Longbow

Is SAP EWM Ready for Primetime?
Begin your Digital Transformation - With Confidence

If you completed a deep dive assessment of SAP EWM 5-10 years ago, it is possible you uncovered some deficiencies that resulted in a decision to deploy a non-SAP Best of Breed alternative and integrate it with your SAP ERP System. Well, SAP EWM has come a long way over a relatively short period of time and EWM is definitely worth another look.

SAP has continued to invest significantly in EWM, with the goal of delivering a solution that can compete with the leading commercially available Best of Breed WMS alternatives.

Notable Enhancements:

- ✔ Tighter integration with S4, TM, and SAP Quality Management
- ✔ Improvements in Inventory Traceability and Batch Management
- ✔ Advances in Zoning and Work Queue Management focused on operating efficiency
- ✔ New Task Interleaving and Cross Docking capabilities to further optimize equipment and labor utilization
- ✔ Introduction of an intuitive Shipping Cockpit to streamline outbound order fulfillment
- ✔ Enhanced eCommerce / Omni Channel capabilities, with Click and Collect returns processing (Amazon ready)
- ✔ Advanced Kitting / D-Kitting and VAS (Value-Added Services) capabilities
- ✔ Improved Wave Management
- ✔ Enhanced Cartonization and Pallet Building capabilities
- ✔ Fiori / Mobile-enabled
- ✔ Enhanced dock scheduling capabilities
- ✔ Staging and consumption enhancements for use in production operations
- ✔ Alternative UoM and preferred UoM capabilities
- ✔ Out of the box integration with warehouse automation (MFS / WCS)

Who should be considering SAP EWM for running simple warehouse operations to large, high volume, complex distribution centers?

1. SAP Users Moving from ECC 6.0 to S4 HANA

- ✔ For companies using SAP WM in their current SAP landscape, the strategic option going forward is replacing WM with EWM.
- ✔ SAP will invest its resources in developing new capabilities and innovations in EWM while discontinuing investments in WM.
- ✔ SAP has announced it will discontinue support of WM in S4 in 2025.
- ✔ Low complexity operations currently running WM can leverage the basic deployment of EWM embedded in S4 HANA.
- ✔ Deploying SAP EWM may even be the right starting point for beginning your S4 HANA journey.

As you move to S4, you get the opportunity to step back and rethink many of the legacy decisions that were baked into your ECC 6.0 environment. Also, moving to EWM with its seamless integration to S4 can help reduce the inherent risks in re-integrating your current Best of Breed solution to S4.

2. Best of Breed WMS Users

SAP ERP users running either a home grown or non-SAP Best of Breed WMS, and are up against the current WMS platform's upgrade window.

- ✔ An integrated SAP landscape that includes EWM, will provide end-to-end visibility and a level of inventory traceability that is very difficult to achieve with a bolt on Best of Breed WMS solution.
- ✔ Moving from an old version of a Best of Breed WMS will likely require a risky, costly, and time-consuming full deployment of your vendor's latest software version, not just a simple technical upgrade of your current WMS platform.
- ✔ An integrated SAP solution will typically reduce the complexity of your overall IT footprint, allow you to streamline your IT support organization, and has the potential to reduce total cost of ownership of your WMS landscape.

3. Companies Deploying SAP S4

Rounding out the field are companies that are deploying an SAP ERP solution for the first time.

- ✓ With the advancements made in SAP's EWM solution over the last 5 to 6 years, any SAP ERP user should consider an SAP first strategy when it comes to deploying a new WMS solution.
- ✓ SAP EWM is a proven Tier-1 platform with capabilities comparable to the leading Best of Breed Tier-1 alternatives.
- ✓ There are big advantages with a fully inetragted WMS solution. Reconciliation of inventory across multiple platforms goes away, you get out of box end-to-end visbility, and full product traceablility.

Several SAP run businesses are taking a unique approach to software selection that is much different than what was typicallly done 5 to 10 years ago. By enabling the benefits of having a fully integrated solution, a simpler IT footprint, and fewer vendor relationships to manage, the "Why not SAP" or "SAP First" approach is gaining momentum. This trend can be seen across several industries when companies are looking at Supply Chain Execution Solutions.

About Longbow Advantage

Longbow Advantage is a leading supply chain consulting services firm with deep expertise in warehouse and labor management systems. We put a premium on customer experience, and we value the trust customers put in us to deliver the highest quality in the industry. Our customers are industry leaders who turn to us for our industry experience, faster implementation, and lower total project cost.

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