Practical Walkthrough: SAP S/4HANA 2023 Technical Upgrade (Finance Focused) Experience

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ASUG

About Me



- SAP Finance and Digital Transformation leader with more than three decades of experience driving enterprise finance modernization, SAP transformations, and business technology innovation. As Associate Director, IT SAP Finance at AbbVie, I lead strategic initiatives across SAP S/4HANA, Finance governance, ERP transformation, and business process optimization to enable operational excellence and sustainable growth.
- My career spans global leadership and consulting roles with organizations including AbbVie, Johnson Controls, and IBM, where I have delivered complex SAP Finance programs, major ERP transformations, M&A integrations, and large-scale modernization initiatives. I am passionate about leveraging SAP, automation, AI, and emerging technologies to simplify financial operations, strengthen business performance, and create lasting enterprise value.

Session Focus & What You'll Gain

Session Focus

- Explore our technical upgrade to SAP S/4HANA 2023 (Finance Focused)
- Guide you phase-by-phase from pre-project readiness to go-live

What You'll Gain

- Practical tips from hands-on experience
- Key lessons learned and best practices
- Actionable recommendations for future upgrades

MVP SCOPE

	Tech Remediation	Mandatory Changes	Standard Out of Box Features	Fast Follow Functionality
Description	Technical config & code adjustments are needed with the upgraded version of SAP, without altering core functionality. Functionality will be re-validated through regression testing	Mandatory changes resulting from SAP deprecating functionality currently used in AbbVie processes. These changes necessitate change management due to the introduction of a new system, user interface, and functionalities.	Enhanced features and capabilities, which can be utilized with minimal training. These features are standard offerings in the latest version of SAP S/4HANA, designed to improve user experience and the efficiency of executing existing processes	New functionality available in the latest version of SAP S/4HANA that addresses unmet business needs. These features are optional but, if adopted, require varying degrees of enhancements and change management.
Criteria	• No Change to Process • No Change to Business Logic • No Front-end changes • No change to user experience • Mandatory Code & Configuration Remediation	• Mandatory Changes to existing sub-process • T-Code Deprecation • Cosmetic Screen Changes or Major change in UX • Changes to Existing SAP Transactions • Impact to existing SAP Reports & Data	• New SAP Standard Reports • New SAP Standard Fiori App • No Extension or Enhancement Required • No Coding requirement to enable • No New FRS needed • Tech Change - Security Access Only • Training – Minimal & Aligned with Stakeholders	• New Non-Mandatory Functionality • Addresses unmet business need • Available in New Upgraded SAP version
Change Mgmt. Impact	Not Applicable	Low to High	Low	Medium to High

System Preparation & Prerequisites

- 🔧 Landscape Preparation
- N+1 landscape setup for upgrade isolation
- Periodic retrofits from N → N+1 landscape
- Sync N+1 and test BAU change impact

- 📋 Prerequisite Checks
- Source system compatibility validated
- Database & OS compatibility confirmed
- SAP add-on compatibility reviewed

- ✅ Prerequisite Steps
- SAP Readiness Check for S/4HANA Upgrade
- Simplification Item Check completed
- Maintenance Planner – generate Stack XML

Upgrade Strategy

🔧 Custom Code Remediation

- ATC checks as primary remediation lever
- Regression testing caught missed transactions

🔐 Managing Security Impact

- SU25 upgrade tool for role updates by priority
- Obsolete T-codes replaced; manual auth adjustments
- Mandatory Fiori apps deployed for deprecated GUIs

⏱️ Minimizing Downtime

- Lessons from Eval/Dev/Pre-QA reduced prod downtime
- Upgrade timeframes monitored to size Production runs

Testing Strategies

- Dedicated Sandbox for accelerated testing
- WRICEFs categorized by complexity level
- Scenario-driven, BPML-based regression testing
- Select user groups granted early environment access
- Early engagement with partner application owners to carve out time for Regression testing

Practical Lessons Learned

- Report Layouts – Manual realignment needed post-upgrade
- LTMC Adjustments – Cockpits tuned for large dataset reliability
- Costing Area – Custom exits adjusted for transaction currency (CKIS-FWAER)
- New Consistency Checks – Data/code fixes required; SAP partnership critical
- Deprecated T-Codes – Not all flagged by ATC; regression testing essential

Recommendations for Future Upgrades

Top Process Improvements

- Start pre-project readiness checks early
- Remediate custom code before project kickoff
- Simplify and rationalize enhancements upfront
- Adopt Fiori features early in lifecycle
- Engage business stakeholders from day one

Actionable Advice

- Strengthen cross-team communication continuously
- Plan downtime minimization strategies proactively
- Document and apply lessons learned consistently
- Build reusable test scripts for future upgrades
- Leverage SAP Activate methodology throughout

Audience Q&A / Discussion

Share your S/4HANA upgrade challenges

Ask about our process or recommendations

Discuss post-upgrade improvement strategies

Closing Thoughts & Success Preparation

Thorough preparation sets the stage for success

Cross-team synergy is crucial to managing challenges

Lessons learned ensure post-upgrade stability

Continuous improvement drives S/4HANA success

Thank you for joining our upgrade journey!

Please provide your feedback.



Thank you!!

Scan me!