

THE HIDDEN COST OF CUSTOM CODE

**Why Legacy ABAP is the Biggest Risk
to SAP S/4HANA Migration—and
How Intelligent Automation
Changes the Equation**

A practical guide for CIOs, SAP Program Managers, Enterprise Architects, and SAP CoE Leaders navigating ECC modernization and SAP Clean Core adoption.



Lower Risk



Faster
Migration



Lower Cost



Clean Core
Ready

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Across industries, organizations are accelerating their transition from SAP ECC to SAP S/4HANA. While infrastructure modernization and business process redesign often receive executive attention, one challenge consistently delays projects, increases costs, and introduces unnecessary business risk:

Custom ABAP Code

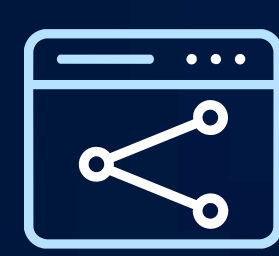
Over years—or even decades—SAP environments accumulate thousands of custom developments.



Reports



Enhancements



Interfaces



Forms



Function Modules



User Exits



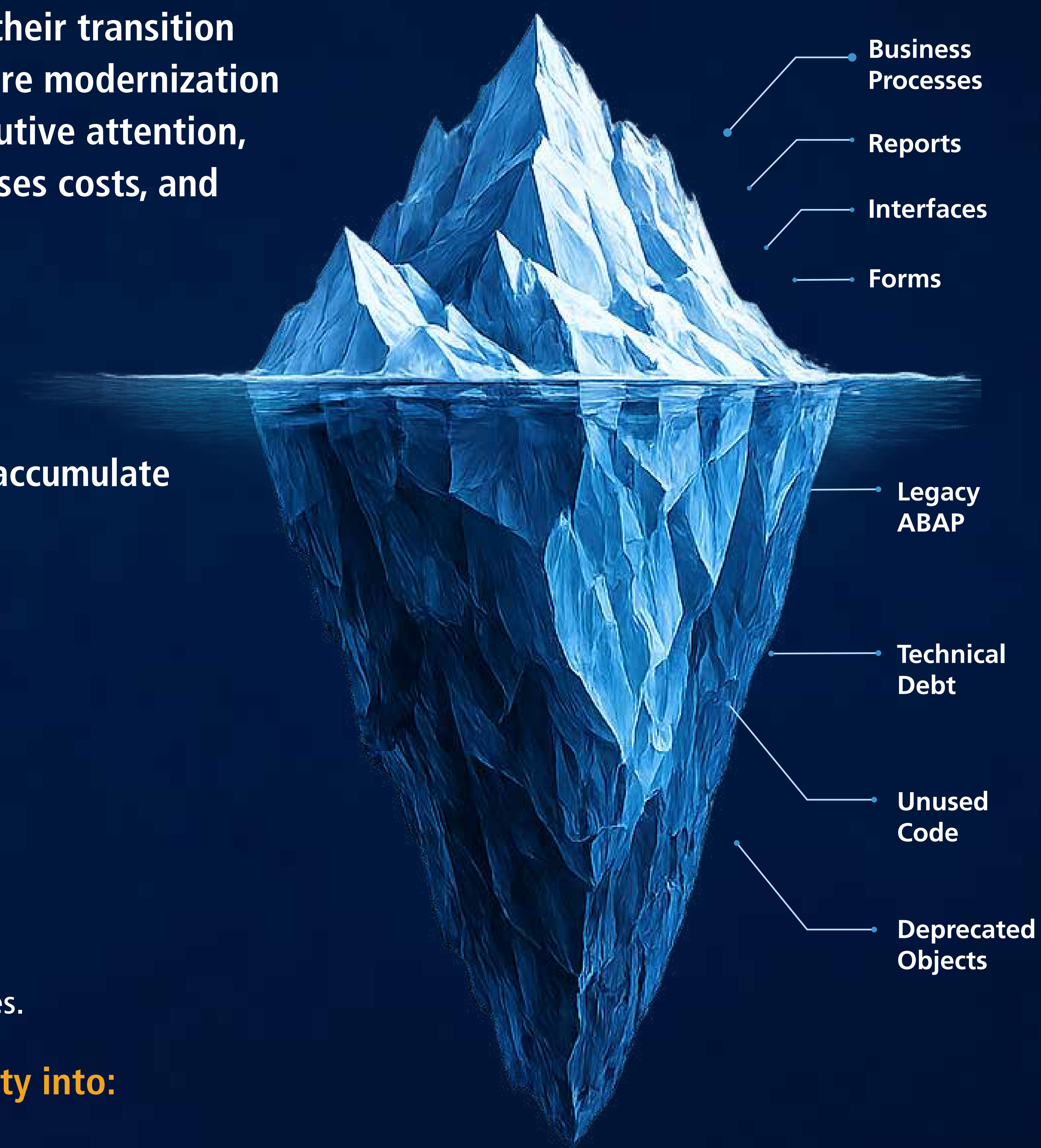
Custom Transactions

Many of these objects support mission-critical processes.

Unfortunately, most enterprises have little visibility into:

- which code is still used
- which code is obsolete
- which code is incompatible with S/4HANA
- which objects require remediation

As migration projects begin, organizations discover that custom code consumes **30–50% of the overall migration effort**, becoming one of the largest contributors to schedule overruns and consulting costs. Automation is becoming essential.



ECC



Custom Objects



Migration Bottleneck



Cost



Timeline



Risk

WHY CUSTOM CODE BECOMES A **MIGRATION** **BOTTLENECK**

Years of Business Innovation Create Technical Debt

Every SAP implementation evolves.

Organizations continuously build customizations to support:

- Industry-specific processes
- Customer requirements
- Compliance
- Reporting
- Integrations
- Automation

After 10–20 years, many ECC systems contain:

- tens of thousands of custom objects
- duplicate developments
- obsolete programs
- unused reports
- undocumented enhancements

The challenge isn't the existence of custom code.

It's understanding what should be migrated and what shouldn't.

Without automation, SAP teams often spend months simply determining where to begin.

Common Migration Challenges

Challenge	Business Impact
Manual code assessment	Delayed project start
Unknown dependencies	Production risk
Lack of documentation	Higher consulting effort
Large object volumes	Longer testing cycles
Multiple development teams	Governance issues
Parallel ECC & S/4 environments	Increased maintenance effort

The Cost of Manual Remediation

Traditional projects rely on:

 spreadsheets	 Manual ATC reviews	 Code walkthroughs	 consultant-driven Remediation	 Repetitive Testing
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This creates:

 Inconsistent Remediation Quality	 Resource Bottlenecks	 Expensive Consulting Engagements	 Delayed go-live
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A SMARTER APPROACH TO CUSTOM CODE MIGRATION

Introducing Intelligent Code Remediation

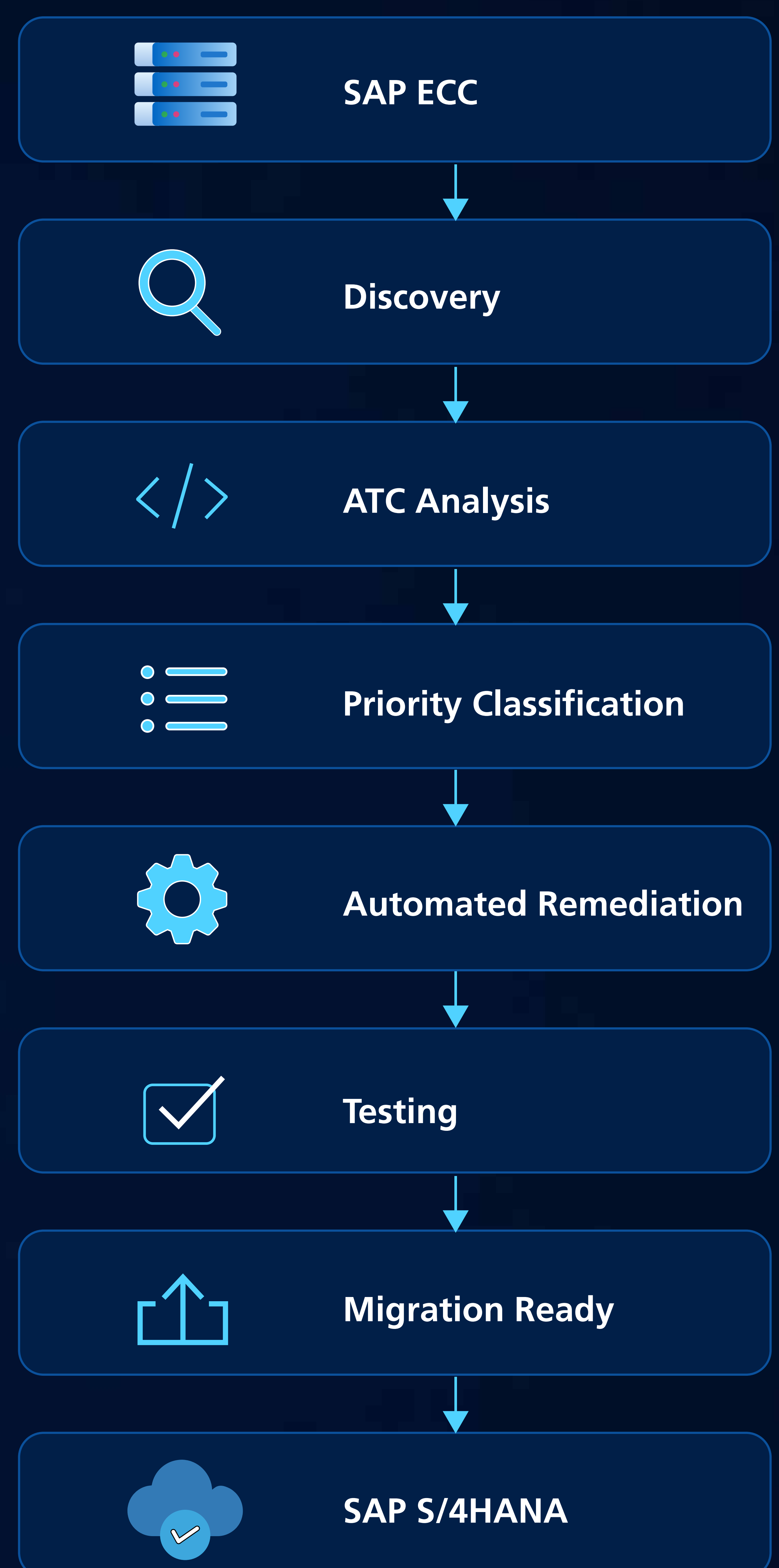
Rather than manually reviewing every object, organizations are increasingly adopting intelligent automation to analyze, prioritize, remediate, and validate custom code before migration. This dramatically reduces both effort and project uncertainty.

Diligent Global Smart Code Migration

Diligent Global's Smart Code Migration platform automates the most time-consuming phases of custom code remediation.

The solution enables organizations to:

- **Automated Discovery**
Scan SAP landscapes, Identify custom objects, and Classify remediation effort.
- **Intelligent Prioritization**
Leverages SAP ATC findings to categorize remediation priority: P1 | P2 | P3
Helping teams focus only on what matters most.
- **Automated Remediation**
Supports automated quick fixes aligned with SAP recommendations. Reduces repetitive manual development work while maintaining compliance.
- **Unit Testing Support**
Automates validation to reduce regression risk before deployment.
- **Audit-Ready Documentation**
Creates documentation throughout remediation to improve governance and project visibility.



BUSINESS OUTCOMES BEYOND FASTER MIGRATION

- **Accelerated Project Timelines**

Automation removes thousands of hours repetitive analysis and remediation work. Projects move from months of uncertainty to structured execution.

- **Lower Migration Costs**

Reduced dependency on large consulting teams. More efficient developer utilization. Lower overall remediation effort.

- **Reduced Business Risk**

Automated analysis improves consistency. SAP-recommended fixes reduce production issues. Comprehensive testing minimizes migration defects.

- **Clean Core Readiness**

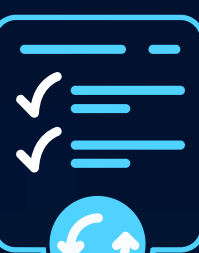
Organizations modernize without carrying unnecessary technical debt into S/4HANA. Supports SAP's Clean Core strategy for future upgrades.

- **Improved Governance**

Centralized dashboards provide visibility :

- Remediation progress
- Object status
- Testing completion
- Project readiness

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Traditional Migration		Automated Migration
	Months of code analysis	Automated discovery
	Manual prioritization	Intelligent classification
	High consulting effort	Reduced remediation workload
	Long testing cycles	Automated validation
	Limited visibility	End-to-end dashboards

FUTURE-PROOFING SAP TRANSFORMATION WITH DILIGENT GLOBAL

SAP modernization is no longer just about upgrading software.

It is an opportunity to simplify landscapes, reduce technical debt, and establish a foundation for continuous innovation.

Organizations that automate custom code remediation can:

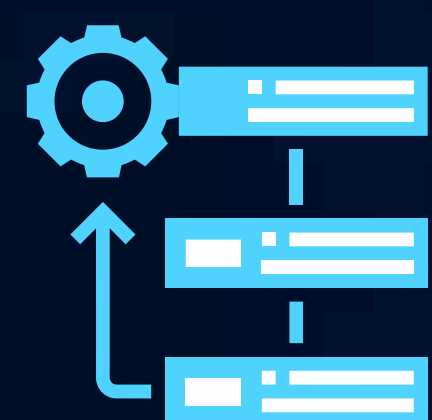
- ✓ migrate faster
- ✓ reduce project costs
- ✓ improve governance
- ✓ minimize business disruption
- ✓ accelerate Clean Core adoption

WHY DILIGENT GLOBAL

Diligent Global combines SAP consulting expertise with intelligent automation to simplify complex transformation programs.



Automated
custom code
discovery



SAP ATC-based
prioritization



Automated
remediation



Unit testing
support



Audit-ready
documentation



SAP-aligned
Clean Core
approach



Faster
time-to-value





READY TO ACCELERATE YOUR SAP MIGRATION?

Discover how Diligent Global's Smart Code Migration solution can help reduce remediation effort, shorten migration timelines, and support a Clean Core strategy.



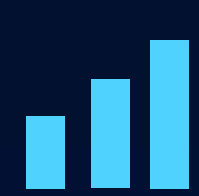
Accelerate Migration



Reduce Costs



Reduce Risk



Improve Governance



Future-Proof Your Enterprises

SCAN TO
**SCHEDULE
A CONSULTATION**



Schedule Your Personalized Assessment
or Product Demonstration Today

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Your Transformation. Our Expertise. Real Results.
Intelligent Automation. SAP Expertise. Business Impact.