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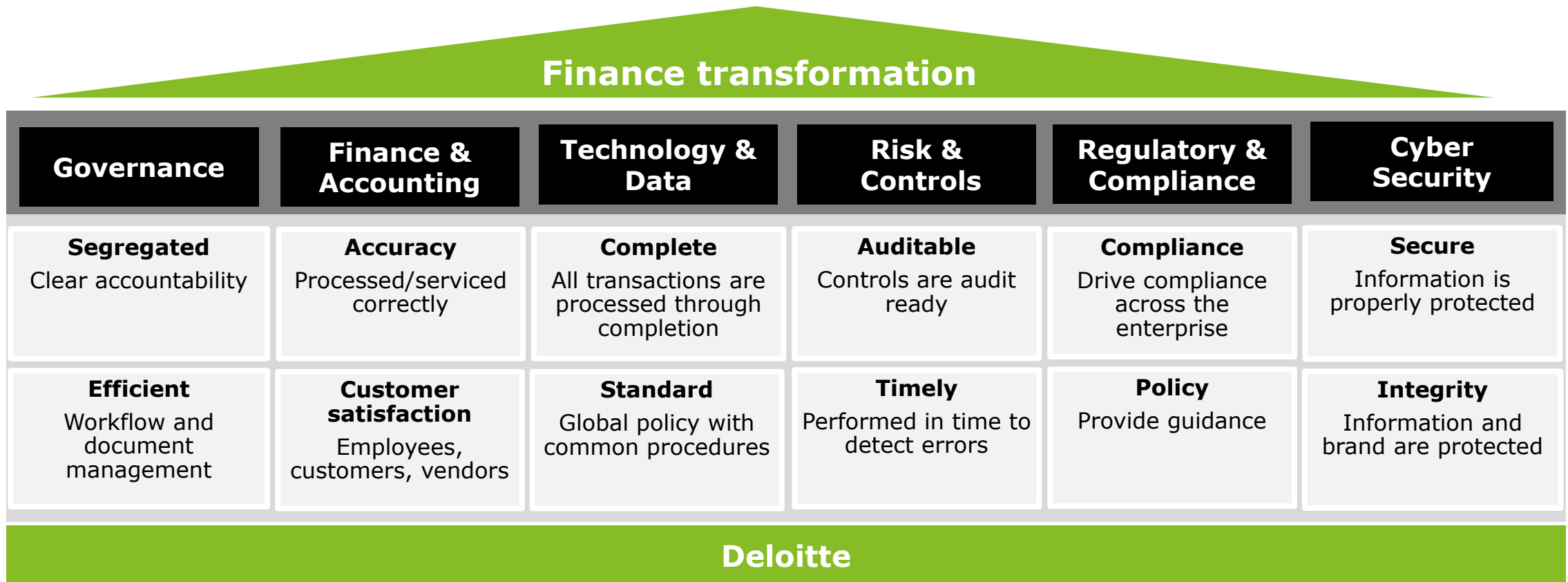


Creating an Ecosystem Environment with BlackLine, your ERP, and other financial applications

May 2020

Defining finance transformation

A finance transformation mindset is the expectation that organizations will maintain day-to-day business operations while also managing a changing technology and risk environment that impact the ability for finance to evolve alongside the core business



Digital transformation challenges in the market today

We see the market responding in a variety of ways to digital transformation challenges. These include organization's desire to automate but concern of a lack of consistent return, challenges of working in a siloed environment, and difficulty in effectively automating cross-solution

No one solution can solve all problems – how to effectively automate cross-solution

Challenging to get all **business stakeholders aligned and breakdown silos**

Difficult to get a consistent return across automation platforms and financial systems

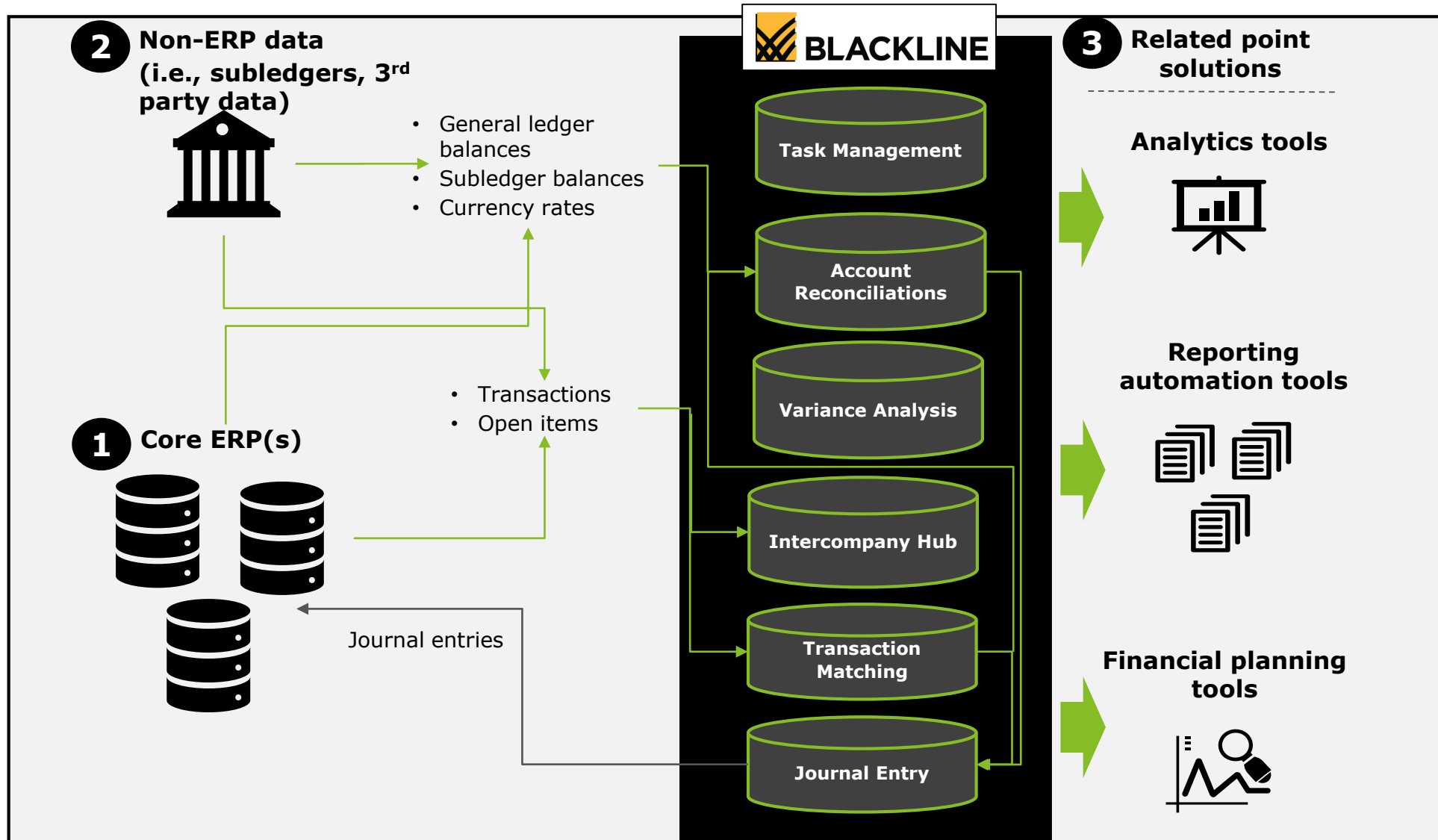
Digital transformation appears **extremely expensive and time consuming**

Transformation journey can feel too **large and all encompassing** to be effective

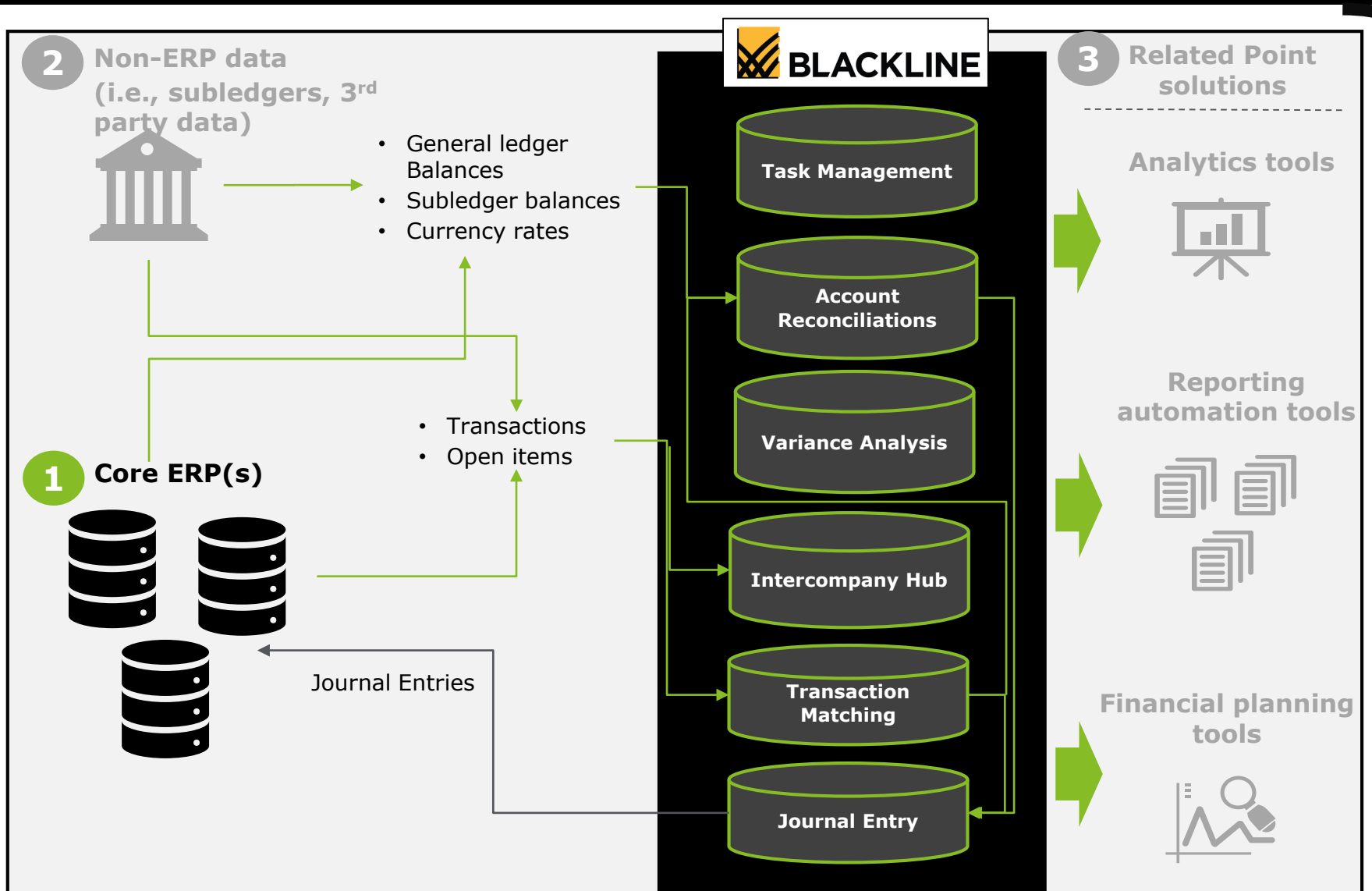
Finding resources to support digital transformation alongside existing work is difficult



Creating an Ecosystem Environment between BlackLine and other systems



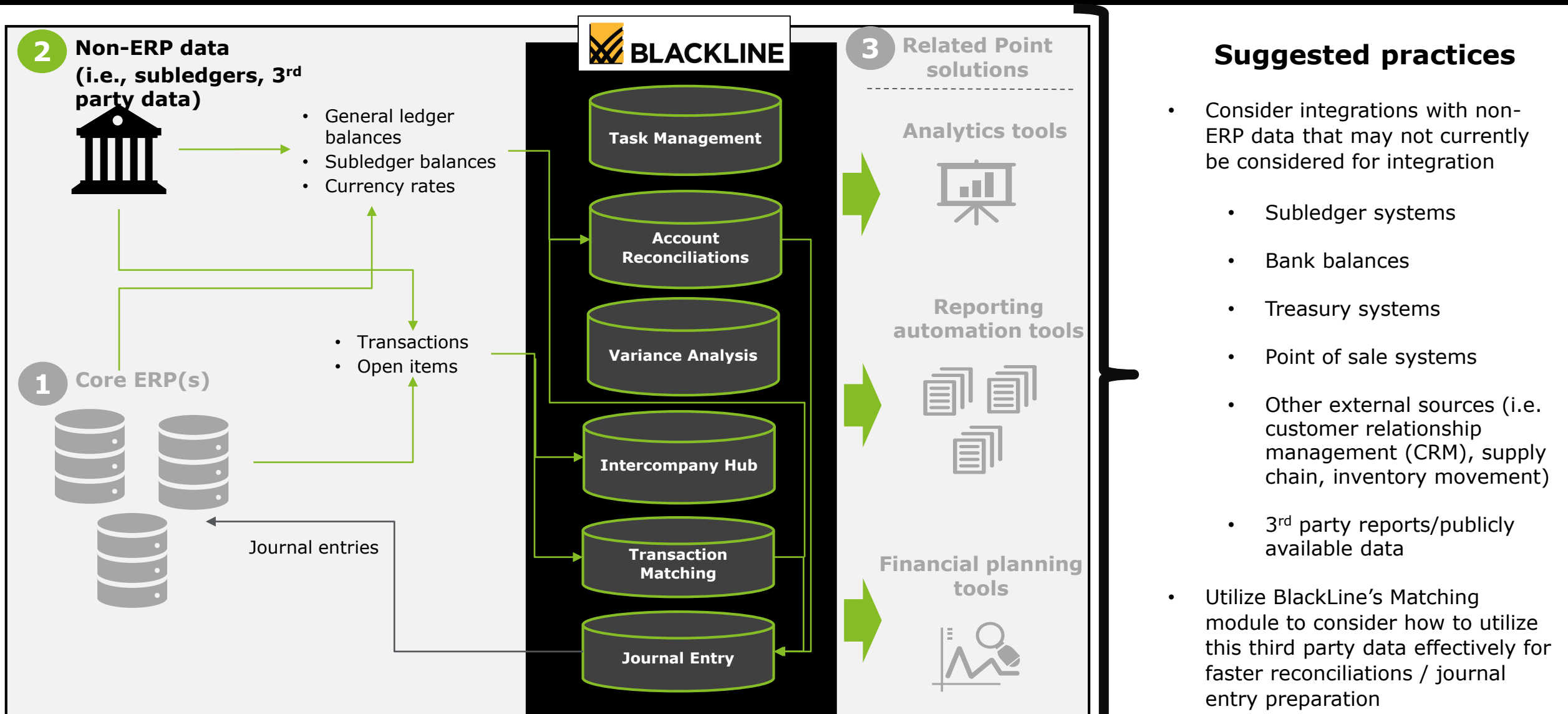
1 - Core ERP(s) data integration



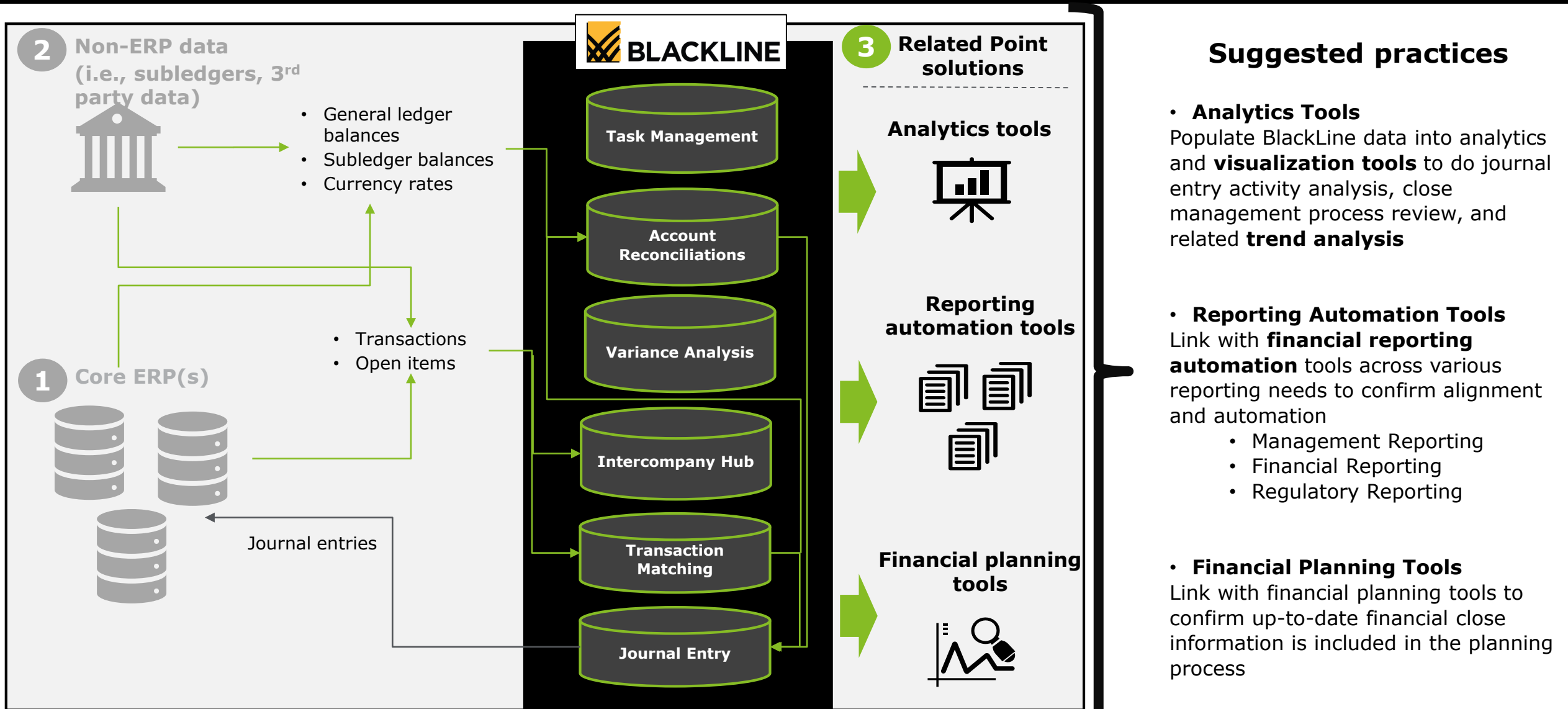
Suggested practices

- Consider Single ERP or Multi ERP environments
- Review ERP upgrade plan and future roadmap
- Determine any impending M&A activity that may impact integration
- Review the level of data in ERP vs. what is needed in BlackLine to confirm alignment and efficiency
- Coordinate with IT early to confirm integration with ERP system administrators
- Collaborate with ERP owners on how Chart of Accounts (COA) design impacts BlackLine
- Review audit account substantiation needs between ERP and BlackLine

2 – Non-ERP data integration



3 – Related point solutions - data integration

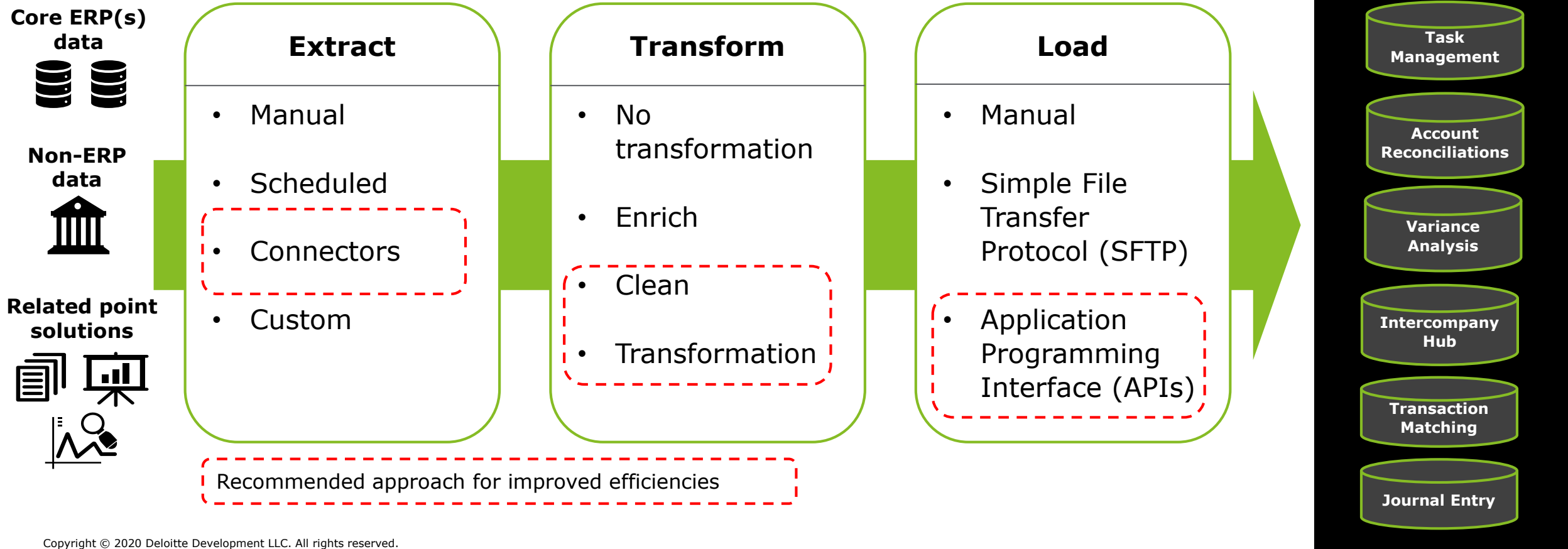


Suggested practices

- **Analytics Tools**
Populate BlackLine data into analytics and **visualization tools** to do journal entry activity analysis, close management process review, and related **trend analysis**
- **Reporting Automation Tools**
Link with **financial reporting automation** tools across various reporting needs to confirm alignment and automation
 - Management Reporting
 - Financial Reporting
 - Regulatory Reporting
- **Financial Planning Tools**
Link with financial planning tools to confirm up-to-date financial close information is included in the planning process

Next steps: Operationalizing improved integration

When considering how to integrate BlackLine with your ERP and other applications, it is important to consider how the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process will be setup to facilitate appropriate connectors and testing. By considering the use of existing connectors, transforming underlying processes and using APIs, organizations will speed up the ability to connect and naturally improve automation



Tips for efficient integration



Standardize

Standardize data sources to confirm data does not require complex cleansing before upload into BlackLine



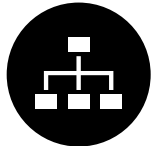
Think ahead

Consider business direction and planning and design the system to be flexible for future growth, capture any process enhancements or changes before system implementation including governance structure



Prepare

Prepare a change management and training plan. Allow adequate time and resources for getting users up to speed.



Designate

Designate a system ownership and maintain schedule and structure. Ask questions to determine what parts of the system may be maintained by the business.



Document

Document technical specifications, integrations, landscapes and design decisions for future reference



Stay tuned

Subscribe to webinars, newsletters and conferences from your solution vendor to capture system enhancements, leading practices and additional use cases

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