

**Note:**

SAP SAP ERP 6.0 EHP 8 is based on SAP NetWeaver AS 7.50 and is therefore only available as a Unicode version. Accordingly, a Unicode-based system is required as the starting point for an SAP system upgrade to SAP ERP 6.0 EHP 8. As a result, you may have to perform a Unicode conversion before you can perform the SAP system upgrade.

Software Update Manager (SUM)

An upgrade is the change from an older software version to a newer version. This involves replacing all the repository objects supplied by SAP (programs, table definitions, and so on) and the runtime environment.

**Hint:**

In contrast, an update generally involves activities for maintenance or expansion of a system, such as installing an enhancement package, installing add-ons, or importing Support Package stacks.

There are many different reasons to upgrade SAP systems, but they can be divided roughly into three areas. This is why we also differentiate between three different upgrade procedures:

- **Technical upgrades** focus solely on the required future compatibility of the existing SAP application and no reducing risks.
- **Functional upgrades** involve limited functional enhancements and reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO), in which SAP modifications are returned to the standard version, for example.