S/4HANA Upgrade Planning & Execution

A controlled path from the source release through SUM to an accepted target system.

Technical delivery path

Current S/4HANA Source system
Release and add-on scope

→

Maintenance Planner
Stack XML and media

→

Software Update Manager
SUM technical phases

→

Target S/4HANA Validated system
Operations handover

Configuration sequence

1 ASSESS
Confirm release path, add-ons, HANA/OS requirements, capacity and upgrade impacts.

2 PLAN
Use Maintenance Planner for stack XML and media; agree freeze and ownership.

3 REHEARSE
Run SUM in DEV and QAS; resolve checks and measure downtime and postprocessing.

4 EXECUTE
Take approved backups, run production cutover, monitor SUM and validate results.

Technical coverage

AREA	CONFIGURATION / CHECK	EVIDENCE / VALIDATION
Release scope	Verify product version, add-ons, components, business functions and target support.	System inventory and Maintenance Planner results
Readiness checks	Review simplification items, custom code impacts, SUM prerequisites and open issues.	Check results, owners and resolved findings
Backup and cutover	Confirm HANA backup, restore path, transport freeze, downtime and decision points.	Backup evidence, rehearsal timings and cutover plan
SUM execution	Prepare stack XML and media; monitor SUM checks, uptime, downtime and logs.	SUM phase status, logs and issue register
Postprocessing	Coordinate SPDD/SPAU, application tasks, Fiori checks and technical handover.	Adjustment status and validation sign-off

Operational note: Use the upgrade guide for the exact target release together with the applicable SUM guide. An S/4HANA release upgrade has different prerequisites from an ECC-to-S/4HANA conversion.