

Facing the SAP ECC6 end-of-support

IFS Cloud™ is a proven alternative ERP solution offering greater functionality, scalability, and usability - often with a lower total cost of ownership.

Overview

SAP ECC6 reaches its end of support in 2027, marking not just a technical deadline but a strategic turning point. Organisations must decide whether to extend, lift and shift, or transform more deeply. The choices made now will influence agility, cost, vendor dependency, and innovation for the next decade.

Lessons from past technology sunsets

From historical transitions (e.g. R/3 ECC, Oracle E-Business Fusion, IBM Maximo migrations), recurring themes emerge:

- Lift-and-shift projects often carry forward inefficiencies and high costs.
- Organisations that used the transition to rethink processes, diversify their stack, and simplify saw better outcomes.
- Technology sunsets are not endpoints - they are opportunities to reset direction.

The ECC6 dilemma: three paths

Organisations with ECC6 must weigh three main options:

1. **Extend support at a premium** - delaying the decision but incurring high costs
2. **Lift and shift to S/4HANA** - migrating core but risking poor alignment with business goals
3. **Choose a new path altogether** - rethinking architecture, stack, and approach

Each path carries risks:

- Vendor lock-in and rigid infrastructure
- Escalating costs, delays, overrun projects
- Poor data quality, governance, or migration failures
- Reduced capacity to focus on innovation

Four guiding principles for a smarter transition

To avoid repeating past mistakes, organisations should adhere to these principles:

Principle	Key idea
Act with intent, not fear	Delaying the decision often deepens legacy dependency and raises costs.
Focus on outcomes, not labels	Drive transformation by linking to business goals rather than blindly following vendor roadmaps.
Put data at the centre	Early emphasis on data clarity, governance and quality improves migration success.
Avoid monolithic lock-in	Embrace modular, composable architectures instead of relying on a single vendor.

From deadline to opportunity

- The ECC6 cliff should be treated not as a compliance task but as a chance to re-architect for agility.
- Leading organisations adopt composable, industry-centric ecosystems that enable continuous innovation rather than episodic upgrades.
- A successful transition can reduce vendor dependency, accelerate innovation cycles, and build a foundation for the next decade of growth.