

COVER STORY

- 8 ♦ Logistics/MM**
Mastering Material Masters Part I - Material Types: Make Them Work For You, by Jocelyn Hayes, SAPtips Director of Training and Consulting. Are you mastering Material Masters—or are they dominating you? Jocelyn Hayes gives you a sneak peek at a new class that will help you get a grip on this tough-to-tackle subject.

HR

- 15 ♦ What Is Time Evaluation and Why Do We Need It?**, by Satish Badgi, SAP HR Consultant. What is time? In SAP, it means different things for different employees. Satish Badgi shows you how to keep it all straight.
- 20 ♦ Creating Your Own Infotypes in Organizational Management – A Guide for SAP® HR Consultants and Developers**, by Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan. Create useful OM Infotypes with this handy guide from Rehan Zaidi.

FINANCIALS

- 25 ♦ FI/CO**
Unlock Payment Processing Benefits Using SAP®'s Lockbox Capabilities: Part I, by Anurag Barua, Independent SAP Consultant. Lockbox Payment Processing - Get started today and save money on the money you make!

BW

- 31 ♦ Understanding DataStore Objects (DSOs) and Their Assorted Flavors in BI NetWeaver™ 7.0**, by Anurag Barua, Independent SAP Consultant. There are some key differences between DSOs and their predecessor—ODS. Anurag Barua points out the changes, plus what to expect in this current release.

SOA

- 37 ♦ Building the SOA City – Part III: The Magic of Asynchronous Processing**, by Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice. We multi-task, so why shouldn't our systems do the same? Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice demonstrate how this is possible in SOA.

BASIS

- 44 ♦ NetWeaver 7.0 Web Application Server: Defined**, by Eric Walter, SAP Consultant. Get straight on the terms and architecture of NetWeaver 7.0 Web Application Server. Eric Walter provides the details.

ABAP

- 47 ♦ Getting By with What You've Got: How RFC Can Be Your Friend**, by Roger Myers. Sometimes the answer to a problem is right under your nose. Roger Myers shows how Remote Function Calls – an oft-forgotten technology – can help with an emerging issue in SAP.



Cheryl A. Cave, Managing Editor

From the Managing Editor

The arrival of fall brings cool nights, falling leaves, and the Thanksgiving holiday. Here in the U.S., we tend to believe it is our exclusive holiday; yet many cultures the world over celebrate and give thanks for a bountiful year's harvest. At SAPtips, we are grateful for our dedicated subscribers and consulting/training clients, and our world-class contributors.

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65 ♦ To ASP or Not to ASP?, by CJ Rhoads, EMT Associates. Rent or own? Before you consider going with an Application Service Provider (ASP), see what CJ has to say!

CIO Corner

60 ♦ Turning ERP on Its Head: Can SAP eSOA Change Companies' Approaches to ERP?, by Jon Reed, JonERP.com. How can eSOA work for you? Let Jon Reed explain.

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ON LOGISTICS / SALES AND DISTRIBUTION

How to Determine Whether to Forward or Backward Schedule By Thomas Woelfel

This paper is an excerpt from the SAPtips Mastery Level Workshop book for Sales and Distribution. We sincerely hope that the information included here will help you take the riddle out of forward/backward schedule determination.

ON ABAP

Creating Search Helps for Fields via ABAP Programming By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan

Here's yet something else to be thankful for: Search Helps within various ABAP applications. Rehan Zaidi defines and lists the advantages of using this functionality to help make your program executions and data entries easier for you and your users. So prime your finger above the F4 key and get ready to search for the answers you need.

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Opening our October/November issue is a cover story that will be welcomed by those of you who are ready to master Material Masters. Jocelyn Hayes, SAPtips Director of Training and Consulting, begins this series with a focus on Material Types (page 8). We are excited that Material Masters – An Overview, will be our next SAPtips University Mastery Level Workbook. We'll be announcing more on that next year, so keep an eye out.

We're addressing one of today's hot topics – lockbox processing with SAP – in an article by Anurag Barua (page 25). As is true of all SAPtips contributors, Anurag brings impressive credentials (including 15 years experience in SAP) to the table. In this first installment of a two-part article, Anurag presents an overview of lockbox processing and some configuration steps. Follow Anurag's sage advice to reduce payment float and expedite dollars to the G/L, and who knows...your boss may be motivated to thank you with a nice holiday bonus. Anurag also contributes to this issue with helping us understand DataStore Objects! We believe you'll also be thankful for our continued investigation of SOA with a third installment of Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice's series on Building the SOA City, on page 37. This time around, Axel and Lynton describe the magic of asynchronous processing along the SOA highway. If you need a macro (rather than micro) view of SOA, you'll want to read Jon Reed's observations of the eSOA trends on page 6. You'll find technical advice from Roger Myers as he explains how RFC can be your friend (page 47) and from Eric Walter as he helps you get a grip on WebAS (page 44). As usual, there's a feast of tips, facts, and shortcuts at the SAPtips table.

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As we write this, our fall SAPtips University workshops in Dallas are in progress. We are pleased that the attendance on these classes has grown significantly since we first launched the University a couple years back. We'll be in Dallas again in the spring for another round of Mastery Level Workshops. Meanwhile, we can provide onsite training and/or consulting services to help you get the most out of your SAP investment. Contact Jocelyn Hayes at 877-832-2594 x 122.

Whether you're augmenting, optimizing, or commiserating...at SAPtips, we're thankful to be here for you through all your ups and downs.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Cave,

Managing Editor, SAPtips

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The August/September 2007 issue of SAPtips is available.

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