



Moving a full SAP estate to Azure in 11 weeks for a global food company





At a glance

- A global, family-owned food company had to move its entire SAP estate out of a third-party data center that was due to close, against a fixed deadline.
- We rehosted the landscape to Microsoft Azure as-is, keeping versions and server names the same so users saw no change.
- Migration ran in planned waves - QA first, then Production, then Development and Sandbox - with a full rehearsal and a disaster recovery drill before go-live.
- The full landscape moved in about 11 weeks, and the data center exit happened on schedule.
- The new platform is designed for 99.9% availability, with cross-region disaster recovery and a foundation for SAP S/4HANA and analytics.

Core SAP operations in a data center due to close

As a global, family-owned food company, the client has more than two centuries of heritage and a portfolio of well-known consumer brands. It employs around 3,500 people and operates production sites in Asia, North America and Europe. North America is its largest market, built in part through acquisitions.

SAP sits at the center of that business. The company's SAP systems run core operations such as manufacturing, supply chain, finance and analytics. Like every consumer food company, it has to respond quickly to changing demand, supply-chain pressure and tight margins, and that takes technology that can scale with the business.

The company's SAP estate was hosted in a third-party data center that was due to close. The exit date was fixed, so the full landscape had to move to the cloud quickly and safely, without disrupting the business.

The aging setup had its own limits. It was hard to scale, expensive to run and offered limited disaster recovery. The company also had limited control over the outgoing hosting provider, so the move needed careful planning to avoid risk.

The deadline was also an opportunity. The migration was part of the company's wider digital strategy, and it saw the cloud as a way to lower its total cost of ownership and gain the flexibility to support future business initiatives.

A low-risk, as-is SAP migration to Microsoft Azure

Brillio proposed a low-risk lift-and-shift that kept business processes unchanged. Our approach combined SAP and Microsoft Azure expertise with automation-led migration, a firm commitment to the timeline and a single team of SAP, Azure, network and database specialists. It was designed to rely as little as possible on the outgoing provider, which protected the schedule.

The entire SAP estate was migrated to Microsoft Azure as an as-is rehost. That covered many Windows, Linux and SQL Server systems across ECC, supply-chain planning, BW/BPC, BusinessObjects, GRC and more, in the Development, QA, Sandbox and Production environments.

The new platform was built around six elements:

- A secure cloud foundation - a new Azure environment with a dedicated private network connection, Palo Alto firewalls and built-in governance.
- Near-zero disruption - Azure Migrate and database replication moved the systems with only a short cutover window. Versions and server names stayed the same.
- Built-in resilience - disaster recovery in a second Azure region, plus automated backups, monitoring and security tools.
- Smarter operations - our ADAM platform (formerly brilliance.ai) provides monitoring, service management and cloud cost visibility, while reusable automation templates speed up future changes.
- Right-sized, SAP-certified systems - each system was sized to its real workload using SAP and Microsoft guidelines, and the analytics platform moved to SAP-certified versions on Azure.
- Clear governance - standard naming, tagging and access controls give clear ownership and cost tracking across every environment.

Migrating in waves, with every lesson carried forward

The program began with assessment workshops alongside the client's SAP, infrastructure and network teams. These mapped the current systems and their dependencies, and shaped a target design that Microsoft reviewed.

We then built the Azure foundation and migrated the environments in planned waves: QA first, then Production, then Development and Sandbox. Lessons from the QA migration were captured and applied to Production, which reduced risk in each later wave. Production went through a full rehearsal and a disaster recovery drill before go-live, and hypercare followed each go-live.

Joint governance meetings ran daily, weekly and bi-weekly. Microsoft contributed design review and investment support, and Palo Alto Networks provided the security layer. The client's business teams validated each environment before sign-off.

Brillio also committed to building the client's in-house cloud skills. We handed over runbooks and templates so its IT team could run the new platform confidently.

On-time delivery with stronger resilience and lower costs

- Full SAP landscape moved to Azure in about 11 weeks, with minimal business disruption
- Legacy data center exited on schedule
- Platform designed for 99.9% availability
- Cross-region disaster recovery with a recovery point of 1 hour and a recovery time of 4 hours
- Lower infrastructure and licensing costs through reuse of existing Microsoft licenses and cloud resources sized to actual need
- A more secure and scalable platform, with less reliance on a third-party host and stronger in-house cloud skills
- Much faster setup of new environments and future workloads, using reusable automation templates
- Better leadership visibility and control over IT spend through clear cost tracking and centralized monitoring
- Readiness for future modernization such as SAP S/4HANA and analytics



ABOUT BRILLIO

Brillio is The Enterprise AI Accelerator helping Fortune 1000 companies move from AI ambition to scaled impact, faster. Powered by our AI accelerator platform – Agentic Data and Application Management (ADAM), Brillio is one of the fastest-growing digital technology service providers, delivering transformation across five core workstreams: business-led transformation, customer experience transformation, AI and data engineering, digital engineering, and infrastructure engineering.

With 14 delivery locations across North America, Europe, and Asia and a team of over 6,000 customer-obsessed professionals, Brillio combines deep industry expertise, modern engineering, and accelerators to deliver measurable outcomes. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, Brillio serves clients globally with a commitment to speed, scale, and measurable impact.



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