



## The Outlook for 2025

Welcome There

Although we are starting 2025 with a gloomy economic outlook, this is not reflected in the trends that are shaping the evolution of ERP. The following are not a surprise, but the speed at which they are evolving is certainly taking your breath away.

1. **AI and ML Integration:** Not only is AI and ML here to stay, but ERP systems are increasingly incorporating and integrating AI solutions into their predictive analytics, automating routine tasks, and therefore helping to signpost and improve decision-making. This integration enables businesses to anticipate demand, optimize inventory, and streamline operations.
2. **Cloud-Based ERP Solutions:** The shift towards cloud-native ERP continues, offering scalability, cost efficiency, and remote accessibility. This transition supports flexible work models and ensures seamless collaboration across dispersed teams.

3. **Hyper-automation:** This is an interesting one as this leverages the above 2 (AI and cloud, plus throw in robotic process automation). This hyper-automation is the trend towards complex process automation, rather than leaving this to manual and human intervention.
4. **IoT Integration:** Although the implementation and use of IoT has been slow (compared to the adoption of AI), there is a growing convergence of ERP with the Internet of Things (IoT). This facilitates real-time monitoring of assets, predictive maintenance, and not surprisingly, improved efficiency. Precision and accuracy are the watch word and benefits seen here – from the simple (predicting when the light bulb is going to go out) to the complexities in machinery.
5. **Enhanced User Experience and Personalization:** The green screens have been gone a long time, but ERP systems have come a long way recently, with modern and user-friendly designs, that also offer a personal experience such as dashboards and even AI-driven recommendations. This all drives user adoption and purports to improve productivity – although I have yet to see data points to verify that.
6. **Industry-Specific ERP Solutions:** As we all know Infor lead the way with this innovation with their industry-specific ERP solutions. There is a growing demand for these ERP systems tailored to specific industries, providing pre-configured workflows and compliance tools that address unique sector challenges. This customisation reduces implementation time and delivers more value.
7. **Sustainability Tracking and Reporting:** Companies can no longer just play lip service to sustainability but need to focus on their environmental responsibility. ERP systems have a key role to play here as they can incorporate tools to track carbon footprints, optimize resource usage, and ensure regulatory compliance, aiding businesses in meeting their sustainability goals.
8. **Advanced Security Measures:** No company is immune to cyber-attack, but ERP systems have increasingly sophisticated security features, including advanced encryption, multi-factor authentication, and real-time threat monitoring, to protect sensitive business data.

As ERP systems continue to evolve and transform business efficiency – I wonder what will top the list at the end of 2025?

If you need to evolve your ERP, please [Contact US](#)

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## The Changing Face of Contracting in the UK

The stalled economic climate is also affecting finding and securing the right contracting talent for ERP projects. With redundancies in the industry, projects have been left with resource gaps and delays. There was an overall decline in job postings for ERP skills in 2024 (IT Jobs Watch), however, many of these requirements never see the light of a job's board as they are filled by the vendor and partner, who bring on the appropriate teams to meet needs.

ERP remains a significant component in the overall IT contracting market, with rates and roles consistent through 2024 to 2025. Unlike the networking industry, there is a consistent supply and demand. In networking, there is an aging population of technical specialists as for some reason no one wants to be messing about with cables, even though these functions are increasingly software driven. However, companies like Extreme Networks struggle to maintain a technical workforce in their ecosystem of partners. This is not the case for ERP, where new entrants are joining to maintain a consistent base.

This could be due to the continued growth of the ERP sector, which still experiences a compound annual growth of >5% each year which seems to continue to encourage new contractors. Add to this the increased appetite for contractors throughout the IT industry, plus a UK IT sector that is hiring (up by 3% year on year into 2025), and there is distinct optimism which is staying ahead of generic market conditions.

ERP contractors who can add ancillary skills are at a premium, such as Business Intelligence and AI. Adding skills adds to an individual's marketability in what is an encouraging market outlook.

Need an ERP contractor please [contact us](#)

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## Infor in the News

The end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 has seen some significant announcements from Infor regarding their ERP solutions:

- Firstly, Infor maintains their leadership position on the Gartner Magic Quadrant. Infor has maintained this position year on year, with an unassailable leadership position again in 2024 for Cloud ERP for Product-Centric Enterprises, marking the fourth consecutive time it has received this recognition
- On July 11, 2024, Infor announced the acquisitions of Acumen to enhance their industry-centric data capabilities. Acumen specializes in Revenue Growth Management and offers consulting and analytics services for consumer-packaged goods manufacturers, focusing on optimizing promotional investments.
- Another acquisition in July was Albanero, who provides data migration and management solutions, facilitating seamless transitions to cloud environments and ensuring data integrity. These acquisitions are expected to help Infor customers leverage their industry-specific data more effectively, translating it into opportunities for greater value and profitable growth.



- Hunterdon Health (a leading health system,), Implemented Infor CloudSuite and announced the deployment in December 2024, explaining how it will support their digital transformation and cloud journey.
  - In October 2024, Infor announced that its Cloverleaf Data Integration Platform is now interoperable with NVIDIA's Holoscan AI platform. This integration aims to enhance medical devices with AI and deep learning capabilities, revolutionizing AI-powered clinical decision support with real-time healthcare data.
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## **Plan for Change**

### **Milestones for Mission-Led Government**

## **The Latest Government Position on AI**

What does the Government Investment of £14bn in AI and Data mean to us? We have a strong scientific history from the days of Alan Turing through to a UK hub of SaaS and tech business start-ups. However, the pace of innovation in AI is about to overtake us if we are not careful. As a nation, if not as individuals. Is there a balancing act needed between AI opportunities and security – hence the “AI Opportunities Action Plan” from the UK Government. This plan shows how we should shape the AI discussion:

1. AI Growth Zones to boost tech infrastructure (i.e., brushing aside planning rules to allow more data centres), to boost capacity by x20 by 2030
2. Access to the “National Data Library” for secure R&D

### 3. 13K new AI professionals in University and Industry with education and training

To achieve this, there is a plan for UK academics and entrepreneurs to work with the worlds' leading AI companies to drive economic growth, deliver improved healthcare and education, and reassurance that traditional working won't be threatened. This will be encouraged by reforms including opening the gates to building new data centres that are the lifeblood of AI-powered industries. Skills England will have funds to drive education, and the Digital Centre of Government will drive policies to push AI in both the public and private sector.

Business-as-usual is not an option, but (some would say) a radical approach is needed to be prepared for the opportunity, but at what cost to security? There is risk and uncertainty in all innovations, and to pull this off will require commitment from all departments and academics alike. This is no small task, but the benefits are transformational, let's hope the checks and balances are given equal weight of importance.

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## Educational Pieces on ERP

We regularly update and continuously expand our range of educational articles and hope you find them, not only useful for those just starting out on their ERP journey, but also as good reference points for those already in the know:

- [How can your ERP help with Regulatory Compliance?](#)
- [What is Application Management Services](#)
- [ERP Systems Training](#)

- [Everything you need to know about ERP Migration](#)
  - [ERP Support](#)
  - [What is an ERP Implementation](#)
  - [ERP FAQs](#)
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## **Need Assistance with your Infor ERP? Drop us a Line**

ReInforce Technology provides expert consulting services for Infor ERP. Our consultants, developers, project managers and data analysts are highly skilled professionals who specialise in LN, Baan, LX, BPCS, M3, Lawson and other Infor solutions. We extend the life of ERPs and knit together systems and processes, with an integrated approach to data to optimise efficiency.

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