

# Experience Smooth, Efficient SAP Application Upgrades with VMware Infrastructure



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Many SAP landscapes will undergo a major upgrade over the next 6 to 12 months as SAP ends standard support for SAP R/3 Enterprise and extended support for SAP R/3 4.6c 32-bit applications.<sup>1</sup> The upgrade process includes creating and maintaining new SAP environments, software upgrades, and extensive test cycles. To help customers streamline this process — while mitigating project risk and saving valuable resources — VMware Infrastructure virtualization software for industry-standard systems provides benefits throughout the software life cycle.

## Enhance Your Upgrade Testing

Vital to an upgrade's success is the ability to conduct functional, performance, and integration test cycles. VMware solutions allow you to increase the number of test cycles and to quickly spin off new SAP systems for ad hoc tests, greatly improving your upgrade quality.

VMware Infrastructure allows you to clone your production setup or create virtual machine libraries that mirror it; this can be used to provision development, QA, and test environments. SAP requires system cloning during upgrade testing; VMware software provides easily cloned templates, speeding up the process. You can test upgrades against clones rather than your production environment.

You can achieve 24-hour test automation with VMware Lab Manager, which supports various snapshots and configurations, allowing you to conduct tests more quickly and thoroughly. This expansion of test capability also supports the synchronous upgrade of interconnected systems.

If you encounter issues during the upgrade, VMware snapshot technology allows you to roll back to a known good version. You can save different upgrade stages to build a test tree, enabling you to pinpoint where issues arise.

## Better Prepare and Manage Your Upgrade Environment

New software versions often require more resources and infrastructure or hardware upgrades. Meanwhile, compli-

ance with regulatory requirements and IT policies might require older SAP environments and data to remain active beyond normal upgrade cycles. As a result, many companies must maintain a larger hardware footprint. VMware Infrastructure helps you consolidate SAP application environments on fewer, new-generation servers, increasing availability while providing cost and support benefits.

Through virtualization, you can start the upgrade project on existing hardware, running multiple operating systems, SAP applications, patches, and kernel versions on the same server. Nobody has to wait for new servers to arrive, and the required environments are up and running faster. As servers arrive, you can smoothly migrate the new SAP environments to the new servers without service disruption.

## Discover How VMware Can Help

If you plan to upgrade your SAP landscape, VMware technology can help make the process more efficient, freeing up valuable resources. To learn more, visit [www.vmware.com/SAP](http://www.vmware.com/SAP), and read the Virtualization for SAP blog at <http://communities.vmware.com/blogs/SAPsolutions>. ■

## Case Study: The VMware Infrastructure Experience

A leading provider of digital imaging and print management solutions used VMware Infrastructure to facilitate a major upgrade in late 2006. The company was able to run twice as many test cycles as initially planned, and they experienced improved stability of production applications. Since VMware Infrastructure makes provisioning new server resources a snap, consultants had the resources they needed — even in the face of unpredicted demand for new systems.

The upgrade proceeded on time and on budget, despite a significant expansion of features during the project. After project completion, the manufacturer achieved significant hardware and energy cost savings and is now able to support 1,800 SAP users with just two administrators. This is just a brief window into the widespread success that a typical VMware customer experiences.

<sup>1</sup> Please visit <http://service.sap.com/maintenance> to learn more about the specifics of SAP's maintenance strategy.