

COVER STORY

10 ♦ FI/CO

Implementing SAP's Profit Center Accounting for Fun and Profit, by Bill McNaughten.

Profit Center Accounting is a lot like exercise. You know you stand to receive a lot of benefits from doing it, but it's just hard to get started. In our cover story for this issue, Bill McNaughten gets you motivated with a relatively painless presentation of the process and benefits, the configuration and master data setup, and finally the manual data transport to production. Bill says that since all the postings in PCA originate in other modules, the configuration is relatively simple; so relax...you can do this.

HR

18 ♦ Understanding Retroactivity in SAP HR and Payroll, by Satish Badgi.

Travel back in time with your HR and Payroll transactions by following Satish's guidelines for retroactivity in SAP.

LOGISTICS

25 ♦ MM

Please Release Me: SAP Purchasing Release Strategies Made Easy, by Jocelyn Hayes.

Jocelyn demonstrates her four-step system for keeping purchase release strategies simple.

32 ♦ IM/WM

Cycle Counting: Contrasting SAP's Inventory and Warehouse Management Modules, by Bruce Rishel.

Time to get physical? Let Bruce Rishel help you decide whether the IM or WM module is the best tool for your physical inventory cycle counting.

CRM

45 ♦ Enhancing SAP's Customer Interaction Center Workspaces with WebClient or WinClient, by Scott Cameron.

Learn how to make your CIC workspaces more useful with both the WebClient and WinClient tools.

BASIS

49 ♦ Taking It to the Next Level: Upgrading to Oracle 10g for SAP, by Eric Walter.

Upgrades are tricky on your best day. So follow Eric Walter's step-by-step guide to move up to Oracle 10g for SAP to help ease at least some of the pain.

ABAP/J2EE

55 ♦ Using OLE2 Automation for Integrating Excel Applications for SAP: A Guide with Developers and Consultants, by Rehan Zaidi.

Need to pull your SAP data into Excel? Just say Ole! Rehan Zaidi shows you how to automate the process with OLE2.



Cheryl A. Cave, Managing Editor

From the Managing Editor Welcome 2007!

At SAPtips we've launched into 2007 with a "full speed ahead" attitude. We begin the year by welcoming Jocelyn Hayes as our SAP® Practice Director. Jocelyn will focus on our SAP Consulting and Training services, but you'll see her in other areas as well. She makes her writing debut with SAPtips in this issue with a tip illustrating her strategy for releasing purchase orders in MM.

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Klee Associates, Inc.

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CIO Corner

66 ♦ Picking Your Pain Points, by Erik Keller. Erik Keller gives a lesson in ERP anatomy to help you identify your pain points.

Humor

68 ♦ "What does SAP Stand For?" One Man's Wacky Search to Find the Truth Behind the Acronym, by Jon Reed. Follow Jon through his journey to discover the true meaning of SAP.

70 ♦ SAPtips Cartoon Contest. Find out whose caption submission won the cartoon contest from our last issue.

SAPtips ONLINE

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

ON DATA ARCHIVING

Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data – Part III: Developing an Archiving Strategy

By Breck Whitten, SAP® Data Archiving Project Manager, Halliburton

If Parts I and II got you hooked, then we're happy we could help – here's Breck Whitten's third installment to feed your need for more information on archiving your Plant Maintenance data. We've covered work orders and we've covered notifications. This time around, we give you archiving Plant Maintenance Measurement Documents, using the PM IMRG Archive Object. As Breck suggests, this may not be the largest segment of your PM data, but there are some special gotchas you want to know about, so be sure to read all the way through. Hey, it's a good read anyhow!

ON HR

Accessing Clusters for Gathering Payroll Information Quickly and Easily: A Guide for HR Consultants and Users

By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan

This article is written especially for functional HR consultants and advanced HR end users who have a good comfort level with HR/Payroll and who are not afraid to write their own ABAP programs or queries. This is a particularly handy primer because the Payroll information isn't accessed the same way as other HR information. Use this great little guide to gain your independence from the technical team and start getting the information you really want and need.

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This article has "Been there...done that" written all over it! And Jocelyn has been there and done that. She has over ten years with SAP implementations (and lived to tell about it). Find out more about Jocelyn and what she brings to the table for your SAP implementation on page 4.

It's only February, but already SAP has the markets and media buzzing. In January SAP AG reluctantly announced that it fell short of its targets for new license sales in 2006. But before the market could react too dramatically, they followed with a statement about a mid-market product to be released in key markets this year.

The staff at SAPtips is also elbow-deep in preparation for our second offering of public training, scheduled for April 16th – 20th in Dallas. Think of it as SAP immersion classes, because we design these courses to put you in the driver's seat, not put you to sleep. Due to the high level of "hands-on" activities, we've designed the training for small classes. Translation: There are limited seats for these sessions, so book now. You can find additional information on page 5 or on our Web site at www.SAPtips.com/WorkshopPublic.asp.

April won't work for you? Don't forget we can customize training to deliver at your site, on your timetable. A complete list of our SAP courses is available at www.SAPtips.com/Workshop-CustomCatalog.asp.

Our February/March issue is another heavy hitter, starting with a cover story on a topic that sends more chills down your spine than a Stephen King thriller or a Minnesota winter. Or at least that's how most FI/CO folks view it. Bill McNaughten's tongue-in-cheek title, "Implementing SAP's Profit Center Accounting for Fun and Profit" is only the first sign that he is going to walk you through this as painlessly as possible. With more than

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SAPtips Training and Mastery-Level Workshops

SAPtips offers implementation team training and Mastery-Level workshops. Many courses and workshops are taught by the same hand-picked team of experts that contribute to our SAPtips Journal.

What kind of courses does SAPtips offer? We offer implementation-level training for the project team members, as well as core classes for the end users. From the basics and beyond, to cutting edge configuration and reporting techniques, we'll fill the gaps in your SAP® know-how.

Just like SAPtips, our training covers all aspects of the SAP and mySAP® product line – functional and technical. The new NetWeaver™ technology means a lot of adjustments for SAP teams – our experts can help!

Can SAPtips customize training to fit your needs? You bet! We can customize a training workshop just for you. Let our Mastery Level instructors spend time with you up front. We'll partner with you to craft courses that target your exact business needs - not the other way around! At SAPtips, our custom courses are far from the out-of-the-box training offered by others.

Is SAPtips training affordable? Yes! Just like SAPtips – the journal – SAPtips training is the best value on the market.

To find out more or to schedule a custom workshop, contact Jocelyn Hayes at 1.877.832.2594, Ext 122, or drop her an email at Jocelyn.Hayes@ERPtips.com.

End-User Training and Documentation

Without a doubt, proper planning and configuration are critical to the success of SAP® in the new environment. However, the most effective system in the world will fail without well-trained users who “buy in” to the change.

Whether preparing for go-live or training new hires, we have individual courses that prepare your staff for their roles in SAP. Our training is task oriented; focused on equipping staff in each role to perform all of their system tasks. We can also develop the materials your users will need for working with SAP, whether it is a task-based User Guide, Online Help, or simple Quick Reference Cards. We can develop the tools to fill the gaps between configuration and implementation.

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11 years of SAP CO consulting under his belt, Bill can deliver.

We frequently have requests for more Inventory Management and Warehouse Management articles. If this is your wish, it's just been granted. Bruce Rishel presents a 20+ page discussion on Cycle Counting, contrasting the use of IM vs WM.

It almost never fails at this time of year that something needs to be calculated retroactive to January 1st. We've got you covered; Satish Badgi's going retro with “Understanding Retroactivity in SAP HR and Payroll”.

Erik Keller diagnoses your ERP pain points in this issue's CIO Corner article.

The folks at ASUG aren't hibernating either; they're presenting a mySAP® ERP Upgrade Symposium in late February (see details on page 7) and have a variety of Web casts scheduled as well.

And last, but not least, on page 68, we bid a fond farewell to the man who taught us all the meaning of SAP.

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