

COVER STORY

- 7 ♦ Logistics / MM**
Achieve Zero Superfluous Inventories with the Strategic Analytic Toolkit, by Adam Tysman, SAP Value and Effectiveness Specialist.

It can be said that the ultimate goal of inventory management is to maintain a high customer service level while sustaining profitability via minimizing inventory costs. Learn how to make this theory a reality.

HR

- 14 ♦ Managing Benefits Program Groupings in SAP HCM**, by Satish Badgi, SAP Consultant.

Take advantage of the flexibility your HCM module offers by using groupings to designate and organize your employee data.

LOGISTICS

- 18 ♦ APO**
Product Allocation Planning: Some Real World Challenges – Part II, by Ranjan Sinha, APO Project Lead.

Take advantage of the tips and techniques our APO expert learned the hard way.

- 27 ♦ MM**
SUS Order Management Part I: PO Integration with a Procurement System, by Bryan Bee, SAP America.
Thinking about implementing SUS? Follow Bryan Bee's guidelines to learn if SUS is right for you.

- 33 ♦ MM**
Implementing Consumption Based Planning – Part II: MRP Types and Lot Sizing, by Jocelyn Hayes, SAPtips Director of Consulting and Training.
Jocelyn Hayes illustrates how to finesse MRP Types and Lot-sizing, and shows you how to bring all the pieces together for the best end result.

FINANCIALS

- 38 ♦ FI/CO**
Collections Management (FSCM-COL) – Part II: Making it Work, by Dimitris Langas, SAP Consultant.
You can't stay in business unless you're being paid. Dimitris Langas wraps up his series on making your Collections Management system bring home the bacon.

BI

- 51 ♦ SAP BI Strategy: A Perspective on Recent Acquisitions**, by Anurag Barua, Senior Manager.
What were they thinking? Anurag Barua explains SAP's strategies (and wisdom) in aligning its BI product with recent acquisitions.

BASIS

- 54 ♦ Configuring a System Landscape Directory in NetWeaver™ 7 with an SQL Server Database**, by Eric Walter, Basis Consultant.
Uh oh, some information is missing. Let Eric Walter fill in the missing pieces you'll need to configure a System Landscape Directory.



Cheryl A. Cave, Managing Editor

From the Managing Editor

So, you've done another monthly and quarterly closing...and possibly even closed your fiscal year...and you switch your brain into autopilot mode. Yawn. We've got a cover story that will shake you up and get your blood flowing again. Adam Tysman says that you can "Achieve Zero Superfluous Inventories with the Strategic Analytic Toolkit". It's a bold statement, but read his article on page

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DEPARTMENTS

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ABAP/J2EE

- 61 ♦** **Regular Expression Processing Using ABAP: A Guide for SAP Consultants and Developers**, by Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan. Sometimes you need a little more flexibility. Find out if Regular Expression Processing can help you extend your ABAP capabilities.

CIO Corner

- 67 ♦** **Making the Plant Visible: Lessons from "In Pursuit of the Perfect Plant"**, by Jon Reed, JonERP.com
How do you get the plant employees' buy-in to your ERP system? Jon Reed reviews the path to the perfect plant.
- 73 ♦** **The Big Project: Questions to Ask Before You Plan**, by CJ Rhoads.
Big projects have big budgets. Make sure you ask the right questions before you start writing checks.

SAPtips ONLINE

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

On MM

Logging Changes to Table Data in MM- OY18

By Maria Nikolova, SAP Senior Expert, National Electricity Company

Do you need to be able to review posting transaction history in your Material Management system? Sometimes you need to back-post a transaction. Or perhaps you need to correct an entry that seems out of balance. But first you have to figure out what it is. Where do you start? Maria Nikolova tells you how you can see who posted what, and when. She shows how you can review the MMRV table history log with just a few small setup steps and the OY18 transaction code. She even guides you through the screen options and analysis. Read Maria's tip and see what insights she brings to the table...the MMRV table, that is.

On HR

Fast Entry Simplified - A Guide for SAP HR Consultants and Users

By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan

Have you ever noticed that when you attend meetings you get stuck with more work; i.e., more action items? Then, the meetings and action items continue to pile up. All while you still have your routine work to do. Your newest action item involves a lot of data entry related to employee benefits changes. Looks like another all-nighter. Wait a minute, Rehan Zaidi can show you his techniques for using fast-entry screens in SAP's HR module. With his method you can change employee data for a large number of employees with minimal entry. Find out when Rehan thinks the fast entry process is warranted, and how to use it successfully.

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7 to see how he backs it up. Making his debut with SAPtips in this issue is Bryan Bee, who shows us how to put SUS Order Management to work (page 27). Ranjan Sinha presents the conclusion to his Product Allocation Management series on page 18.

But hey, let's talk dollars. In this issue Dimitris Langas completes his series on Collections Management to help keep your cash-flow flowing, and your bottom line in the black, see page 38.

If people management is your arena, you'll want to follow Satish Badgi's strategy for Managing Benefits Program Groupings in HCM (page 14).

We haven't forgotten you techie types either. On page 54, Eric Walter shows you how to configure a System Landscape Directory in NetWeaver 7. Since the installation guide and associated OSS notes don't cover all the information, you may want to send Eric a thank you note. For our ABAPers we have a straightforward piece on Regular Expression Processing from Rehan Zaidi (page 61).

Let's talk training. We're once again near the year's end. What have you invested in your career and your company this year? Check out the fall schedule for SAPtips University (page 5), or contact Jocelyn Hayes at Jocelyn.Hayes@ERPtips.com to discuss onsite training. Don't let another year slip past you. And to make your decision easier, we'll give you a 10% discount on any on-site training you book with us before the end of 2008. You can use the training in 2009, but if you book now, you'll still get the discount.

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