Non-SAP-systems:

- Identify and retire the old transactions and corresponding roles to be retired in favor of new functions in new applications
- Design and implement role concepts for new applications conforming to a cross application business and application role concept
- Pay good attention to a proper delimitation and to backup roles in case of interface and system problems for interfaced processes

S/4 Authorization Focus Activities

Details

Besides changes necessitated by other S/4 activities, an increasing digitalization, integration and proliferation of the overall IT-environment calls for other authorization changes.

This ranges from an improved integration with process management, via improvements of historical deficits to making roles fit for heterogeneous environments and an increased automation of authorization management:

S/4 Authorization Optimization



The longer the life span of an R/3 system, the bigger the inconsistencies and deteriorations an authorization concept suffers:

- Analyze in good advance to a transformation, if the given role concept, standards, processes and organization are fit to support the future S/4 & Cloud environment
- Identify Deficiencies (e.g. based on audit reports and collected painpoints) and decide on at least minimum measures to have a solid foundation for the transformation move
- Prepare for actions to deal with remaining deficiencies that exceed the usual technical migration problems

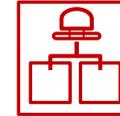
SAP Activate & Authorization Integration



With SAP Activate comes an improved capability of an integration of authorizations with project, process and test management:

- Prepare the transformation project with authorizations being an integral part of the overall activities and specifically the agile fit to standard and sprint cycles
- Establish a process design method using Solution Documentation that is capable to deliver a solid foundation for single and business role design
- Define the data model in a way, that test and training management are aligned with process and authorization management

Intersystem Authorization Improvement



S/4 transformation often change the landscape from a monolithic SAP focus to a proliferated SAP, Cloud & Web diversity:

- Identify process areas with users increasingly requiring access to multiple applications. Derive measures to harmonize role concepts across applications and implement business role concepts and automated access assignment procedures
- Check risk relevant process chains extending over multiple applications that require an improvement of the existing access controls and specifically the segregation of duties rules, analysis and resolution methods

Authorization & IAM Automation



A convincing proposal already in the pre-S/4 era, digitalization, proliferation and reaction time pressure makes automation a growing must have:

- Analyze your IT-solution environment (IAM / IdM, GRC AC, PIM / PAM) for their readiness for the intended changes as part of the S/4 transformation (and other changes as part of digitalization)
- Concentrate on automation measures that help you in the transformation or with handling the results of the transformation in steady state and that are making the best use of your changes to your authorization concept

S/4 Authorization Activities

Topic Backlog

The before mentioned 8 transformation domains are just significant examples for authorization impacts of S/4 transformation initiatives.

This can still be extended to more authorization topics depending on the individual situation:

	Topic	Description
	S/4 Business Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With S/4 comes the possibility to create analytical applications directly on the HANA database layer. This layer can be accessed in different ways. The way now preferred is via CDS-views granting access via classical PFCG roles & user accounts in the S/4 application layer. Still there are old analytical Apps that require privileges in the HANA layer.• Additionally with S/4 we see a more extensive use of different analytical backends from native HANA via CDS-views to BW/BW plus diverse frontends such as AfO, BO and Crystal. All of this requires a professional orchestration of the corresponding roles and authorizations in Synch with the overall intersystem role concept.
	Digital User Diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transformations (independently of S/4) have to address a proceeding digitalization of processes. That also includes an extension of user accounts from classical internal and external employee accounts to vendors, customers, carriers, agencies and last but not least robots as part of robotic process automation initiatives.• For all of these, the corresponding authorizations have to be created and the processes for role management, access assignment and access control have to be adjusted to cope with the new requirements. For vendors this often requires the enablement of external coordinators to maintain users without exceeding the contractual limitations.
	Connectivity Authorizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With the already mentioned increasing proliferation of the analytical and transactional application landscape comes a extreme increase of interfaces to be created, maintained and managed.• And of course this requires the creation and management of the corresponding technical users and the corresponding authorizations. And of course also this following the least privilege principles.• And if you may think that this was “not a big thing” in the past, the increasing relevance and exposure to risks cause by interfaces will change this. And not only for RFC-subjects but as well for all other special and technical users as well.
	Authorization Change Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the project comes the steady state (operation) of the role change management for application and business roles. With the exceeding number of applications following only partially comparable procedures based on the SAP Netweaver Stack, keeping control of them is increasingly getting complex.• Thus the processes and the supporting use of tools is highly important to not only start with a good situation at the end of the project, but to stay in control after it by adjusting and improving the change processes already in or before the project.

2

S/4 & Authorizations at your Company



S/4-Authorizations at your Company

Introduction

Now that you know the wonderful diversity of aspects of an S/4-Transformation, that may impact users and authorizations, you may use the following empty slides with regard to the introduced authorization impact, authorization focus and authorization backlog topics to evaluate the relevance and specific situation at your company with regard to all 12 aspects.

To get more details you may have a look at our other S/4-related IAGM-Whitepapers on our internet presence. See our link on the last slide.

S/4 Activities with Authorization Impact

Assumptions for your Company

	Relevance for XY Company	Intended Approach
 S/4 Technical Migration		
 S/4 Landscape Optimization		
 S/4 Fiori App & Launchpad Strategy		
 Beyond S/4 System Extension		

S/4 Authorization Focus Activities

Assumptions for your Company

	Relevance for XY Company	Intended Approach
 SAP Activate & Authorization Integration		
 S/4 Authorization Optimization		
 Intersystem Authorization Improvement		
 Authorization & IAM Automation		

S/4 Authorization Backlog Activities

Assumptions for your Company

	Relevance for XY Company	Intended Approach
 S/4 Business Analytics		
 Digital User Diversification		
 Connectivity Authorizations		
 Authorization Change Management		

S/4-Transformation & Authorizations

Other Suggestions

Did you find our Whitepaper on S/4-Transformation & Authorizations interesting?

You will find much more material about users and authorizations or how our service is called "Identity, Access and Governance Management" on our website.

Or just have a look at our IAGM-Explainer on Youtube for your entertainment. This is also suitable for communicating the relevance of authorizations to unwilling persons in charge.

IAGM-Internet Presence

- On our IAGM-Internet presence we provide you with further materials from role modeling (access modeling) to organization and processes (governance) and controls (compliance) to automation.
- <https://www.pwc.de/de/strategie-organisation-prozesse-systeme/identity-access-governance-management-iagm.html>

The screenshot shows a webpage titled "Identity, Access & Governance Management". It features a header with the title and a background image of a modern office hallway. Below the header, there is a section for "Ihr Experte für Fragen" (Your expert for questions) featuring a portrait of Johannes Liffers, Director of PwC Deutschland, with his contact information: Tel.: +49 30 2636-1658 and E-Mail. To the right of the portrait, there is a paragraph of text describing the IAGM services and their benefits. Below this text, there is a section titled "PwC IAGM Themenbereiche" (PwC IAGM topic areas) which includes a diagram showing a progression from "Identity & Access" to "Automation" across three levels: "Base", "Better", and "Beyond". The diagram is a 3D-style bar chart with a yellow-to-red gradient.

IAGM-Explainer (Youtube)

- Our IAGM-Explainer video demonstrates in a simple way how appropriate role concepts, clear organization and process design and the use of automation solutions can improve the management of users and rights.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmALfX3taJ0>

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player for the "PwC IAGM Explainer" video. The video thumbnail features a 3D isometric illustration of a city or office building layout with various icons representing different aspects of IAGM, such as a person, a gear, a document, and a network. The video title is "PwC IAGM Explainer" and it shows 326 views as of 01.12.2017. The YouTube interface includes a search bar at the top and social media sharing options at the bottom.

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