

COVER STORY

8 ♦ MM
Demand Planning in SAP: Dynamic Safety Stock, by Adam Tysman, SAP Value and Effectiveness Specialist.
You've heard it said that too much of a good thing can be bad. In fact, with enterprise material stock levels, you're walking a fine line between too much and too little. Adam Tysman shows you how to implement and tweak the Dynamic Safety Stock feature in Demand Planning for that "just right" level that even Goldilocks could love.

HR

17 ♦ **Cool CATS: Simple Configuration of SAP's Cross Application Time Sheet**, by Satish Badgi, SAP HR Consultant.
The point of ERP software is to take advantage of shared data across the enterprise. Satish Badgi shows you how to set up and use CATS (Cross Application Time Sheets) to capture and utilize employee time data across the enterprise.

LOGISTICS

24 ♦ MM
Overview of the Logistics Information System, by Jocelyn Hayes, SAPtips Director of Consulting and Training.
Sometimes you need a tool that can not only pull data from the logistics modules, but actually crunch it and report it. Jocelyn Hayes introduces you to the little-known

and underutilized Logistics Information System.

30 ♦ PM
Should Reliability Engineers Be Active in SAP?, by Warren Bell, Olivet Inc.

Need to get more out of your plant data by involving engineers? Warren Bell confesses that he too was once a reluctant engineer, and gives you the keys for promoting staff involvement.

FINANCIALS

39 ♦ **Parallel Currencies in SAP – Part I: Supporting Local Legal Financial Reporting**, by Dimitris Langas, SAP Consultant.

You've got to read and report on financial data from branches in seven countries in the Corporate Office's local currency. Problem is, each branch has to report in their local currency to their government. Find out how to support multi-country financial reporting using parallel currencies in SAP.

BI

48 ♦ **Backend Performance Improvement Measures: Make Your BI Queries Soar**, by Anurag Barua, Director, EDC Consulting.
As your data grows, it becomes more useful; but not if it slows BI query performance to a crawl. Let Anurag Barua teach you performance improvement measures to make your queries soar.



Cheryl A. Cave, Managing Editor

From the Managing Editor

Is it possible that we are already on the cusp of this year's ASUG/Sapphire conference? If you are planning to attend, you know it's countdown time. Have you built your agenda, booked your hotel, and reserved your flight? If you answered yes to those questions, you're almost ready. Next you'll want to brush up on your SAP-speak before boarding that flight to Orlando. Whatever you need to know, you'll find most of it in this issue (and our Document Library).

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BASIS

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ABAP/J2EE

- 60 ♦** **A Tour of the New Business Add-Ins (BADIs): A Guide for SAP Developers and Consultants**, by Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan. Discover BAdI building strategies to put real muscle in your ABAP routines.

CIO Corner

- 68 ♦** **IT Spending in an Uncertain Economy**, by CJ Rhoads. This is a tough economy. CJ Rhodes shows you how to weather the budget cuts without losing your technical edge.

Humor

- 71 ♦** **Say What?, A Guide to the SAP® Terms You Need to Know for ASUG 2008 and Beyond**, by Jon Reed, JonERP.com. There is no faster way to lose your street cred with the SAP crowd than to refer to the wrong version, or worse, use an outdated acronym when schmoozing with colleagues. Jon Reed helps you fine tune your SAP-ese before heading for Sapphire.

SAPtips ONLINE

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

ON MM

Materials Management – Master the Best Practices Part III: Purchasing Best Practices

By Jocelyn Hayes, SAPtips Director of Training and Consulting

If you can read only one paper on the MM Procure-to-Pay process, this is the one. A veteran of numerous implementations, Jocelyn Hayes has both the perspective and the solid experience required to be able to drill down to the best practices for each part of the process. In this paper she covers master data, document types, field selection, release strategies, and condition types. We suspect copies of this will be laminated and posted on office walls. Jocelyn is, after all, among America's most wanted (in SAP).

ON ABAP

SAP Graphics Function Module Primer: A Guide for SAP Developers and Consultants

By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan

A picture tells a thousand words, or so the saying goes. And a graph is the perfect visual for expressing key company data. After all, what's easier to understand when analyzing data: a spreadsheet of numbers and formulas or a colorful pie chart or bar graph that highlights the important facts? The good news: you can insert graphs into SAP programs using ABAP. Rehan Zaidi demonstrates how to employ SAP Graphical Framework.

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Need to build your skills in Logistics? Adam Tysman leads the issue with his cover story (page 8) on using Dynamic Safety Stock in Demand Planning. Adam says when used correctly, this method is probably the best fit for most companies. Or if you're having difficulty getting the engineers in your company to take advantage of what SAP offers for Plant Maintenance, have them read Warren Bell's article on page 30. Want more from your logistics investment? Jocelyn Hayes shows you how to use the Logistics Information System (page 24) to crunch and report logistics data and create planning data.

SAPtips is all about optimization in this issue. Eric Walter shows you how to configure the Maintenance Optimizer in Solutions Manager (page 54), and Anurag Barua offers tips to optimize BI query performance (page 48).

Nothing says "rookie" like using the wrong product and version names... always a challenge with SAP. Jon Reed's humor column "Say What? A Guide to the SAP Terms You Need to Know for ASUG 2008 and Beyond" on page 71 is like CliffsNotes for SAP jargon.

SAPtips' spring training is almost over. If you missed it, remember we can bring our on-site training to you. Otherwise, you'll have to wait for our fall classes. We are offering new courses that you'll want to check out on page 6, or contact Jocelyn Hayes at Jocelyn.Hayes@ERPtips.com to determine the best plan for your training and consulting needs.

Look for Jocelyn and me in Orlando in May. We're hoping to get to meet you, and learn more about your business.

Cheryl A. Cave,
Managing Editor, SAPtips

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White Papers continued from previous page

On ABAP

Upload Data from a Legacy System Using ABAP: Say No to Java & .NET Connectors

By Usman Malik, Siemens, Pakistan

It's the age old problem, moving data from the legacy system into SAP. Admittedly, there is no silver bullet...no quick or simple solution for this process. However, it doesn't necessarily have to be a big project involving Java and .Net techies. It is possible to sort, clean, and arrange the data for transfer with some basic ABAP code.

Jocelyn Hayes' View from the Trenches

Well, spring has sprung and a lot is still happening with SAP and SAPtips.

We are just wrapping our spring classes with one more left to "execute" (love using those SAP-centric terms). Our upcoming NEW ABAP class promises to deliver quality content and learning to its participants with the focus on beginner to intermediate ABAP developers, or even functional folks wanting to learn what their wonderful ABAP developers do day in and day out. As a functional person myself, I have always wanted to learn just enough ABAP to be able to debug and review code and be able to understand the different development options available to the developers. This class is currently open for registration and will be held in Dallas, May 19-23.

Around the corner, the week of May 3rd is SAP's Annual SAPHIRE conference, again being co-hosted with the America's SAP User Group in sunny Orlando, FL. If you are planning to attend and want to meet me or our SAPtips Managing Editor, Cheryl Cave, drop us a line at Jocelyn.Hayes@ERPtips.com and we'll set something up.

*SAPtips is planning some more new classes this fall. Keep your eye on our schedule and course descriptions... SAPtips.com/WorkshopPublic.asp. And remember, you can also have our *Mastery Consultants* bring our training to you and your team at your site.*

I attended a Business Objects overview seminar in Denver recently where I learned a little more about the BO offerings. It is still not completely clear to me which is the "better" solution – BO or SAP BI for folks running SAP, or the long-term best choice. Will SAP eventually merge these products? To me, it seems strange to continue to develop two products in parallel that essentially offer the same functionality. By no means am I a Business Intelligence expert, so take my comments with a "grain of salt". My hope for SAP is that at some point, they figure out a way to easily "merge" the products into one to make the transition as painless as possible, and continue to offer a Best of Breed BI solution that is both simple to support and implement, and comes with rich business content and intuitive end-user interfaces.



Jocelyn Hayes

Until the next issue... Have a lovely Spring!

Jocelyn Hayes

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