Managed Application Retirement Services (M.A.R.S.)

SAP data: Historization beats archiving and continued operations

What should companies do with legacy data and systems?

Thousands of laws worldwide require companies to retain data for defined periods of time. In Germany business documents must be retained for between six and ten years, whereas medical and pharmaceutical-related documents must be held for up to 30 years. Other datasets, such as from applicants, former customers, or suppliers, are required to be removed after GDPR limitations have passed. However, many companies now face a dilemma: How do they successfully migrate legacy data before support for their current SAP systems ends in 2027?

Historization for legacy data instead of migration to SAP HANA – Example: SAP IS-U

This also applies to energy suppliers using the SAP industry solution SAP IS-U (Industry Solutions for Utilities). At the end of 2027, SAP will discontinue support for SAP IS-U and offer the successor versions SAP S/4HANA utilities, and SAP C4U exclusively. SAP IS-U is used to manage master data, billing, sales, customer service, energy data, device management, and for real-time monitoring of grids and networks, among other functions. In addition, SAP IS-U can be linked with numerous SAP modules for process optimization and around 160 SAP transaction codes.

If you migrate all the legacy data from SAP IS-U to the successor systems, you can expect significant costs. The same applies to archiving or continued operations in a system without support like SAP IS-U, which becomes a security risk. With Managed Application Retirement Services (M.A.R.S.), we offer a secure, cost-efficient alternative: historization of all the legacy data – Allowing you to reduce operating costs by up to 80 percent compared to legacy systems, whether SAP or non-SAP.

Why choose T-Systems?

- Based in Germany: Data sovereignty under German and EU law
- 43,000 cloud systems run by T-Systems for multinational corporations and the public sector since 2004
- Industry expertise through in-depth knowledge and understanding of the specialized applications (utilities, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, finance, insurance, construction, and many more)
- > 10 years experience with historization
- > 1,000 legacy systems replaced and retired
- > 1,000 TB of data migrated

Report and view: The Managed Application Retirement Services (M.A.R.S.) historization solution separates the data from SAP and non-SAP applications, while remaining accessible. M.A.R.S allows companies to meet all data retention requirements without running the legacy system, which ends in 2027.
Highly secure, cost-efficient, and compliant

How does T-Systems do it? Before starting the migration we use an analysis tool to identify redundant data records and delete them. We then separate your data from the application and save it in the high-security M.A.R.S. cloud environment. It is then hosted at T-Systems’ largest, most modern data center, in Magdeburg/Biere. Additionally, this delivers extensive IT services for German federal ministries, the German armed forces, and operators of critical infrastructure.

Your data is now stored via a read-only stack in an MS SQL database: Consequently, subsequent editing and changes are now impossible; only fully compliant reporting and viewing — and deletion. T-Systems has used M.A.R.S. to migrate over 1,000 TB of data in historization projects and retire more than 1,000 legacy systems.

Historization reduces CO₂ emissions and cuts costs

A complete historization project can be implemented in three to six months. Once the data is migrated to the M.A.R.S. cloud, and the legacy systems are shut down, you benefit from sustainable data center operations. For every retired system that contains 1 TB of data, a company prevents annual CO₂ emissions of 4.4 tons. If 12 applications are retired, CO₂ emissions can be reduced by around 790 tons over 15 years.

Enjoy significant cost savings: If an SAP system has 750 GB of data that is retained for 15 years, a continued operation of the legacy system will cost around €580,000 overall (real customer example). If you use T-Systems’ historization solution, it will cost only around €225,000 within the same period, offering savings of over €350,000.

Benefits of M.A.R.S.

- Retirement of legacy systems reduces the complexity and risks
- Up to 80 percent cost savings through historization
- Indefinite availability of data via web app
- Product documentation certified by auditors
- Reduce CO₂ emissions through our sustainable data center operations (Green Magenta)
- Certified under ISO 27001 to TCDP 1.0
- Legally watertight solution, compliant with laws and regulations in around 190 countries
- Satisfies compliance requirements of international corporations and the public sector
- Retention management ensures compliant deletion of data (GDPR: “right to be forgotten”)