

World's leading chemical manufacturer jump-starts their move to SAP® S/4HANA by modernizing content management

PROJECT BACKGROUND

VersaFile's docuflow® for SAP was chosen by the world's leading producer of alumina and alumina-based materials to help jump-start their move to SAP S/4HANA.

With over 1000 employees worldwide, the company serves manufacturing clients in various industries including ceramics, refractories, glass, polishing, etc. SAP will end support and maintenance of SAP ECC in 2027 and migrating to S/4HANA is a significant project that carries with it all the associated risks and costs. The payback is a modernizing of the technology and hopefully the business processes as well.

Aiming to exceed customers' expectations through industry-leading service, the client wanted to be well prepared to transition without disrupting their critical "order to cash" processes while hopefully enhancing the service and support experience. This meant finding a solution to migrate business-critical content out of the legacy ECM system and SAP database and into a modern cloud ECM system, reduce the data footprint, and ensure all content was securely stored, linked, and integrated across systems while being readily available to their teams.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

As the company grew organically and through acquisitions, an SAP ECC system was implemented to manage their order to cash (sales invoice management) business processes, and with it implemented a legacy content management system to capture the myriad of documents associated with each transaction. That system had become obsolete, and too expensive to scale. In their plans to transition to SAP S/4HANA, they knew they had to eventually move their existing content, especially Certificates of Analysis documents ("CoA") that are a part of every order into a new repository, so a modern cloud-based ECM system was chosen. The move to S/4HANA also drove a need to reduce the amount of data that was in their current system, as migrating it all to S/4HANA would add cost and increase the timeline.

Since the client had already invested in Microsoft 365® SharePoint Online, as their enterprise ECM system, it made sense to see if that platform could be used to house content linked to S/4HANA too. To enable the linking of S/4HANA to Microsoft 365 VersaFile's docuflow for SAP was chosen to migrate content and data from their legacy ECM and SAP database into their Microsoft 365 repository providing bi-directional linking, archiving, and secure retrieval of content.

SOLUTIONS

Prior to the migration to S/4HANA, the VersaFile Team identified five use cases to implement docuflow providing intelligent content integration between SAP ECC and Microsoft 365 driving immediate business benefits while being configured to seamlessly work with SAP S/4HANA once the migration is complete.

In addition, the no-code/low-code nature of the VersaFile solution allows the client to extend the integration to other key processes across the organization themselves. In the SAP world, this previously unheard-of deployment speed offers incremental cost savings. The initial implementation tackled five critical business applications:

1

Migration and Relinking of Business-Critical Content

Migration of the CoA documents from legacy ECM and SAP database to Microsoft 365 using [docuflow migration](#), including the creation of links from an SAP Object to the documents in Microsoft 365 and the removal of older links in the legacy ECM after successfully migrating and relinking the CoA documents.

2

Data Archiving

Archive all older SAP Data Objects as ADK output into Microsoft 365 with [docuflow ArchiveLink](#).

3

Outbound Attachment Archiving

Any new attachments created for CoAs in the SAP system will be directly stored and archived in Microsoft 365 with docuflow ECM. Additionally, docuflow will also create advanced metadata and bi-directional linking between the SAP Object and the document in Microsoft 365 for future viewing from within SAP.

4

Inbound Attachment Linking

Any new documents added or created in Microsoft 365 will be configured to create and attach a link from an associated SAP Object to the document in Microsoft 365, and transfer metadata from the SAP Object to the document in Microsoft 365 with docuflow ArchiveLink.

5

Extend Attachment List Display

For every SAP record, an extended docuflow Attachment List display will include attachment links to all related SAP Objects within that SAP records document flow. This makes it easy for users to view all upstream or downstream attachments and links related to an SAP record without the need to switch between multiple SAP screens.

This unique differentiator of docuflow also provides the client with the capability to sort and organize attachments into virtual folders so it's easier for the users to find and view the right document all on one screen.

BUSINESS VALUE

By implementing docuflow for SAP the client saved money and gained efficiencies through the following outcomes:

- Save infrastructure costs by utilizing their existing cloud-based ECM system, Microsoft 365.
- Saved additional costs by avoiding extra ECM license costs for their 50+ employees by minimizing the use of their legacy ECM system which is also expensive to sustain.
- Reducing the size of their 1 TB database by 45%-55% by archiving old data into Microsoft 365. Thus, saving the client huge storage costs when moving to SAP S/4HANA.
- Real-time, secure, and remote access to content by the field team with Microsoft 365 without the need to purchase extra legacy ECM and SAP licenses.

The project gave the client a jumpstart on their move to S/4HANA. By implementing docuflow for SAP, the client has started generating cost savings today and mitigated a lot of risks associated with their eventual move to SAP S/4HANA by;

- Saving time and simplifying the migration planning as all business content and data have already been migrated and archived.
- Saving costs by modernizing systems and minimizing the use of legacy systems and on-premise costs.
- Reducing the overall risk associated with the S/4HANA migration project by modernizing infrastructure and systems.
- Minimizing change management activities as teams will already be well versed with the new systems by the time the client moves to the new S/4HANA systems.

In addition to implementing the solution in the 5 identified application areas, the VersaFile team provided knowledge transfer to the client's team with the ability to take this initial implementation and extend it themselves to other business areas, saving them additional implementation costs in the future.

While they are planning their move to S/4HANA in the next 2-3 years, with docuflow the client is well equipped to not only realize longer-term business improvement, cost reductions, and risk mitigators, but the solution opens the door for greater digital automation of their SAP tasks and processes.



*"Fastest SAP
project we have
ever done"*

Global IT Director

ABOUT VERSAFILE

VersaFile® helps organizations running SAP to save money and time by modernizing how they integrate and automate content across their organization. Most SAP customers are saddled with expensive, monolithic ECM systems to manage & integrate their SAP content, which is critical to operating their business, but to date...there have been no real alternatives to this approach. Today, with our product docuflow, we provide a modern, quick-to-implement content integration platform that not only allows SAP customers to achieve this critical capability but can use more modern cloud-based platforms such as Box, Microsoft 365, and AWS S3. This enables customers to:

- Save costs on legacy systems
- Save time with easier automation, and
- Reduce compliance risk

Customers are elated with docuflow because it is:

- Easy and fast to implement
- Integrated deeply into SAP business applications, and
- Flexible, supporting multiple content platforms

Simply put, docuflow is the modern alternative to legacy ECM for content & process automation with SAP.

Ready to get started?

[BOOK A CONSULTATION](#)

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