

## COVER STORY

- 9 ♦ WAREHOUSE MAINTENANCE**  
**Kanban? In SAP You Can,** by Bruce Rishel, Perot Systems. Today's business is all about efficiencies. If your business isn't agile and efficient, it won't be competitive long. That's why we felt that Bruce Rishel's article on Kanban was not only timely, but...well...efficient. Bruce shows you how to maximize your SAP investment by maximizing your resources, ordering only what you need, as you need it, automatically. Follow his straightforward configuration suggestions and best practice tips to implement Kanban in your company.

## HR

- 14 ♦ ESGs and PSGs: What Do You Need to Know About SAP's Personnel Areas and Employee Groups?**, by Satish Badgi, SAP HR Consultant. Time will fly if you follow Satish Badgi's suggestions for fine tuning your Employee Sub Groups and Personnel Sub Groups in your Time Management module.

## LOGISTICS

- 19 ♦ APO AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT**  
**SAP's SCM 5.0: A Kinder, Gentler Demand Planner,** by Ranjan Sinha, Lead APO Technical Analyst. Are your users stuck in "Excel-land"? Ranjan Sinha explains why the release of SCM 5.0 will inspire your users to embrace your APO Demand Planning tool.

## FINANCIALS

- 25 ♦ The Eliminator: Understanding Elimination of Internal Business Volume in Cost Center Reports,** by Sutrisno Japit, SAP Practice Manager, Japit, Inc. You're not seeing a true picture of your cost center accounts unless you learn to exclude cost center exchanges from your reports. Sutrisno Japit shows you how to make it work.
- 29 ♦ SAP's New General Ledger in ECC 6.0: Document Splitting – Part II,** by Anurag Barua, *The Washington Post*. Anurag Barua discusses the concepts and benefits of document splitting and demonstrates some preliminary configuration in the second installment of his series.
- 35 ♦ Substitution Rules! Get Interactive with SAP's FI Substitution Rules,** by Graham Smith, FI/CO Consultant. First time contributor Graham Smith shows you how to build an interactive prompt for your FI users by tweaking your substitution rules.

## BW

- 40 ♦ What's New?: NetWeaver™ 2004s BI Reporting Tools,** by Peter Scott, SAP Practice Director at Traxion Consulting Inc. Let Peter Scott show you what's new and exciting in BW/BI Reporting with NetWeaver 2004s.



Cheryl A. Cave, Managing Editor

## From the Managing Editor

Whether you attended Sapphire keynote speeches in person or by Webcast this year, or simply followed the usual news sources, you learned elements of SAP's proposed business strategies and relationships. These announcements held no big surprises. Of note is an expanding relationship with Microsoft's Duet product in identifying a long-range roadmap for the software, which allows users to tap into SAP

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## BASIS

- 44 ♦ TMS 101: Fine Tuning Your Transport Management System, by Eric Walter, SAP Consultant.** Prop up the hood of your TMS system and overhaul it with expert Eric Walter's tips.

## SOA

- 49 ♦ Building the SOA City, by Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice.** To build the city of tomorrow, you need to start with a solid plan and state-of-the-art tools. Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice show you how to begin construction of an SOA with a minimal time investment and best-of-breed tools.

## TRAINING

- 59 ♦ Maquiladora Training: Just a "Sap" in Mexico, by Robert Vaughan, SAP Training Consultant.** The world is now a global marketplace with manufacturing interests spanning borders and continents. Robert Vaughan describes the obstacles and solutions in implementing SAP maquiladora training in Mexico.

## CIO Corner

- 65 ♦ The New SLOG, by Erik Keller.** Erik Keller describes his concept of the next wave of IT wizards, those who SLOG. Find out what his acronym means for you and your career.

## SAPtips ONLINE

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

### **ON ABAP**

**SAP GUI Scripting and MSOffice-Visual Basic for Applications: A Powerful Combination**

**By Arturo Bernal, SAP Consultant**

If you need to record data, but find the eCatt tool more complex than you need for daily tasks, Arturo Bernal offers a creative alternative. SAP GUI Scripting, used in combination with Visual Basic for Applications found in MSOffice's Excel, can provide you with a much more flexible, easy to use option. Let Arturo show you the steps to integrate these technologies and get you on your way to automating some of labor-intensive tasks.

### **ON HR**

**Need a Yes to ESS? Tips to Improve User Acceptance of Your SAP® ESS Solution**

**By Bharath Ajendla, Cap Gemini**

Are your users having trouble accepting Employee Self Service? Are they finding it difficult to use? Sometimes, even applications touted as "user-friendly" could benefit from a few changes to make them truly easy-to-use. Bharath Ajendla has been working on such a project of his own, and he's more than happy to share with you a few tips and tricks he's learned regarding navigation, communication with users, and dealing with downtime that he says will get your users to say "YES" to ESS in no time!

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applications through their familiar Microsoft Office applications. Version 2.0 of Duet will be delivered in late 2008. SAP also announced a more robust relationship with Cisco in leveraging enterprise SOA. Is SOA truly the shape of things to come? Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice begin a series this issue in which they propose an SOA city built in small, simple steps to support services as you need them. Turn to page 49 to read their solution, which utilizes a collection of the best-of-breed applications from OpenSource to Microsoft.

SAP also announced a new relationship with Adobe to develop virtual learning tools that can provide a lower cost and more accessible solution to training. Until their solution is on the market, you may want to read Robert Vaughan's synopsis of a maquiladora training project that kept his team crossing the Mexican border more frequently than an immigration official. Every project has its obstacles; see page 59 to read how Robert's team overcame language, culture, infrastructure, and political issues to train their users. And if you're interested in offshoring, multi-national corporations, and global business, you'll want to read Erik Keller's CIO Corner article on page 65. Eric predicts the winners of the next enterprise software race – the SLOGgers. Yep, just when you thought you couldn't take one more acronym.

Need more from your FI/CO investment? Anurag Barua returns with Part II of his series on Document Splitting with the new General Ledger in ECC 6.0. In this installment he discusses the concept of document splitting and takes you through some preliminary configuration steps. You'll find his article on page 29. Maybe you just need to know how to report the true cost for a cost center group. On page 25, Sutrisno Japit shows you how to eliminate internal business volume to show a more accurate cost.

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Whether you're demanding more information on Demand Planning in SCM 5.0 (page 19) or trying to reduce inventory levels with Kanban replenishments (page 9), we have your back.

But what if you need more than information? Whether you need Mastery Level consultants to implement additional functionality or an economical custom training solution (page 5) for your users, we're here to help. Just think of SAPtips as the only friend you'll ever need when it comes to enterprise solutions.

Meanwhile, there is still time to participate in our "we must be nuts" win-a-free-class offer for our off-site public classes. Look at page 4 to read about this great offer – we are really going nuts this summer and offering these classes in August in Denver as well as our regularly-scheduled fall series.

Sincerely,

*Cheryl A. Cave,*

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