No. 60

S/4HANA ROLE CONVERSION

S/4HANA Conversion Role Redesign

Moving ECC roles to SAP S/4HANA with SU25, SU24, the Simplification Item Catalog and Fiori, explained for beginners

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to use this book

What this book covers, who it is for, and how to use it.

Converting an SAP ERP (ECC) system to **SAP S/4HANA** changes much more than the database. Transactions disappear or are replaced, the data model changes, the **business partner** replaces separate customer and vendor maintenance, and **SAP Fiori** apps become the main user interface. Every one of these changes affects **roles and authorizations**.

Security experts at Xiting have written that SAP changed more than 5,500 objects that might affect authorizations, which is why most conversion projects need at least a partial role redesign. This book explains, for beginners, how to plan and run that work: analysis, mapping, SU24 and SU25, Fiori catalogs, testing, segregation of duties and go-live.

Which versions this book covers

- **System conversions** (brownfield) from SAP ERP 6.0 to **SAP S/4HANA 2023 and 2025**.
- Notes on **S/4HANA Cloud, Private Edition** (RISE) and on upgrades between S/4HANA releases.
- SAP tools such as the **Simplification Item Catalog**, **SAP Readiness Check**, **SU24**, **SU25**, **PFCG** and Fiori task lists.

Details change with each release and feature pack. Always check the conversion guide and notes for your target release.

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Who this book is for

- **SAP security consultants** responsible for roles.
- **Project managers** planning S/4HANA conversions.
- **Basis teams** running conversion tasks.
- **Business process owners** who approve roles and test them.

How the book is organized

- **Part I — Foundations** (Chapters 1–4): why roles change, approaches, project phases and information sources.
- **Part II — Analysis** (Chapters 5–9): role inventory, usage, transaction mapping, custom code and changed authorization objects.
- **Part III — Building roles** (Chapters 10–16): SU24, SU25, updating roles, Fiori basics, catalogs, deployment options and derived roles.
- **Part IV — Testing and go-live** (Chapters 17–23): testing, SoD, critical access, cutover, hypercare, cloud notes and a worked example.
- **Reference**: checklists, glossary and further reading.

Callouts

TIP
Practical advice you can use straight away.

IN SAP
Product-specific details and names.

WATCH OUT
Common misunderstandings.

KEY IDEA
The one thing to remember from a section.

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A note on screens and examples

Screens are **simplified illustrations**, not copies of SAP screens. Company names, roles and numbers in the examples are invented.

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PART I

Foundations

These chapters explain why roles change in S/4HANA, the main approaches, the phases of a role project and where to find reliable information.

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CHAPTER 1

Why roles change in S/4HANA

S/4HANA changes the things that roles are built from.

A role in SAP is built from **menu items** (transactions, apps, services) and **authorizations** (objects with field values). S/4HANA changes both.

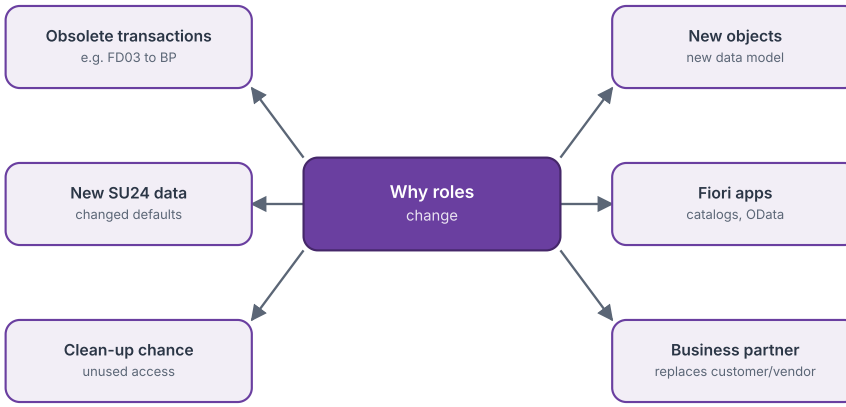


Figure 1.1 The main reasons ECC roles need work in S/4HANA.

What changes

- **Obsolete transactions**: some ECC transactions no longer exist. A well-known example: customer display **FD03** is replaced by the business partner transaction **BP**.
- **New data model**: finance, logistics and master data tables are simplified, and some authorization checks change.
- **Business partner**: customers and suppliers are maintained through the business partner, with its own authorization objects.

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- **Fiori**: apps need business catalogs, OData services and back-end authorizations.
- **Changed SU24 data**: SAP's default authorization proposals change with the release.

What happens if you do nothing

After a technical conversion, existing roles still exist, but users may find transactions missing, apps not visible, or authorization errors. Worse, some roles may give **more access than intended** if new transactions are added without review.

> **KEY IDEA**
> A conversion is the moment when roles break anyway. Use it to fix them properly.

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CHAPTER 2

Approaches to role conversion

Choose between converting roles and redesigning them.

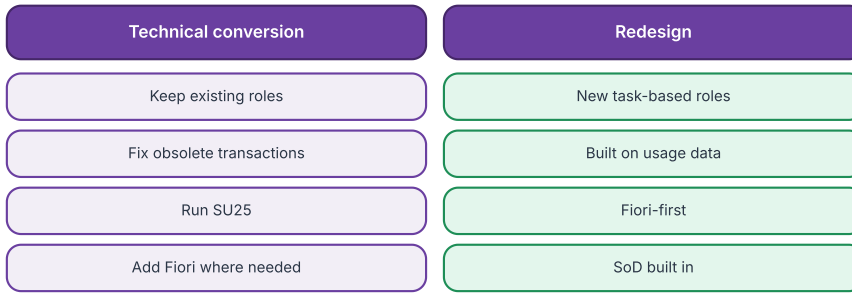


Figure 2.1 The two main approaches to moving roles to S/4HANA.

Technical conversion

Keep the existing role structure, replace obsolete transactions, run SU25 and add Fiori access where needed. This is faster and less disruptive, but carries old problems such as excess access and SoD conflicts into S/4HANA.

Redesign

Build new roles based on how people actually work, using usage data, Fiori apps and SoD rules from the start. This takes more time and business involvement but gives a cleaner result.

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