Upgrading to EHP 8 - Best Practices on Your Path to Innovation
Make the Right Business Case

The question is not why move to the latest EHP, but instead more specifically, the question should be: what are your company’s motivations to upgrade to EHP8? SAP enhancement packages are optional packages that deliver new or improved business functions which can be selectively deployed. Upgrading always implies a considerable investment on impact analysis, correction of your custom code and regression testing. So you should work on a business case analyzing the benefits you get with the new functionality vs. the implementation cost.

The decision to install a new enhancement package should be based on those new functionalities included on the EHP that add value to your business. And, since EHP8 is focused on innovation and enhancement features, most companies will find it simple to create a business case to justify the upgrade.

EHP 8 delivers:

• The consolidation of nine EHP7 SPs
• Improved enablement for data protection and privacy with NetWeaver 7.50
• A foundation for ERP customers transition to SAP S/4HANA. EHP8 offers and easier conversion to S/4HANA, with NetWeaver 7.50 as the basis for EHP8 and S/4HANA.
What to Expect in SAP EHP8:

- 500,000 New ABAP Programs
- 35 Million New Code Lines
- ~8000 New SAP Notes
- 1330 + (Accumulative) Business Functions, With ~240 New Functions Specific to EHP8
- 32 New Business Processes

New Functionality and Innovation

EHP8 is packed with new functionalities. There are 32 innovative processes that run through different industries, LoBs, HANA and more. Also, cross-application component versions merge to simplify structure.

Industry-based Innovations, for Retail, Public Sector, Media and Utilities
- Harmonized Processes for Wholesale and Retail
- Debt Management
- Enhancements in SD and MM

LoB-based Innovation
- Finance - SAP Treasury Management
- Commodity Management - Enhancements in Commodity Pricing
- R&D Engineering - Engineering Record Development
- HCM - Renewal Organizational Management and People Administration
More HANA Innovation and Enhancements

HANA Optimization and Fiori-like Apps for the Oil Industry
- Faster decision-making through real-time visibility into stock positions and improved simulation functionalities
- More effective reporting through immediate access to up-to-date schedule information
- Optimized inventory levels through better visibility

Harmonized Processes for Wholesale for Fashion Management
- Harmonizing and optimizing processes
- A single, shared global inventory with common master data concepts
- Multi-channel planning and procurement, enabled ATP and order allocation addressing shortages and priorities

There are MANY new processes and changes and with the new comes the unknown:

How will the upgrade effect my existing processes, and will these processes produce more complications when upgrading?
The 5 Best Practices

EHP8 brings new challenges for the upgrade, touching multiple industries and core lines of business like Finance and HCM. It is critical to begin each project with full visibility from the start, with a plan that ensures maximum efficiency and effectiveness with automation, prioritization and consolidated project activities. Best practices include:

#1 Identify what will break

Before upgrading, try to identify what will break ahead of time. Don’t assume that your standard transactions won’t be impacted by the EHP upgrade. Remember - there are thousands of notes released, many of which alter the behavior of standard transactions.

#2 Consider impacted satellite systems

Assess the impact of the upgrade on the interfaces to your SAP system. Chances are, you have dozens, if not hundreds, of integration points to your ERP. Are you familiar with them all? Did you consider which may break?
#3 Involve business key users and ensure business-level commitment

Get your business key users involved, especially in the test planning and test execution. Without cooperation and collaboration with the business, your project risks will multiply!

How are you doing User Acceptance Testing (UAT)? Are your UAT processes aligned with your business? Do you have buy-in with business users across region and department working together? Are your business users spending time deciphering complex Excel sheets or are they testing key functionality?

#4 Monitor test progress and coverage

Ensure that you have the means to monitor the test progress and coverage at all times - both for your IT testers and also for your business key users. This allows you to act faster when bottlenecks arise or if you uncover risks in a specific area of the ERP.

#5 Eliminate redundant custom code

Keep only the custom code that you use. Redundant unused custom code increases the efforts in unneeded code corrections, and introduces undue risks.
EHP Impact on Your Satellite Systems

40 percent of SAP shops have 20-50 systems interfacing with their ERP. Of these, less than 10 are SAP systems. Each of these systems have dozens of interfaces to the ERP system. This amounts to hundreds of integration points!

Based on our experience of running over 5,000 EHP upgrades, you should expect 20-30% of them to break as a result of the technical EHP upgrade.

Certainly this is a significant risk that must be carefully addressed.
Ensuring Security & Performance

The proportion of proprietary developments in SAP systems averages over 30 percent in some industries. With statistics showing one critical security defect per 1,000 lines of ABAP® code, SAP system performance can be adversely affected. In fact, a typical SAP system contains 2,151 risks, and with 70% of enterprises regularly skipping security and compliance audits of their ABAP custom code, their SAP system is exposed to major threats.

Securing your code can be simplified.

Organizations no longer need to take on major security projects that require extra IT time, budgets and manpower. By analyzing your code prior to an upgrade, you can identify and prioritize all risk and issues and how to address them before you begin an upgrade. Furthermore, with the right tool, like Panaya, you can easily fix them in a “by the way” approach during the upgrade to EHP 8. So while you are fixing impacted code for the upgrade, you clear out any vulnerabilities in order to safeguard your applications against security, compliance or data loss prevention gaps, ensuring code quality over security, performance and functionality.
Test Smarter, Test Faster

Don’t analyze what is not being used. Different systems are needed to test different things.

Smarter Testing

Reducing the scope of the testing while not compromising quality nor risk is a key challenge, however it can be done. And when it is done right, it really makes the difference on the project budget and timelines.

Business criticality is the most common parameter chosen by customers in terms of scoping. However, to create an extremely precise and effective test scope, the additional parameters of frequency of use and level of impact should be included.

Know the Frequency: How frequently used are the transactions?
- Simply do not test what is not being currently used.

Understand the Impact: what is the impact level of the EHP8 on your transactions?
- Solutions exist in the market which provide you with the list of transactions impacted in your EHP8 - use it!
Faster Testing

Once your scope is optimized, find ways to go through your testing cycles faster.

Most organizations focus on accelerating their IT testing. However, what about looking closely at the UAT cycle? With its high number of users and the logistics of coordinating User Acceptance Testing, is there an opportunity to make an impact on project duration?

The answer is yes. All you need is a tool that enables you to:

1. Quickly identify bottlenecks with real time visibility over the testing progress
2. Ease the collaboration between business users required to go through the testing of end-to-end business processes
3. Accelerate the creation of test evidences, saving time that is wasted on capturing screenshots, which will ultimately allow testers to focus on their testing

Upgrade Better, Faster and Safer with Panaya

The upgrade to EHP8 introduces innovation as well as complexities. There is risk, time and budget that needs to be considered throughout the upgrade project. Panaya CloudQuality™ Suite simplifies the upgrade and delivers the functionality, security and performance of your SAP system, meeting best practices required for a successful upgrade.

A SaaS solution that requires no hardware or software, PCQ offers an easy on-boarding for IT and business users to easily address what will break, how to fix it, and what to test while also accelerating your testing activities. With over 5000 EHP upgrades and 1600 customers worldwide, Panaya has proven to continually deliver change faster, better and safer.
Get a Pre-Upgrade Assessment

Looking to upgrade to EHP8?

Check your upgrade readiness.

✓ Map your ERP customizations
✓ Change impact reports and dashboards
✓ Custom code correction instructions
✓ Get a tailored test plan

Get a free custom report in just 48 hours ➞
About Panaya | Panaya CloudQuality™ Suite disrupts the risk, time and costs required to deliver all types of SAP® and Oracle® EBS changes. We are passionate about the need to make your ERP more agile and align it with your business. Powered by big data analytics and aggregating since 2008, Panaya CloudQuality™ Suite delivers insights that tell you what will break, how to fix it and what to test. It is constantly improving and finding smarter ways to perform everything from day-to-day maintenance to major projects. 1,220 companies in 62 countries, including a third of the Fortune 500, use the Panaya CloudQuality™ Suite to enhance and maintain their enterprise apps without skipping a beat.