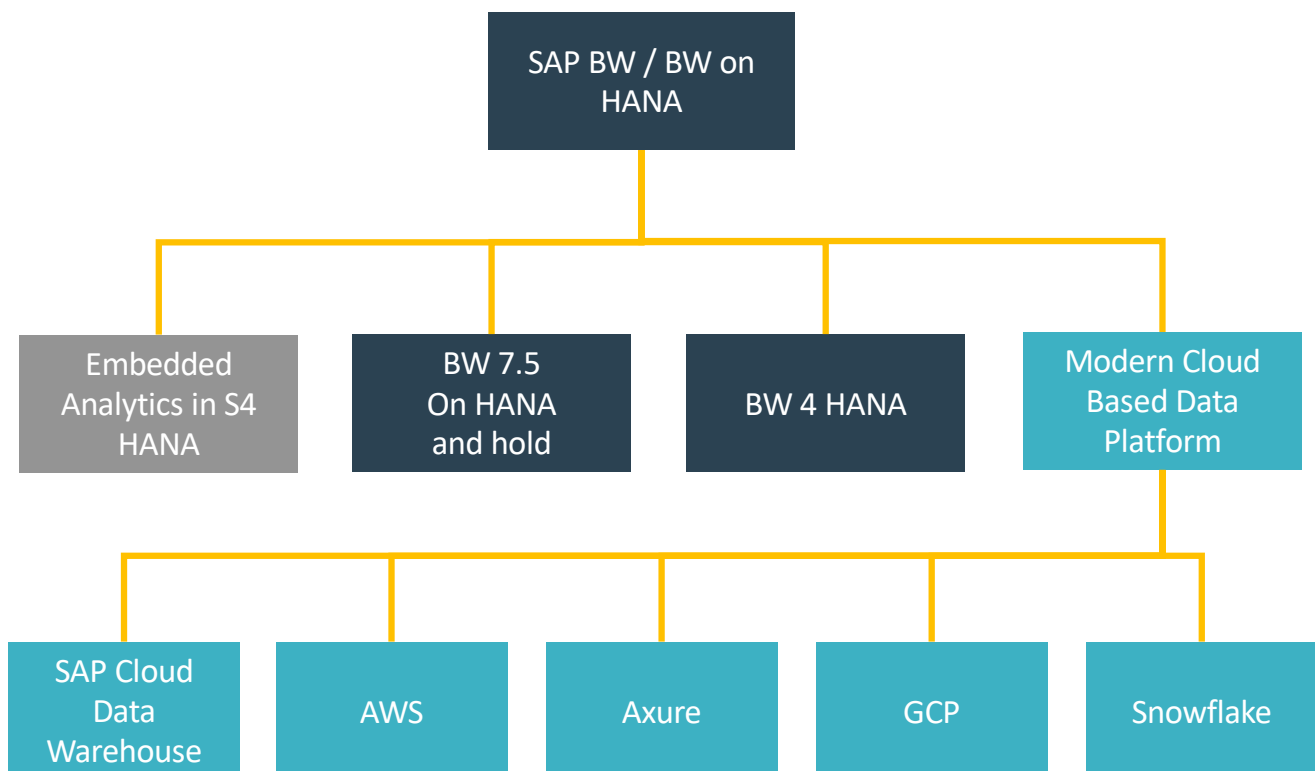


Where to for SAP BW Customers Holding Patten or move forward



If you are still running SAP BW or BW on HANA, you will need to consider your future direction and make a conscious discussion to upgrade to BW7.5 on HANA and stay there with minimal improvements and a reducing base of resources who can support it moving forward. BW 4 HANA is a big change and not just a technical upgrade, it is a good time to consider your options.

The following is our thoughts and items to consider based on our experience with SAP customers. Your ideal solution will vary depending on your size, IT landscape and requirements. Your ideal solution could be a combination of solutions



Embedded Analytics in S4 HANA

Unless you are delaying the move the S4 HANA embedded analytics within S4 HANA should be part of the solution, either via FIORI analytics or SAC on top of CDS views. A lot of complexity has been added into BW solution over the years to solve operational reporting requirement that should come directly from the ERP system. However there are limits and for most SAP S4 customer Embedded Analytics will only be part of the solution. (look out for our future blog on the limits of SAP S4 embedded analytics)

BW 7.5 on HANA – The holding pattern option

BW 7.5 on HANA is supported until 2027 and potential 2030, older version of BW can upgrade to BW 7.5 without major rework so it is a valid holding paten option. Consider this option if you have a large investment in your BW or BPC system and it is meeting your requirements, you don't need to innovate or add new functionality.

Where to for SAP BW Customers

The Options



The big discussion is moving to BW 4 HANA vs Cloud native Modern data platform. BW 4 HANA is a big change with benefit over traditional BW. There is a 3rd scenario where we have a small BW4 HANA system to support BPC as a central planning and financial consolidation tool (more on BPC in future blogs).

BW 4 HANA

or

Modern Cloud Native Data Platform

You would choose BW 4 HANA as your future EDW when you are a SAP centric customer, have a large investment in BW based solution and have an established skill set in BW and HANA. If you also have non-SAP data, you should consider a modern cloud-based data lake to complement BW 4 HANA.

Which Modern Cloud Native Data Platform

We prefer a lake house architecture for SAP ECC / S4HANA customer (see our previous blogs)

SAP Data Warehouse Cloud

A good option for end to end SAP centric customer. It is not as open as the other options and doesn't really have a data lake but works with data lakes from AWS, Azure and GCP. You will get out of the box extractors for most SAP solutions and end to end support from SAP especially when you combine it with SAP Analytics cloud. It supports the concept of centrally controlled, business unit controlled and sandpit data and has the best data catalogue and data lineage out of the box. It is likely to be more expensive than the below options.

AWS and Azure Lake House architecture

AWS Azure and GCP have similar serverless data lake functionality that can scale on a pay by use basis. The data warehouse components in AWS and Azure (Redshift and Synapse Analytics) have advantages over GCP and snowflake when dealing with complex data relationships and fast changing data found in supply chain, maintenance & asset management and other common areas of SAP ECC and S4HANA. We are happy to discuss the finer points of difference between these two platforms. How you design and implement is more important and the choice between these two.

GCP Big Query

GCP is one of the easiest to setup and use. But that ease of use come with less options in the data warehouse layer. GCP's option for dealing with fast changing complex data relationships require a lot more re-processing of data that can be problematic for SAP ECC / S4 data. If you are just dealing with finance or sales data (without supply chain) GCP is fine.

Snowflake

For a long time, snowflake lead the way in cloud data warehouses. AWS, GCP and Azure have now caught up. AWS and Azure have advantages when dealing with fast changing data and complex data relationships.

Look out for our next blog of extracting and processing SAP data in a native cloud data platform – contact us for advise or roadmaps