State of Arkansas: Lessons from Three Parallel SAP HANA Migrations and a Conversion to SAP BW/4HANA

LSI CONSULTING INC

Innovative SAP Solutions for Public Enterprises

Bringing the benefits of in-memory computing to 30,000 Arkansas employees and 200 agencies

The U.S. State of Arkansas wanted to accelerate interaction with its ERP system and create a virtual data warehouse on a single platform to enable innovation and gain insights across the organization. This entailed the on-premise turnkey upgrade of the entire technical ecosystem of the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System, the ERP system that serves the state government. Due to the magnitude of the project, Arkansas knew it needed an implementation partner with in-depth experience and proven expertise.

Arkansas teamed up with ValueStream for the highly successful migration to a single platform, supporting innovation.

In six months, the team migrated the SAP® ERP application to SAP Business Suite powered by SAP HANA®, as well as the SAP Business Warehouse application on IBM Db2 first to SAP Business Warehouse powered by SAP HANA and then to the SAP BW/4HANA solution, the first successful conversion of its kind in the U.S. public sector. Best practices included:

- Using fresh copies from production in sandbox environments, helping identify 85%–90% of data and system issues before reaching development
- Repeating migration scripts across nonproduction environments, providing well-tested scripts for production cutover
- Sticking to the script at each iteration and explaining any deviations due to environment-specific factors before exiting the iteration phase
- Dividing the project into three separate parallel tracks to reduce risk
- Creating a robust testing plan that covered all key processes • Limiting change during the project by imposing a soft freeze when beginning development systems and a hard freeze when migrating quality assurance systems
- Having well-defined quality exit gates at each milestone, allowing movement to the next phase only after mitigating all defects and risks in the previous phase
- Engaging LSI Consulting to provide additional expertise

"Migrating to SAP BW/4HANA addressed our extreme need for state-of-the-art reporting technology. This strategic upgrade provides a platform that will open doors to more views of our data, bringing better insight and value to the State of Arkansas."
—Mark Rago, Interim CIO, State of Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

ABOUT LSI

LSI was founded in 1998 as a dedicated SAP Services consultancy created to offer high impact SAP products and services for Federal, State, Local Government, Transportation, Education, and the Healthcare markets. From our humble beginnings providing SAP implementation services, LSI has become the leader in Public Sector digital transformation.

Today we are taking the lead in applying next level intelligent technologies to enable the Intelligent Enterprise. Technologies that will again transform our industry to world-class levels of transparency, quality and efficiency. As technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, the internet of things (IoT), advanced analytics and blockchain technologies become mainstream, no organization in the U.S is better positioned to harness the power of SAP and the Intelligent Enterprise for public services.

Partnering with Valuestream Inc.

As a core member of SAP's Global Database Migration Factory, ValueStream's dedicated focus is on SAP HANA Migration and Analytics Technologies. Digital transformation requires a migration to in-memory computing and Valuestream consultants have aided SAP with multiple high visibility, complicated and large-scale migrations. The unique combination of LSI's public services domain knowledge aligned with Valuestream's HANA expertise has proven to optimize migrations and implementations for regulated industries.

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LSI's Partnership with SAP

As an SAP Gold Partner LSI is certified to implement and re-sell all components of SAP S/4, Success Factors, Ariba, HANA and Analytics. We are dedicated to SAP only and are the go-to partner for Federal, State, Local Government, Education and Healthcare organizations. We have assisted SAP in best-practices for Public Sector clients by developing requirements and solutions with the SAP Development Team for SAP S/4 Public Sector Cloud, SAP Public Sector Budgeting, and SAP Student Lifecycle Management. LSI is the only implementor that what the first to design and develop SAP training course for Public Sector, and is the only go-to-market partner for Higher Education SAP Student Information System. We are the only SAP NS2 Secure HANA Cloud (SHC), SAP SuccessFactors, SAP Analytics Cloud, and SAP Cloud Platform reseller.

Additionally, LSI has assisted SAP in designing the SAP's Budget Control Solution and engaged with SAP Public Sector IBU around S/4 HANA cloud for public sector. and is now a SAP NS2 Secure HANA Cloud (SHC) reseller.