

COVER STORY

- 11 ♦ Beyond the ILM Buzzword: Developing an e-Information Lifecycle Management Strategy, by Breck Whitten.** In our cover story, Data Archiving expert Breck Whitten blazes new trails through the Information Lifecycle Management frontier. Breck delivers thoughtful insights and strategies on what you'll need to develop a comprehensive e-ILM solution that will help you decide the "ifs, hows, and whens" for implementing an ILM initiative.

HR

- 16 ♦ Planning the Implementation of SAP's Training and Events Management (TEM) Module, by Satish Badgi.** Thinking about implementing SAP's Training and Events submodule? Satish Badgi explains that the key to success is less about configuration than identifying what you need the software to do for you.
- 20 ♦ Decision Point: Standard ESS or Customized with Web Dynpro?, by Raj Peddisetty.** ESS: "Out of the box" or customized with Web Dynpro? Raj Peddisetty walks you through the decisions you need to make in determining the Employee Self Service solution that's best for you.

LOGISTICS

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- 41 ♦ "Hands-Off" Rebate Maintenance: How to Automatically Create and Settle Rebate Agreements, by Matthias Liebich.** Matthias Liebich gives you everything you need to put your Rebate Maintenance function on "auto pilot".

FINANCIALS

- 50 ♦ It's an Inside Job: Capital Internal Order Configuration—Part II, by Bill McNaughten.** Follow Bill McNaughten as he continues his review of Internal Order configuration with the Model Order, Asset Under Construction, Fixed Asset, and Settlement functions.
- 59 ♦ What's It Worth?: Automating Exchange Rate Feeds, by Stuart Lee.** Simplify, simplify, simplify. Stuart Lee shows you how to automate exchange rate feeds from external sources.



Jon Reed, Editor in Chief

From the Editor in Chief

In the SAP® market, you can't go it alone. We've built 3,500 pages of searchable content on that simple premise. To its credit, SAP itself has encouraged the development of an empowered user community. SAP is too big a riddle to solve on your own. The expanding role of SAP's ASUG user group and the direct role of ASUG's "Influence Councils" in the enhancement of the SAP product is yet another example of the way SAP's user community is evolving.

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- 64 ♦** **Everybody Gets a Discount: Allocation of Cash Discount to the Originating Profit Center, by Sutrisno Japit.** Offering Cash Discounts? Sutrisno Japit shows you how to allocate and settle the associated accounts.

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- 71 ♦** **Mastering the Concepts of the New ALV Object Model – A Guide for SAP Developers and Consultants, by Rehan Zaidi.** The good, the bad, and the ugly. Rehan Zaidi reviews SAP's new ALV model.

UPGRADES

- 76 ♦** **Top 10 Ways to Ensure a Successful SAP Upgrade, by Anurag**

Barua. Anurag Barua brings to the table a Top Ten List for upgrades that would make David Letterman proud!

TRAINING

- 80 ♦** **You Can't Kid a Kidder, but You Can Train the Trainer: Ensuring a Successful SAP Train-the-Trainer Experience, by Pete Owens.** Follow Pete Owens down the tracks as he conducts you through understanding the value of a Train-the-Trainer program.

CIO Corner

- 86 ♦** **Vendor Partnerships: How To Make A Good One, by CJ Rhoads.** Can vendor partnerships really be profitable? Learn the why's and why not's from Dr. C.J. Rhoads.

SAPtips ONLINE

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

ON HR

Making Mass Updates in Employee Infotypes Quickly and Easily – A Guide for SAP HR Users and Consultants
By Rehan Zaidi

It's late, you're hungry, and you need to update a lot of employee Infotypes before you head for the hills. Problem: there's no ABAP resource available. But hold on! Before you call your spouse to say you won't be home for dinner...or Christmas...or your child's high school graduation, you need to read Rehan Zaidi's practical solution. Rehan illustrates how you can use the SAP transaction recorder, along with a third-party tool, to accomplish mass updates in minimal time. He presents a detailed explanation of the preparation involved as well as each step in using the recorder. Rehan then demonstrates the use of a third-party tool called TxShuttle to complete the updates. Finally, he presents an example of how these techniques might be applied in a "real world" situation. Oh yeah, you'll be home for dinner... and when you're enjoying that decadent dessert, whisper a thank-you to Rehan.

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SAPtips is evolving as well. As we get close to our four-year anniversary, our partnerships in the SAP community are also deepening. In our October/November issue, loaded with 12 new articles, we've also included our first ever "User News From ASUG" column (see page 9). In upcoming editions of SAPtips, we'll work with ASUG to feature the most important developments that our readers can be involved with.

For an example of the impact SAP's users can have on SAP's direction, look no further than our cover story on Information Lifecycle Management from Halliburton's Breck Whitten. Breck and his team at Halliburton have relayed feedback to SAP on the evolution of SAP data archiving for years now.

Now it's time to take on a whole new buzzword, "Information Lifecycle Management". In this exclusive feature, Breck explains why Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) is such a trendy and important topic, and he analyzes how ILM will affect SAP environments. Breck's team will continue to relay their needs regarding an ILM solution to SAP, and we look forward to tracking those developments in the SAPtips Journal.

There's a nice range of topics in this issue, from Pete Owens' continued series on best practices in SAP user training, to Anurag Barua's "Top Ten Ways to Ensure a Successful SAP Upgrade". We are also releasing four white papers in conjunction with this issue, including another insightful piece on SAP's Enterprise Services Architecture (ESA) from our intrepid NetWeaver™ investigators Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice.

As this issue goes to press, there are more ways than ever to connect with SAPtips. To complement our on-site consulting and custom training services, we are now offering off-

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ON UPGRADES**OS/DB Migrations: An Illustrated Guide to Planning, Testing, and Execution****By Eric Walter**

So, you've got this great little house. Now add three kids, two cats, and a dog—and all that stuff that comes with them. Now you've reached the point where you need to expand. ERPs are a lot like that; over time, businesses grow, needs change. At some point, you may need to make changes to different operating systems or databases. Eric Walter presents some basic steps and tips that should make your next migration to a new OS/DB, a sometimes complex deal, a bit easier.

ON UPGRADES**Making the Leap to the Next Release of SAP****By Kamran Ellahi**

Upgrades can be a good thing, provided you've done your homework first. Sure, it's easy to decide to go forth and get the next release and all the bells and whistles that come with it. But, hey, it's a BIG expense, too. Is it worth the time and money? Confused about what to do? Kamran Ellahi is here to clue you in on some of the motivating factors that drive companies to the next release, as well as some key processes that will guide you towards a successful upgrade!.

ON NETWEAVER**Back to the Future with SOA: The Importance of Governance****By Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice**

Our parents dreaded 1984 and the predicted appearance of "Big Brother". Our generation was more concerned with Y2K and 2001. What future event or technological advancement will our children worry about? At SAPtips, we can't claim to predict the future, but with the assistance of NetWeaver gurus Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice, we can give you a pretty good preview of the role of SOA in the years to come. In this "strap on your seat belts" white paper, our forward-thinking duo present their ideas about why the SOA architecture has experienced slow adoption, what has changed, and why they anticipate an SOA-driven future in ERP-land. What's the key to moving ahead with SOA? Axel and Lynton say that standards and governance will determine whether we see evolution or revolution.

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site classes in Dallas twice a year. The next dates for the classes are April 16-20. We'll be offering three classes: SAP Jumpstart: Basis and Security, Sales Order Processing, and Business Warehouse Reporting. These hands-on classes are designed and taught by active SAP consultants, each of whom has pulled together the most important know-how your team needs to get the most out of SAP. For detailed course outlines and registration information, go to www.SAPtips.com/Training.asp. This is one classroom you won't fall asleep in!

In addition to our off-site classes, more and more clients are contacting us to provide custom, onsite training. We've got experts who can handle virtually any SAP topic and transfer mastery-level knowledge to your IT staff and key business users. If you need configuration level training or even end-user training, feel free to contact Jerry Walter, the Director of Staffing and Training at SAPtips. (Jerry can be contacted by email at Jerry.Walter@ERPtips.com or by phone at 1.877.832.2594 ext 120.)

Finally, our cartoon caption feature is really taking off. There were some great responses to the last edition's. See the responses on page 10.

On behalf of the entire SAPtips team, we'd like to wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving and best wishes as you wrap up this year's SAP initiatives.

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