

COVER STORY

- 15** ♦ **Understanding Variances in Logistics Invoice Verification, by Anurag Barua, The Washington Post.** Financials guru Anurag Barua explains some simple steps to adjust the Materials Management accounts to bring the goods received and invoiced amounts into balance, even when the vendor throws you some curve balls.

FINANCIALS

- 19** ♦ **It's a Sign! SD, FI, and CO-PA Sign Logic That You'd Better Understand, by Sutrisno Japit.** What's your sign? Read Sutrisno Japit's article and understand SAP's financial sign "language".
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HR

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ABAP/J2EE

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CIO Corner

- 57** ♦ **Getting Value to the Max—After the Fact, by CJ Rhoads.** Dr. C.J. Rhoads shows you how to "Refine and Align" your ERS system and maximize your investment dollars.



Jon Reed, Managing Editor

From The Managing Editor

"What's different about SAPtips?" It's a fair question. Our salespeople sometimes hear a different version of that question: "What can SAPtips do for me?"

Maybe the best way to answer that is to look at a typical SAPtips subscriber. Most of our readers have been running on SAP for quite some time. You can't trick them with fancy talk about Service-Oriented Architecture and NetWeaver™. They want to optimize their SAP investment, but they want to stay within their budget while they do it. They're glad that SAP is pushing ahead with a cutting

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Be sure to visit the SAPtips Document Library to download these new white papers.

ON SRM

SRM and SAP R/3 Partner Functions: Supporting OAs, VNs and IPs By Jason Didday, Sr. Practice Principle, SAP

We know you. You're one of those folks who'd like to get the most out of your SRM investment. You'd like to have multiple ordering addresses and alternate invoicing addresses for some of your vendors in SRM. On the surface that seems straightforward enough, just replicate the OA and IP vendors into SRM, right? But try to create a P.O. against a PI or OA vendor and you'll end up with nothing but an error message. First time contributor Jason Didday has the inside scoop on SRM and some valuable advice for making the vendor partner functionality serve your needs. He gives you configuration and process strategies that will optimize your vendor data processing in R/3 and SRM. Jason also discusses the use of MDM as the central master data management tool (for R/3, SRM and your other applications), as it is being used by some of SAP's "early adopters". Put this on your "must read" list for February.

ON FINANCIALS

Paying Prompt Attention: Complying with the Prompt Payment Act In your SAP System – Part II

By Anurag Barua, The Washington Post

Anurag Barua introduced us to SAP's approach to the Prompt Payment Act in his white paper (of the same name, Part I) published in December 2005. Now Anurag completes his PPA series with exacting steps, screen, tips, and pitfalls. Aware that the PPA regulatory requirements impact each industry differently, he presents a number of customization options to accommodate your company's needs. As one of the primary architects of SAP's PPA functionality, there are few people more qualified than Anurag to help you maximize your investment and minimize your legal exposure in compliance with PPA.

ON DATA ARCHIVING

Archiving Purchasing Data, Part VII: Developing an Archiving Strategy for Financial Documents

By Breck Whitten, Haliburton

Why does an archive manager write a white paper on financial postings? Breck Whitten does it because he knows that financial postings affect purchase orders, and therefore dictate the archiving characteristics of the purchase orders. He knows that the BSEG table is one of the five largest tables, if not the largest table, in your database. In this installment of Breck's series on archiving purchasing data he discusses the configuration of the archive objects. He addresses the "business complete" options that SAP recognizes and explains the associated retention time for document type, account, and index life options. In his typical thorough manner, Breck provides screens and field entry options to guide you every step of the way. So why does an archive manager write about financial postings? We can't speak for anyone else, but when Breck does it, it just makes sense.

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edge technology platform, but they are skeptical about SAP's contention that you can gradually plug in different pieces of NetWeaver without doing a major, enterprise-wide upgrade. Looking at the challenges Oracle customers are facing while Larry Ellison attempts to stitch four(!) software packages together, they're glad to be on a comparatively stable platform, but they also don't want to be taken advantage of, knowing that SAP "has them where they want them."

SAPtips is well-suited for this type of SAP customer. We're the only publication that covers all the areas of SAP, functional and technical, and we're also the only publication that offers consulting and training services to our readers. This creates a "dialogue" with our readers that allows us to structure a solution around their needs. We've been known to solve a problem with a phone call or a one-day training session. Our business model allows us to keep engagements as short as they need to be in order to meet your needs and bring your internal team up to speed.

We take special pride in our training practice because there's such a strong need for customized, on-site SAP training. Whether it's ABAP training, BW reporting, Security training, or whether it's functional training in the areas of Financials, Logistics, and HR, we can have one of our Mastery-Level consultants customize our training offering for your project. You can see a list of our most popular training courses on page 7.

Ever since 1995, when I first started writing SAP career newsletters for SAP consultants, I have had a simple philosophy towards the SAP market: start by giving something of value back. We take a similar approach at SAPtips. That's why we launched two new features that now appear in each edition of SAPtips: "Jerry's Staffing Tips" and "Cheryl's Training Tips". Jerry Walter, our Director of Staffing and Training, has a wealth of knowledge on recruiting SAP talent, and we're now sharing his insights with you each issue. (See Jerry's tip on page 11.) Cheryl Cave, our Production Editor, has experience managing

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On HR

Finding Employees Quickly and Easily Via Object Manager: A Guide for SAP HR Users and Consultants

By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan

Your boss wants to implement a carpool program. The head of accounting has a new mid-management position authorized. They both come to you. Why? Because you're the HR guy. You're the keeper of employee data. But where do you start? Best answer: start with SAPtips and Rehan Zaidi. Let Rehan show you how to search, sort, and manipulate your employee database with the Object Manager tool (found in the Personnel Administration submodule of SAP). He gives you the "A to Z", from how to access the tool to how to use its three search methods. Present your boss with lists of employees sorted by their home zip codes. Or give the accounting manager a list of accounting employees with five or more years of service with the company. According to Rehan, searching the employee database with user-defined criteria has never been easier in SAP.

Don't forget to visit these handy links at www.SAPtips.com

Here's the latest – and greatest – list of SAPtips training courses by subject area. www.SAPtips.com/TrainingCatalog.asp. We'll be glad to customize these for your project.

Check out the new streamlined SAPtips toolbar. Get immediate access to all our tips from your browser. www.SAPtips.com/Toolbar.asp

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large-scale training projects inside and outside of SAP, and her second training tip appears in this issue on page 8.

How many articles on training have you read that basically said, "Training is good, most companies don't spend enough on it, and that's a mistake." Tell us something we don't know! Cheryl revisits the challenge of training on a budget, but she goes beyond the "training is good" clichés to offer specific tips for making the most out of our training resources without asking for money that isn't there. As Cheryl points out, if you can pull off a series of smaller training "wins" within your budget, then your chances of expanding that budget are excellent, because you'll have a clear result to point to. Now that's what SAPtips is all about.

As for the articles in this issue, we've got the usual mix of tips on under-used functionality and the latest project-based successes using SAP's new technology and apps. Our cover story by Anurag Barua on logistics invoice verification is a fine example of saving money by utilizing functionality that is available to your team today. Meantime, our articles on resolving data errors with CRM Middleware and using Java Connector to integrate SAP with third-party Web servers are both "hot off the presses", written by consultants who have just used these techniques for a positive result in the field. The rest of the articles in the issue are also worthy of note, but I'll let you check them out for yourselves.

Jon Reed,
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