

Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP Payroll Objects – Part VI

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Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP Payroll Objects – Part VI

By Breck Whitten, SAP® Data Archiving Project Manager, Halliburton

Editor's Note: Breck Whitten's seven-part "Future Classic" on HR Data Archiving rolls on! In Part VI, Breck covers the Archive Object PA_PIDX, an object that is related to the payroll results in the PA_CALC Archive Object. At Halliburton, the tables archived by the PA_PIDX object are huge, which means a major reduction in database size when they're done. And with this step-by-step white paper, you can follow Breck's guidance starting with the process overview, all the way through residence time and retention time, and wrapping up with re-access methods, and archive write and delete.

Introduction

In this sixth part of the series *Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP Payroll Objects*, I will discuss the PA_PIDX Archive Object. The PA_PIDX Archive Object is related to the payroll results archived using the PA_CALC Archive Object. It is not part of the archive group but it is closely integrated with the payroll results. It is for this reason I have included this archive object in the *Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP Payroll Objects* series. You may want to refer to Part I of this series where the overall HR archiving strategy has been documented. (SAPtips subscribers can view all of the parts of this series in the Data Archiving section of the www.SAPtips.com document library). The remaining Archive Object PA_LDOC will be detailed as the last installment of the series.

The PA_PIDX Archive Object is closely integrated with the PA_PDOC Archive Object that was discussed in Part V of the *Defining a Data Archiving Strategy for SAP Payroll Objects* series. This Archive Object will help manage the PPOIX and PPOPX tables within your SAP database. Here at Halliburton, our PPOIX table is very large and will provide a great opportunity to reduce the size of our database significantly. The size of your tables will depend on the system configuration and the level of integration with the accounting module in SAP. This is why we have implemented an archive strategy to manage the growth of these important tables.

The PPOIX and PPOPX tables provide the link between the Posting Run Documents and the payroll results associated with the Posting Run. Because of the integration with the payroll results, it will be necessary to archive the payroll data before the posting run indexes can be archived.

Here are the basic components that will be covered in this article:

1. Archiving Overview
2. Define Business Complete
3. Define Residence Time
4. Define Retention Time
 - a. Data Destruction Process
 - b. Long-term Storage Strategy
5. Identify re-access methods
 - a. Primary
 - b. Secondary
6. Archive Write Process
7. Archive Delete Process



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1. Archiving Overview

SAP has provided the basic building blocks in the form of Archive Objects to help reduce or maintain database size. Archive Objects are programs used to create the data archive files. Below in Figure 1 is a diagram that shows the first step in a two-step data archiving process.

- The write process reads data within the SAP active database and copies the data into a standalone archive file. Meta data is written with this archive file that identifies the client and the structure of the tables written to the archive file. This ensures the archive file will be accessible even after an upgrade.

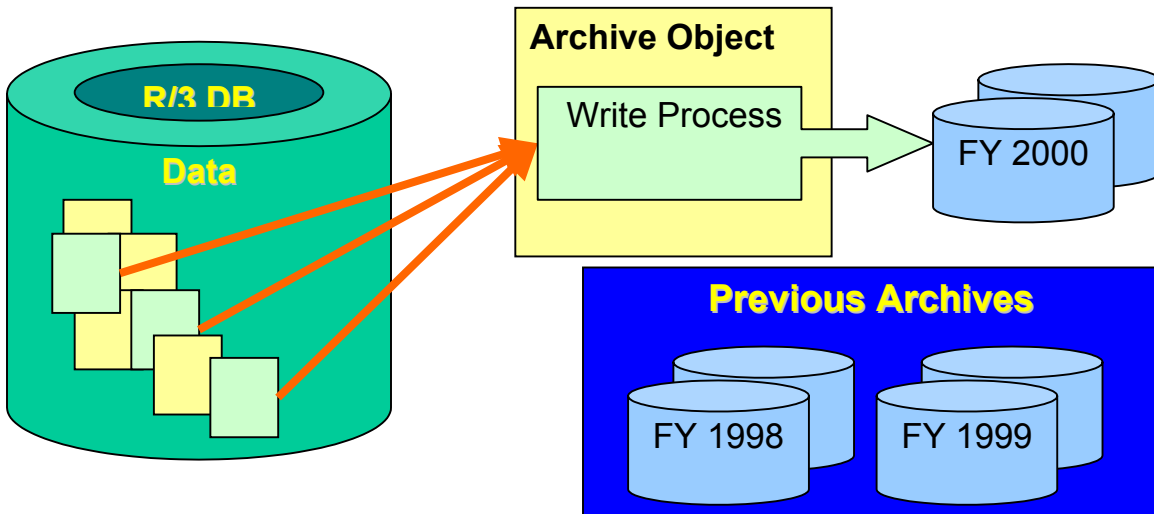


Figure 1: The SAP Archive Write Process

- The delete process reads the archive file and deletes the data from the SAP database. Using this two-step approach provides a secure method of archiving. Figure 2 provides a diagram to illustrate the process.

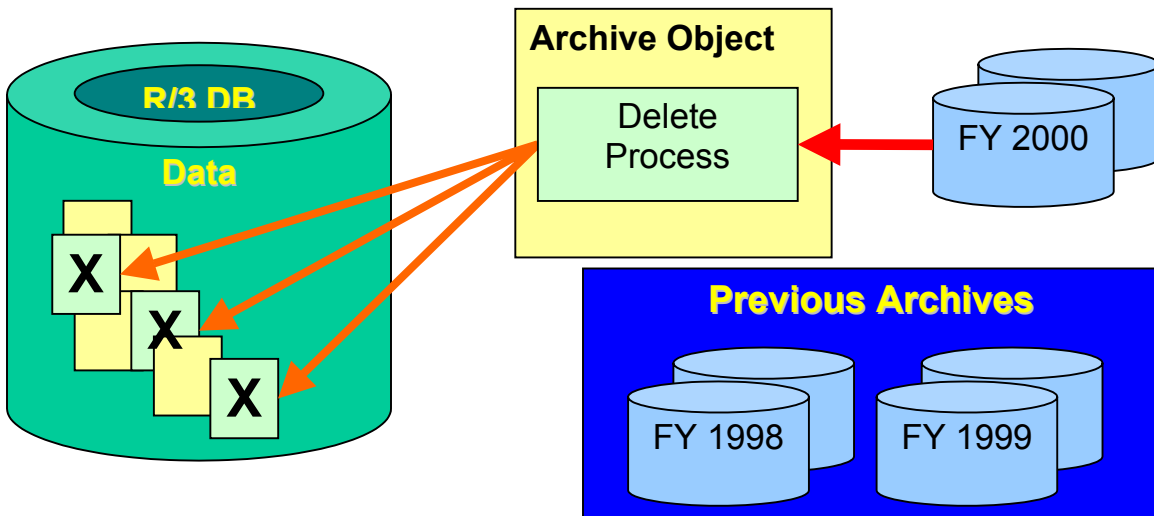


Figure 2: The SAP Delete Process