



Making the Switch: Complete E-Guide on Migrating ERP System Software for Wire Cable and Rope Industries



Every step of wire, cable, and rope manufacturing depends on precision, and an outdated ERP system software just can't keep up. Daily headaches and slower operations tell you that it's time to switch, but the idea of migrating everything to a new system might seem like an even bigger hassle.

One of the great benefits of modern ERP system software from **The Rubicon Group** is that it's built to make switching easy. This guide is here to help you feel less overwhelmed about the idea of saying goodbye to your legacy system.

This guide outlines how to prepare for a migration, implement your new system in a way that keeps operations steady, verify your data is accurate, and maintain smooth processes after going live.

Let's get started.



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The Hidden Cost of Staying with Outdated Software

Many **wire & cable** manufacturers and distributors delay migration because the process feels risky, yet remaining on outdated ERP creates a far greater operational threat.

Outdated ERP system software eventually reaches a breaking point where workarounds become necessary just to keep production moving. Manual tasks, spreadsheets, and improvised processes slow production and distract your team from higher-value work. The struggles multiply as your business grows, and you might make mistakes on jobs, miss deadlines, or use inaccurate data to make decisions.

Security and reliability are also at stake. Unsupported programs and aging servers increase the risk of data loss, compliance gaps, and unexpected downtime. These risks can hit without warning, costing both time and reputation.

Extra labor, rework, downtime, and inaccurate information end up costing more than a new ERP system software would. Switching isn't just about upgrading your tech—it's about protecting your business.



Planning and Preparing for Migration

Careful planning is critical for a smooth transition to your new ERP system software. This is when you prioritize operations, organize your data, and understand what to expect every step of the way. By preparing thoroughly, you ensure production continues without interruption while you implement the new system.

Set Goals for Migration

Before you start, define what matters most for your business. Clear goals keep your team aligned and allow The Rubicon Group to guide the process effectively.

Some goals to consider at this stage:

- Keep downtime as low as possible
- Make sure product and job details move over correctly
- Keep important history needed for traceability
- Make sure planners and supervisors can run jobs on day one
- Keep customer orders moving without delays
- Make sure the new system reflects how the plant really runs

Take Inventory of What You're Moving

Make a list of all the data you're moving from your legacy system to the new ERP system software. Check them off as you go.

Typical items include:

- Product details
- Job steps and BOMs
- Customer and vendor information
- Open sales and purchase orders
- Works in progress
- Inventory counts
- Lot numbers and trace information
- Labor and cost details
- Quality requirements

Clean and Organize Your Data

Remove old or incorrect information so your new ERP system software is accurate and up to date on day one

Follow these steps:

1. Remove products you no longer make
2. Delete duplicate customers and vendors
3. Fix units of measure that do not match
4. Clean up old routings or job steps
5. Confirm material costs and labor times
6. Remove expired lots or inactive inventory
7. Update scrap fields so they reflect real production



Back up Your Current Data

Create a complete backup of all your existing ERP system data, including product information, job records, inventory, customer and supplier files, and production history.

Make sure your backup has the following:

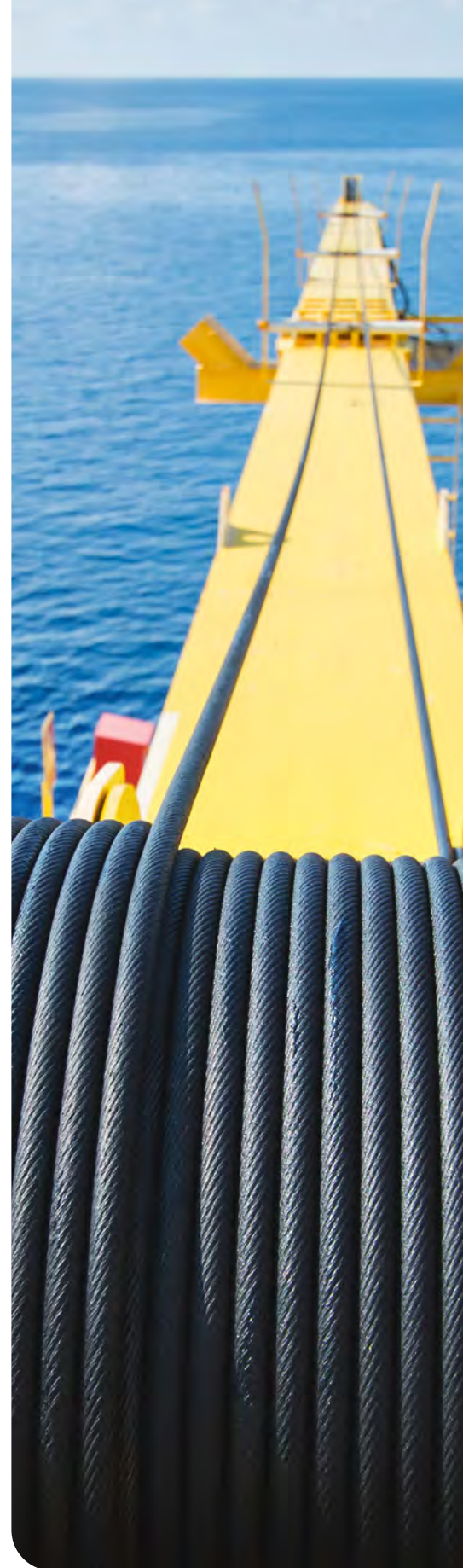
- A full copy of your current database
- Attachments such as drawings or certificates
- Spreadsheets used by operations teams
- Shop floor documents and files
- Open sales and purchase orders
- Works in progress
- Inventory counts
- Lot numbers and trace information
- Labor and cost details
- Quality requirements

Create a Detailed Migration Plan

Work closely with The Rubicon Group to outline every step of your ERP system software migration. Define timelines, responsibilities, and the sequence for moving data and processes.

Your plan should include:

- Exact migration date and time
- Who is responsible for each task
- What data will be moved, and what will be rebuilt
- How to handle last-minute jobs or orders
- Any expected downtime and how to work around it
- A training schedule for each team and shift
- Final checks before going live





Migration Execution and Data Validation

With planning complete, it's time to move your ERP system software into action. You'll begin by testing each step in a controlled environment to catch issues before they impact production. Keep communication clear with your team so everyone knows what to expect. Monitor progress closely to ensure operations continue without interruption.

Test a Small Sample of Data

Move a small set of products, jobs, and orders to the new system and monitor how everything performs.

Why?

- To confirm the data loads correctly
- To check that product details and job steps look right
- To verify customer and vendor information
- To confirm that units, costs, and lot details behave correctly

Check Test Data Accuracy

After running your trial, compare the data in the new ERP system software with your current system. All records should match exactly.

Here's what you should verify at this stage:

- Product numbers and descriptions
- BOMs and routings
- Works in progress
- Customer and vendor records
- Open orders
- Inventory and lot counts
- Scrap and labor fields

Perform a Mock Run

Have supervisors, leads, and planners execute their regular tasks in the new ERP system software, running functions exactly as they would on a normal day.

Have your team do the following:

- Create and schedule a job
- Issue material
- Receive material
- Record production or scrap
- Run reports
- Check costs
- Document anything that does not look right.



Review and Adjust Before the Full Migration

Correct any issues your team uncovered in the mock run before moving everything to the new ERP system software. If necessary, repeat the test to confirm the fixes work.

Confirm readiness by checking:

- Data accuracy
- Workflow alignment
- User confidence
- Ability to keep production steady

Complete the Full Migration

Transfer all remaining data into your new ERP system software once you've finished testing and adjustments. Monitor the process closely to catch any issues immediately and keep operations running smoothly.

Check off these steps as you go:

- Extract data from your old system
- Clean and reformat it for the new system
- Import data during low production times
- Notify your team about any access changes
- Monitor the import and document any flagged items





Post Migration Best Practices

The work doesn't end when your new ERP system software goes live. The first days and weeks are critical for stabilizing production. Follow these best practices to ensure the new system operates reliably, your staff gains confidence, and your operations continue smoothly.

Compare Reports Between Old and New Systems

Run the same reports in your new ERP system software that you previously ran in the old system. Compare results carefully to confirm that inventory levels, production data, job details, and customer records transferred accurately.

Check these reports:

- Product lists
- Inventory and location counts
- Lot histories
- Work in progress
- Open orders
- Scrap and production reports
- Cost summaries

Train Your Team for Daily Work

Give your team hands-on training, focusing on real workflows—not just theory—so everyone understands how the system supports their day-to-day work.

Cover these topics in training:

- Job creation and scheduling
- Material issues and receipts
- Production reporting
- Inventory adjustments
- Quality checks
- Reviewing costs

Monitor System Performance and Document Issues

Observe how your new ERP system software performs during real production, and document any errors, delays, or unexpected behavior. Share your findings with The Rubicon Group so they can address issues quickly.

Here are things to look out for:

- Jobs acting incorrectly
- Missing or incorrect materials
- Slow or delayed reports
- User mistakes
- Missing data
- Unusual activity



Review Overall Stability After Several Weeks

After several weeks of daily use, step back and assess how the new ERP system supports your plant. This review ensures the system is fully stable, aligns with how your operations run, and will deliver long-term efficiency and reliability.

Check for the following:

- On-time delivery
- Inventory accuracy
- Scrap levels
- Cost accuracy
- Production throughput



Make the Transition with The Rubicon Group

Modern ERP system software gives wire, cable, and rope manufacturers the speed, accuracy, and visibility needed to keep operations running smoothly and grow with confidence.

Switching systems doesn't have to be overwhelming. From planning and data migration to training and post-go-live support, The Rubicon Group has designed every step to minimize risk and maximize efficiency.

Streamline operations with ERP software built for your industry. **Schedule a demo** today to learn more about making the switch.



An ERP Built for You



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