

*Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data - Part II: Archiving Strategy*

*Below is a snippet from one of hundreds of articles available to ERPtips subscribers.*

*If you would like a complimentary copy of the full article, please email*

**[Mark.Downs@ERPtips.com](mailto:Mark.Downs@ERPtips.com)**

*(include the title of the article in your email)*

*To subscribe to ERPtips, go to*

**[www.ERPtips.com/Subscribe.asp](http://www.ERPtips.com/Subscribe.asp)**

*ERPtips Journal is published by Klee Associates, Inc.*

*ERPtips University provides both public and onsite training for SAP clients.*

*For more about ERPtips University, including the current schedule, click here:*

**[www.ERPtips.com/WorkshopSchedule.asp](http://www.ERPtips.com/WorkshopSchedule.asp)**

---

*Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data - Part II: Archiving Strategy*

As a business grows, so does its databases. This is true for virtually every part of the business, including plant maintenance. Let your d-bases get too big, and well, things just slow down, including reports. Thankfully, Breck Whitten returns to the SAPtips table to share with you some more tips and tricks for archiving Plant Maintenance data, an oft overlooked area in the archival world. This go-round, Breck delves into how to develop a strategy to implement such a project, including archiving PM notifications and re-access capabilities. Before you know it, you`ll be able to free up some valuable disk-space and pick up some speed in system performance!

Click here to read this Snippet



## Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data – Part II: Developing an Archiving Strategy

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

**Editor's Note:** *As a business grows, so do its databases. This is true for virtually every part of the business, including plant maintenance. Let your d-bases get too big, and well, things just slow down, even the reports. Thankfully, Breck Whitten returns to the SAPtips table to share with you some more tips and tricks for archiving Plant Maintenance data, an oft-overlooked area in the archival world. This go-round, Breck delves into how to develop a strategy to implement such a project, including archiving PM notifications and re-access capabilities. Before you know it, you'll be able to free up some valuable disk-space and pick up some speed in system performance!,*

### Introduction

The Plant Maintenance Module is a major component within SAP and can represent a large volume of data within the SAP database. I have spoken with archive administrators at several companies who have implemented several archive objects. But when discussions turn to plant maintenance archive objects, most companies have yet to implement them. Because of this delayed effort to manage the growth of the database, many companies begin to experience a drop off in performance with several plant maintenance standard reports.

In this second installment in my series on *Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data*, we'll begin with discussions on archiving Plant Maintenance notifications using the PM\_QMEL Archive Object. At Halliburton, we have been archiving plant maintenance data for over a year and notifications are a vital part of the overall archiving strategy for plant maintenance data. Although notifications represent a smaller portion of data within the plant maintenance module, it can grow out of control if the data is not managed properly by implementing a successful archiving strategy. The PM\_QMEL Archive Object really goes hand in hand with PM\_ORDER, which I covered in my first installment of this series. Combined together as part of an overall archiving strategy for plant maintenance data, these objects can and will manage many tables that grow rapidly depending on the data volumes generated each month. At Halliburton, we archive around 10 gig of space each month in Plant Maintenance data; the notifications represent approximately 2 gig of space each month.

In this article, we'll go into detail about the PM\_QMEL Archive Object and try to describe, from an archiving point of view, where it all fits in the grand scheme of PM. The examples I will be using are all based on a 4.6c release, but for the most part will be adaptable to other releases. If I am aware of any differences between releases, I will try to point those out. Here are the topics to be covered this installment:

1. Basics of Archiving PM Notifications
2. Archiving Strategy for PM Notifications
3. Re-access Capabilities
4. Conclusion



## Archiving SAP Plant Maintenance Data – Part II: Developing an Archiving Strategy

### 1. Basics of Archiving PM Notifications

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. For PM notifications, there is a three-step process needed for the data archiving process to be completed. There is a preparation process, an archive-write process, and a delete process.

- The preparation process involves setting a deletion flag when the notification meets the proper conditions. The first two conditions require the notification status to be completed (NOCO) and the work order is assigned (ORAS). When the process is completed, the notification will also have a status notification blocked by archiving (ARNB). This will prevent future changes to the notification, unless it is removed manually.

The screenshot shows the SAP 'Maintain Variant: Report RIARCQMV, Variant 1998' dialog box. The 'Notification archiving: Set status flagged for archiving' section contains the following fields:

Notification type	M0	to	M7
Notification number	10000000	to	10014247
Equipment number		to	
Functional location		to	

There is also a checkbox for 'Test mode' which is currently unchecked.

**Figure 1: Preparation Process to Set Deletion Flags for PM Notifications**

- In the variant, displayed in Figure 1, you can enter the range of notification numbers. The key here is to identify ahead of time the number range for the specific time categories. For older information you, can establish selection variants that inspect a years worth of notifications. As you get closer to the current date, you can narrow the amount of data to a quarter or a month.