Datavard

Boehringer Ingelheim - Creating value through innovation

Pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim converted its central SAP system 1:1 to S/4HANA. A critical part of the big bang: validating processes and data. Datavard supported the conversion with its certified validation tool and dedicated experts.

Boehringer Ingelheim - System Conversion

Pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim drives forward its transformation with the conversion of its global ERP system to SAP S/4HANA. It forms the digital core for the areas of finance, supply chain, trade, operations, and quality assurance. The go-live was carried out simultaneously in 41 countries within just four days. Boehringer's goal by 2025: A central ERP and uniform global standards.

Nick Taylor, Project Manager for the major project, still remembers the long weekend in October 2020 well, when the big bang took place: "On Thursday we stopped the system, on Monday the new ERP was up and running - it can be summed up as simply as that." There is probably an element of British understatement in there; after all, more than 600 employees worldwide and a multitude of steps had to be coordinated over the course of two years for the planned changeover. A particular challenge: transferring data into the new system with proof that it is identical. "From a finance perspective and GxP good working practice regulations, a migration changes the database and data structure, which thus requires validation," Taylor explains.

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> Project Manager, Boehringer Ingelheim

CHALLENGES

- Simultaneous SAP S/4HANA conversion in 48 countries in 4 days

- Validation of processes and data (before and after picture)

- Uniform standards required worldwide

Boehringer Ingelheim - System Conversion

The classic approach would have been to pull a ledger report from the old and new systems and compare them. "That probably would have worked if there had been just one country, but we converted 41 countries and had over 80 company codes." The auditor also had clear specifications for reports, inventories and statuses of the data - it couldn't be done with manual reconciliation within the four days in October, there weren't enough experts to do it.

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**Datavard Validate
KEY BENEFITS**

- KPMG Certified

- Predefined standard ERP content (developed for S/4 migration support)

- Automated data validation (cross-system)

- Listcube and query validation

- Frontend testing (BeX, Webi, DesignStudio)

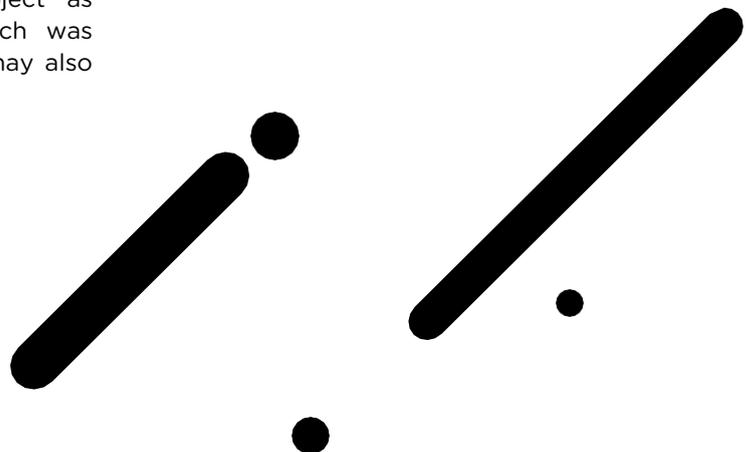- Query Performance Stress Test

- Creation of documentation

During the DSAG Technology Days, Taylor got into conversation with Datavard about its tool - Validate, which makes and automates the before-and-after reconciliation for SAP S/4HANA conversions. "This looked like a good solution for us." However, it was decided to first run a proof of concept and test the program intensively before making a final decision.

Upon completion of the successful PoC, Boehringer Ingelheim ordered consulting services in addition to the license in order to support the S/4 conversion project as needed. The fact that Validate and its approach was certified by KPMG for this type of reconciliation may also have supported the decision to go with Datavard.

Boehringer Ingelheim - System Conversion

Preparing the data for the big bang made up almost the entire project, Taylor recalls. In addition, GxP also required processes to be validated. "So, we integrated Datavard Validate into various phases of the project to show early on that we were headed in the right direction." This also allowed for feedback from auditors and adjustments to be made.

"The structured approach is typical in Pharma," says Taylor. "In the end, we ran 99 percent of our test plans in the GxP environment." Ongoing audits ultimately turned the planned four conversion cycles into eight.

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LESSONS LEARNED

Three insights from Boehringer Ingelheim project manager Nicholas Taylor on the migration project from ECC to S/4HANA:

- Don't get discouraged: Even if the project seems big at first, it's doable. Sometimes you find the solution where you least expect it.

- Involve SAP: Support is essential for a successful changeover. Even if the coordination is sometimes time-consuming.

- Training on the job: one conversion cycle works, the next one goes wrong. Surprises are on the agenda. The more you practice, the more you learn.

According to the Project Manager, surprises came to light with the financial data: "Datavard helped us and pointed out problems so that we could specifically look for the cause of the errors." There was also concern that the conversion could not be completed in time during the big bang, even with Validate, because of the large number of company codes. Therefore, with Datavard's support, they worked "to clear the mountain". **By archiving in advance, he said, the data volume shrank from about four TB (ECC) to 1.5 TB (HANA).** "It makes perfect sense to integrate a clean-up into a project like this."

Validate was only one element of the successful data migration - the Project Manager was also satisfied with the cooperation: "If we needed support at short notice, Datavard´s on-call support found a solution quickly and without complications. Technical experts were called in for deeper questions: "After all, we were still learning, as we had never used the tool before," says Taylor. The human exchange counted for a lot - with technology partners, but also with other organizations that have similar problems on the agenda or already solved: "The give and take is what moves us all forward." With success - the big bang of data worked as it should.

For Boehringer Ingelheim's Project Manager Taylor meanwhile, the journey continues in the post-conversion phase: The global SAP transformation is taking place gradually in different markets and will be completed in 2025.

About Datavard Validate

During migration to HANA (on-premise or cloud), structural changes due to HANA functionalities and conversion to BW/4 or S/4 as well as a front-end migration, data must be tested and validated. The goal is to prove that the migration/change has been implemented completely and correctly. However, testing analytical systems differs from standard testing because it requires a comparison of before and after images as well as thousands of data sets. A simple, but due to the amount of data, tedious and time-consuming activity.

Datavard Validate does the work for you and automates it. In addition, the use of SAP queries and capture the input parameters to use them as test cases. Testing is similar to the way business users work in the system - but without an unnecessary workload or an increasing demand for storage space. In the long run, it slows down data growth and improves system performance. Datavard Validate pays for itself quickly by freeing the team from manual testing and freeing up resources for more important tasks.

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About Boehringer Ingelheim

Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH has its roots in a chemical factory founded in 1885 by Albert Boehringer in Ingelheim am Rhein. Boehringer Ingelheim works on breakthrough therapies that improve the lives of people and animals. As a leading research-driven biopharmaceutical company, the company creates value through innovation in areas of high unmet medical need. Since its founding in 1885, Boehringer Ingelheim has been family-owned and pursues a long-term perspective. Approximately 52,000 employees serve more than 130 markets in three business areas: Human Pharmaceuticals, Animal Health and Biopharmaceutical Contract Manufacturing. Learn more at www.boehringer- ingelheim.com.

About Datavard

Datavard is an innovative provider of smart software solutions and consulting for SAP data management, SAP S/4HANA transformation, data warehouse modernization, re-organizational transformation, legacy system decommissioning, integration of SAP data into Big Data, and managed services. Datavard is headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, with offices in EMEA, the US and Asia.