

Design and Configuration of APO Demand Planning Solutions - Part III

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
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Design and Configuration of APO Demand Planning Solutions - Part III

Paul covers the design and configuration of key figures and planning areas, as well as the related concepts of aggregates and disaggregation. Of course, you can't configure the key figures until you decide which ones your company will be using. One of the highlights of this article is Paul's recommendation for a workshop-based approach to selecting and defining key figures. Using a large variety of screen shots, Paul breaks down the complicated process into a series of manageable, project-proven steps.

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show a green light as active, and you can exit out of the screen.

Once you exit, you will come back to the S&DP administration screen and you will now see this symbol  by your POS. If you click on this icon you will see the aggregate that you've created, as shown in Figure 12:


Configuration of Key Figures

You define your key figures in the BW Administrator Workbench (transaction RSA1), as shown in Figure 13.

From within the Administrator Workbench, click on the InfoObjects option listed in the top-right pane (see Figure 14).

Then, with the cursor on your catalog, bring up the shortcut menu and select "Create InfoObject." The pop-up window shown in Figure 15 should be displayed.

I recommend giving your key figures a consistent naming convention. It is also useful to give them a common prefix so that they appear together in later selection screens. The prefixes 9A and 0 are reserved for BW and APO respectively. To save time, you can copy the definition of an existing key figure by entering it in the Template field. You would be advised to do this if the key figure is a standard SAP object such as invoice quantity, as you will ensure there are no mapping problems later on.

When you click on , Figure 16 should be displayed. This is a multi-tab type dialog screen and the first "Type/unit" tab defines the description, type of data, and the Info Object that represents the unit of measure.

The first thing to note is that there are actually two descriptions. When you first press <Enter>, the short





 SR_POS1	Example planning object structure	
 SR_CUST	Customer Aggregate	

Figure 12: Display of Aggregate

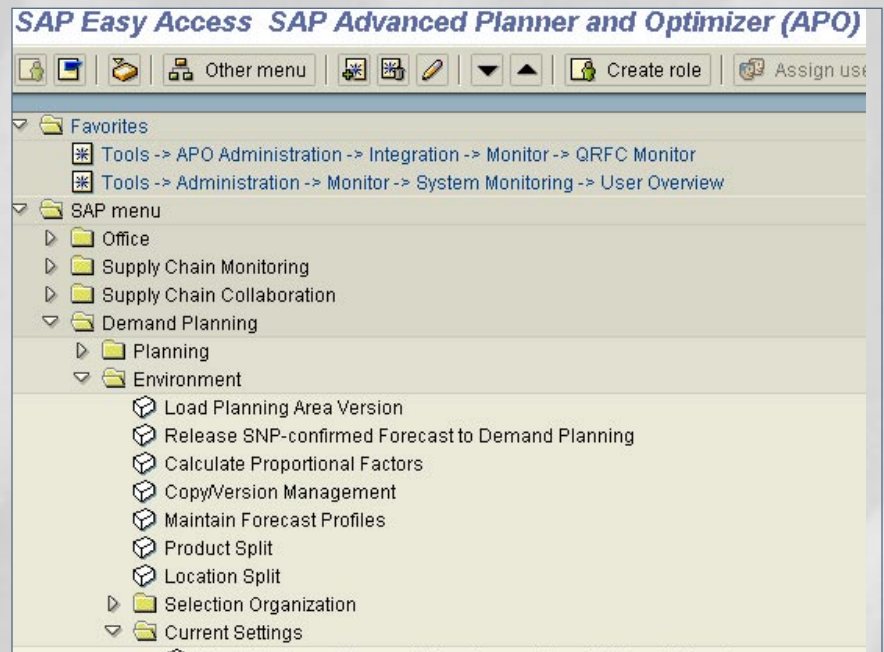


Figure 13: BW Administrator Workbench in APO

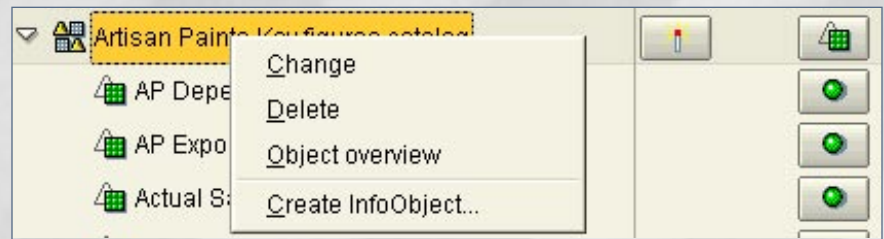


Figure 14: Create Key Figure

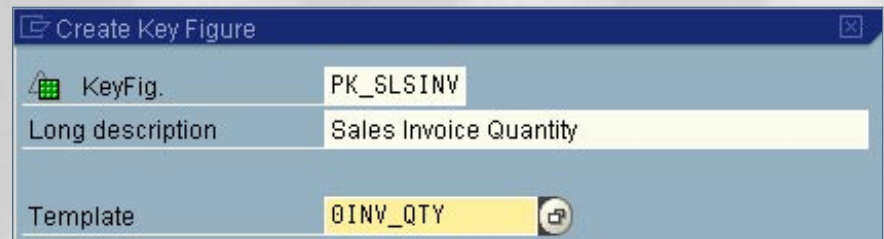


Figure 15: Key Figure Pop-up Window

description defaults to the first 20 characters of the long description and as it's truncated, it may need modifying to make it legible.

On the next tab, you will define the type of aggregation (see Figure 17).

For the majority of key figures, you will use the standard setting of

Summation. The only time I have used anything other than this is for an SNP Key Figure when I wanted to store the closing balance. We will discuss this further when we create articles on SNP.

On the next tab, define the number of decimal places, the display for thousands, and, if you use the Business Explorer for reporting, the selection of short or long description (see Figure 18).

Storage Buckets Profile

Before creating the planning area, you need to create a storage buckets profile. The storage buckets profile defines the periods that are stored in LiveCache, and can be any combination of days, weeks, months, quarters, years, or posting period. I would always consider how I want to plan, and then, from there, pick the appropriate periods. SAP recommends that you do not use days for demand planning unless you can keep the horizon down to a few months. If the horizon

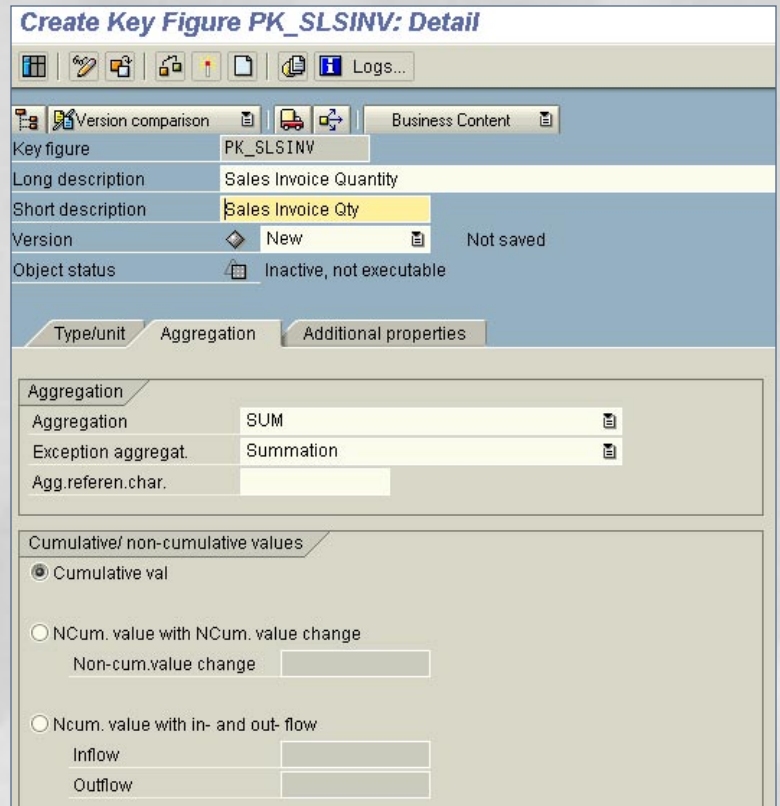


Figure 17: Key Figure Creation – Aggregation Tab

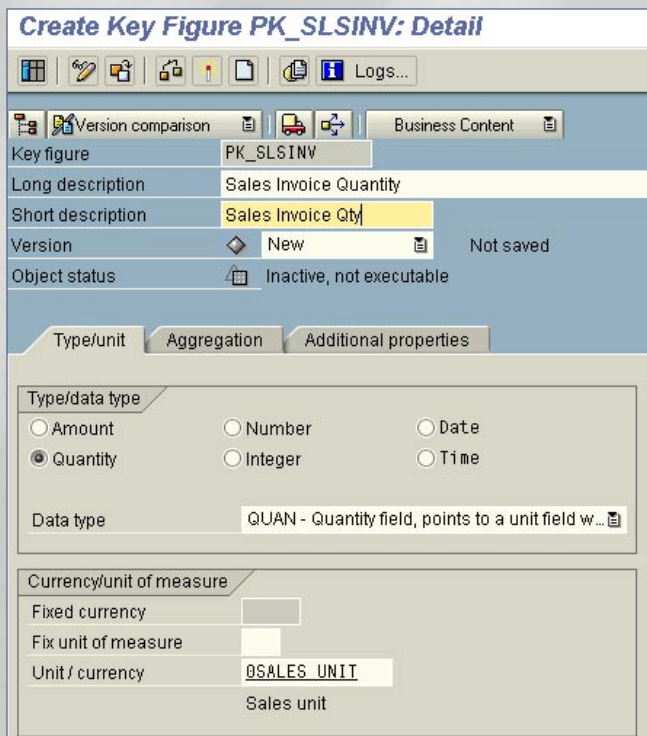


Figure 16: Create Key Figure - Type/Unit Tab

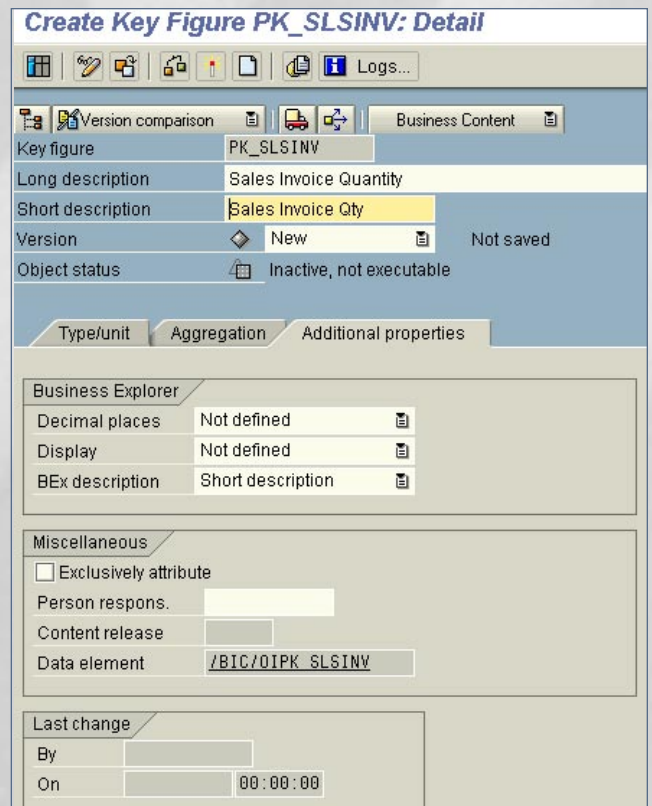


Figure 18: Key Figure Creation – Additional Properties