

## COVER STORY

- 12** ♦ **Building a Dream Team of SAP Training Developers**, by **Pete Owens, Sr. SAP Training Consultant**. Our cover story for this issue presents a topic that hits home for all SAP projects: how do you ensure your users get the SAP know-how they need? And how do you build the right team to get that accomplished? Pete Owens scores with his advice on building a training “dream team”.

## HR

- 19** ♦ **Universe of Tax Processing in SAP HR/Payroll - Part II**, by **Satish Badgi, SAP HR Consultant**. Satish Badgi completes his series on “The Universe of Tax Processing in SAP HR Payroll” with instructions for building and combining functional tax models.
- 25** ♦ **Understanding the SAP “HR Forms” Architecture - A Guide for SAP HR Users and Consultants**, by **Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan**. When you create HR reports you want the specific information in a sensible format. Use Rehan Zaidi’s HR Forms article as your primer.

## LOGISTICS

- 33** ♦ **A Brick House: Structuring Equipment and Technical Objects in SAP Plant Maintenance**, by **Warren Bell, Olivet Inc.** Follow expert Warren Bell’s guide to setting up

equipment and Technical Objects in a way that works with SAP’s hierarchical structure AND your manufacturing process flow.

## BW

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## BASIS

- 42** ♦ **SAP Role Creation: Guidelines for Planning and Implementation**, by **Eric Walter, Basis Editor**. Let Basis Editor Eric Walter take you through the use of SAP’s Profile Generator to set up practical, secure user roles.
- 47** ♦ **The Power of Automated Testing: E-CATT Test Scripts in SAP Solution Manager 3.2, Part I**, by **Kamran Ellahi, Pakistan Petroleum Limited**. E-CATT got your tongue? Kamran Ellahi shows you the ins and outs of the automated test tool aspect of SAP’s Solution Manager.

## ABAP/J2EE

- 54** ♦ **Improving the Quality of Your ABAP Code Using the Code Inspector - A Guide for SAP Developers and Consultants**, by **Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan**. Code breaking? Follow Rehan Zaidi’s guide for using the SAP Code



Jon Reed, Editor in Chief

## From The Editor in Chief

ASUG/SAPPHIRE 2006 was the best ever. Of course, we’re a little biased, because it was the first time SAPtips had a booth in the vendor showcase. It was great to have the entire SAPtips team in Orlando to meet so many of you and learn firsthand about your SAP implementations.

With the huge PR push by SAP to encourage upgrades, we expected more companies to be in “upgrade mode.” Some companies are in the midst of upgrading to mySAP® ERP, others are about to make the leap, and others could care less. This last group is

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## CIO Corner

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to the wrong party. Jose Fajardo shows you how to avoid conflicts of interest for honest and accurate test results.

**66 ♦ Decisions, Decisions! Five Things CIOs Often Forget, by CJ Rhoads.** Dr. CJ Rhoads offers a CIO refresher course of the five important things to keep in mind on the way to the top.

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## SAPtips ONLINE

Be sure to visit the SAPtips Document Library to download this new white paper.

### **ON DATA ARCHIVING**

#### **Archiving Purchasing Data, Part VIII: Developing an Archiving Strategy for Financial Documents By Breck Whitten, Haliburton**

When our SAP Data Archiving specialist Breck Whitten introduced a series discussing Financial Documents, we knew it would be a doozy. Since the FI\_DOCUMENT object has the richest functionality (and therefore, highest complexity) of all of SAP's archiving objects, it made sense for Breck to dedicate a series to explain the structure, functionality, tricks, and traps in archiving what many consider the most critical documents within an organization. But, all good things must come to an end, and so Breck ends the series with a thorough examination of the steps involved in the post-processing archiving activities. These are potentially the most "delicate" steps in the process since they are the ones that actually remove the data from the secondary indexes. Breck arms you with everything you'll need to know in terms of configuration impacts, post-processing tasks, reporting impacts, and the use of third-party tools, to ensure your success.

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focused on getting the most out of their current release and isn't thinking about upgrades at all. More often than not, the people we talked were investigating one piece of functionality that might help their company, such as auditing/security or project documentation tools. Upgrades came into play only if that functionality was something SAP was going to be providing in the next release.

Before the conference, we published an interview with departing ASUG President Mike Perroni ([www.SAPtips.com/ASUGinterview.asp](http://www.SAPtips.com/ASUGinterview.asp)). Given that there are so many product names associated with new SAP releases (ECC 5.0/6.0, mySAP 2006, NetWeaver™ 2004, etc.), we asked Mike if he thought there was confusion about SAP releases and version numbers. He told us that ASUG was working hard with SAP to help companies get a handle on the new releases.

It seems that SAP and ASUG are succeeding along those lines. Though there is still some "Alphabet Soup effect", we saw a lot less confusion about SAP's product release strategy than we've seen in the past. Companies seem to have a grip on where they are headed and what releases (and services) they are going to need next. However, they are taking their time and making sure they see a clear return on any additional SAP investments.

I try to use the word "synergy" sparingly, but the combined ASUG/SAP-PHIRE week definitely had a bit of the "s word" to it. We talked to a lot of folks at ASUG who were planning to stay through SAPPHIRE and see what product developments SAP would highlight.

Of course, there was nothing as hyped as the Microsoft/SAP Mendocino partnership that was unveiled last year (which is now called "Duet"). This year, the focus was on how SAP's NetWeaver-driven "Enterprise Service Architecture" can help companies innovate. SAP is heading towards a future where companies can selectively upgrade only the components they need to drive their business. Just how close we

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are to that future depends both on SAP and the sophistication of a company's own Web-based architecture. Since this kind of "selective upgrade" is going to rely heavily on Web-based integration standards, SAP's customers are going to have to meet SAP halfway to realize this vision. The more "Web-enabled" your IT infrastructure is, the better positioned you are for the "SAP of the future."

Other key trends we saw at ASUG/SAPPHIRE: SAP has streamlined its pricing model to make pricing simpler and more transparent. This fits in with an overall push towards giving small and mid-market companies an affordable way to pursue SAP, either through Business One (for the SME market), or through All-in-One (for the mid-market). The move "down market" seems to have benefited all SAP customers, as there is an increasing emphasis on user-friendly presentation and "plug and play" functionality that is pre-loaded with industry-specific content.

At the conference, we were able to present many of you with a "collectible" printed copy of the "Best of SAPtips" magazine, a compilation of articles that made an impact on SAP customers. If you weren't able to get a copy, or if it got scuffed up during the flight home, we have now released the PDF version of "The Best of SAPtips" online in the Special Edition category on the pull down menu.

We've also put together this all-new collection of articles for our June/July edition. This issue includes some new SAPtips voices like Project Manager Jose Fajardo, who has written a strongly-worded article on the wrong (and the right) way to go about SAP testing. We're also pleased to present our first Plant Maintenance article by PM expert Warren Bell. Our readers tell us that PM is involved in more SAP projects, and we were glad to bring Warren on board to write some pieces on "best practices" in Plant Maintenance.

Our cover story, "Building a Dream Team of SAP Training Developers" by SAP Trainer Pete Owens, reflects our

increasing emphasis on providing quality training to SAP customers. Whether we are publishing quality tips or finding the right consultant for your project, our focus is always on leaving your team with the information they need. So it makes perfect sense that SAP training would become an SAPtips specialty.

We're gearing up to offer our first public SAP training classes in November of 2006, and we'll have a formal announcement in our August/September issue. But for now, if you want to learn more about how SAPtips can bring custom training to your project, you can go to our training home page at [www.SAPtips.com/Training.asp](http://www.SAPtips.com/Training.asp). You can see a list of our most popular training topics on page 7.

Whether you're looking for project team or end-user training, our focus is to present the information you need in the format you need it. Our trainers will emphasize the functionality that fits with your company's business processes. In Pete Owens' cover story, he states the importance of trainers knowing the business processes that drive the software. We couldn't agree more. We make sure that our trainers have both the SAP expertise and the training know-how to make that knowledge stick.

ASUG 2006 may be in the books, but you can give us your take on the SAP market whenever you want. At any time, we'd be glad to hear from you on the challenges your project is facing and how SAPtips can help. Whether that help comes in the form of expert advice and consulting, customized training, or an article series on a crucial SAP topic, is up to you.

Enjoy the summer, and we'll be back soon with more tips in our August/September edition.

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