



How long will an ERP project take?

Companies that install ERP do not have an easy time of it. Don't be fooled when other vendors tell you about a three- or six-month average implementation time. Those short (that's right, six months is short) implementations done properly take a considerable time investment but well worth it in the long- run. If your company is small, or the implementation was limited to a small area of the company, or the company used only the financial pieces of the ERP system (in which case the ERP system is nothing more than a very expensive accounting system) then you can expect a smaller time frame. To do ERP right, the ways you do business will need to change and the infrastructure in the ways people do their jobs will need to change too. And that kind of change doesn't come overnight, nor is it painless typically. The important thing is not to focus on how long it will take—real transformational ERP efforts usually run between one and three years, on average—but rather to understand why you need it and how you will use it to improve your business.