

Archiving Change Documents

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Archiving Change Documents

Change history records are recorded for just about everything in a typical SAP system. This is a good thing, but does result in massive growth of the CDHDR and CDPOS tables. This article shows you how to set up an archiving strategy that keeps your change history in context with its related data, while managing table size. We'll discuss the basics of archiving change history, table analysis tips for CDHDR, archiving strategy for change history, and Re-access Capabilities.

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business process requirements. A change history record is considered business complete from the moment it is created.

Residence Time is a term used to describe the amount of time the business complete change history record should remain in the active database; Residence Time is controlled by the selection criteria used during the archive write step.

Retention Time is a term used to describe the amount of time the archive files are retained until they are destroyed. There are a few items you need to nail down before you begin setting retention times for change history records. First take a look at when the retention clock is going to begin. I recommend the retention clock begin with the creation date. If the change history records are related to a specific business object, it may be required to be retained until the business object is destroyed. For more information about how the Corporate Retention Policy impacts retention times refer to an earlier white paper published by ERPtips in 2003 called *Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP*. You can refer to the Data Destruction Strategy section for additional info. Also refer to the ERPtips article *Beyond the ILM Buzzword: Developing an e-ILM Strategy*.

Re-Access is a term used to describe a method used to access the contents of the archive files created during the archival process. All of the re-access methods are based on two forms of re-access: single document access and bit steaming access. For change history records, both forms of re-access are supported through SAP standard functionality.

- Single document access is a form of access that is used for searching the archive file for a specific object. This type of re-access will be rarely used for change history records.
- Bit streaming access is a form of access that searches the archive file for several change history records that fit a search criterion. This form of re-access can take longer because the archive file is completely scanned in order to gather all of the archived change history records. If multiple archive files are accessed, the process could take even longer to complete (in some cases it may not complete due to time limitations established in most SAP environments).

Destruction Process is a term used to describe the process to identify change history records ready for destruction. This sounds easier than it is. The problem with archive files is they can contain thousands of change history records. If you don't segregate your archive files at least by year, you may find yourself having to retain data longer than what is required by your Corporate Retention Policy. There are ways to identify individual change history records that meet the requirements for destruction. It will be necessary to identify all the change history records contained in a specific archive file and determine if all of them are eligible for destruction. If they all meet the requirements, then the entire archive file can be destroyed. If there is one change history record that can't be destroyed yet, then the entire archive file needs to be retained, unless you have a way to split the archive files.

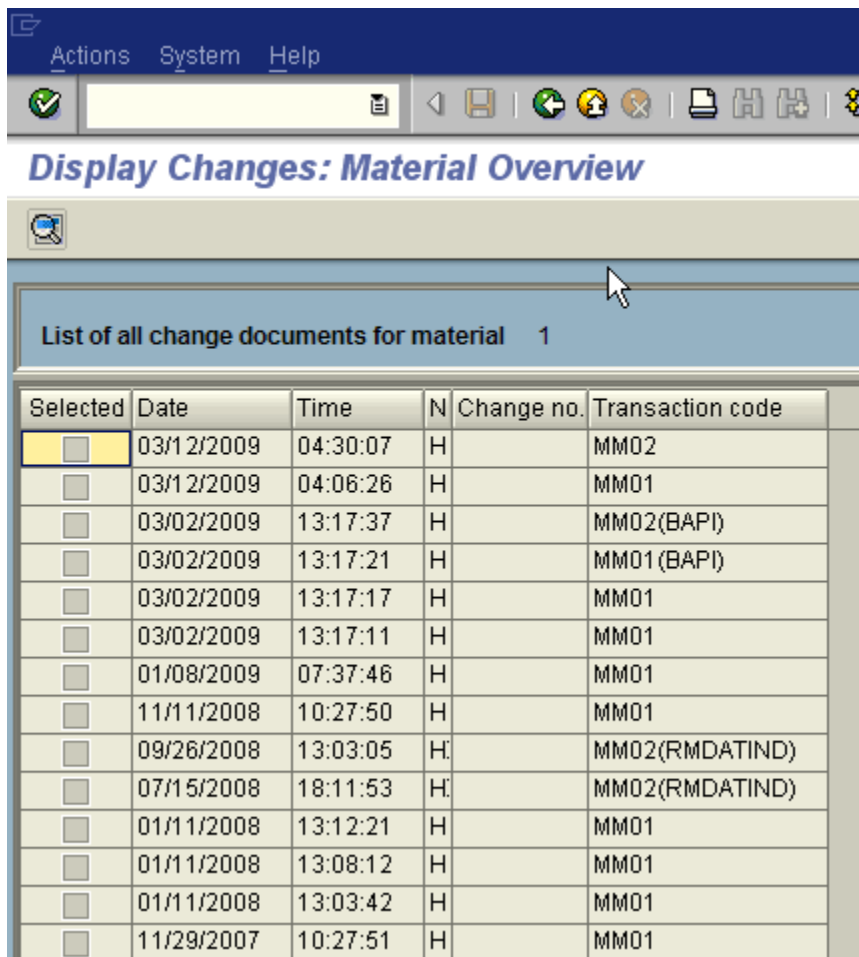
4. Re-access Capabilities

SAP provides re-access methods to view archived change history. Depending on the master data object, there will be transactions that will display the change history. As an example, I have included the transactions for material related change history.

MM03 – Display Material

MM04 – Display Changes

- Each master data object identified will require research to identify the transactions capable of re-accessing the archived change history.
- Figure 10 contains the output from the MM03 search of change history related to the material number. From the end-users point of view – they have no idea that the change history has been archived. If you are experiencing poor performance after archiving change history, you will need to activate an archive info structure for the CHANGEDOCU Archive Object; SAP delivers two standard archive info structures (SAP_CHANGEDOCU1 and SAP_CHANGEDOCU2).
- If you have implemented an info structure to act as the archive index for change documents and performance is still poor, you may need to provide an index for the archive info structure. I have seen places that have tremendous data volume require an index to improve performance during re-access.



Display Changes: Material Overview

List of all change documents for material 1

Selected	Date	Time	N	Change no.	Transaction code
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/12/2009	04:30:07	H		MM02
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/12/2009	04:06:26	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/02/2009	13:17:37	H		MM02(BAPI)
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/02/2009	13:17:21	H		MM01(BAPI)
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/02/2009	13:17:17	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	03/02/2009	13:17:11	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	01/08/2009	07:37:46	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	11/11/2008	10:27:50	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	09/26/2008	13:03:05	H		MM02(RMDATIND)
<input type="checkbox"/>	07/15/2008	18:11:53	H		MM02(RMDATIND)
<input type="checkbox"/>	01/11/2008	13:12:21	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	01/11/2008	13:08:12	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	01/11/2008	13:03:42	H		MM01
<input type="checkbox"/>	11/29/2007	10:27:51	H		MM01

Figure 10: Display Changes: Material Overview (MM03 and MM04)

Archive Info System – the archive information system is accessed through the SARI transaction. There is typically one view available to end users to display the contents of the archive file. In some cases there are two options: the Technical view or the Business View. Change History records only have the technical view available via the SARI transaction.