

Central User Administration: Guide to Setup & Administration of the CUA

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Central User Administration: Guide to Setup & Administration of the CUA

SAP users dread a repetitive task. Few tasks are more repetitive than adding new users to the SAP system one at a time. Unfortunately SAP's traditional solution to that problem, known as CUA, has a reputation for causing even more headaches than it solves. But with newer releases of SAP, CUA is able to automate those repetitive tasks into an effective tool for user mgmt on a broad level. Joey explains the process of setting up CUA step by step & closes with a section on user mgmt. within CUA & a handy chart of common CUA setup errors with their resolutions.

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Central User Administration: A Guide to the Setup and Administration of the CUA

By Joey Hirao, Jotech, LLC

Editor's Note: If there's one thing that SAP® users dread, it's a repetitive task. And few tasks are more repetitive than adding new users to the SAP system one at a time. Unfortunately, as Basis Editor Joey Hirao has learned firsthand, SAP's traditional solution to that problem, known as Central User Administration (CUA), has a reputation for causing even more headaches than it solves. But as Joey is happy to report, with newer releases of SAP, CUA is finally ready for primetime and able to automate those repetitive tasks into an effective tool for user management on a broad level. In this useful "how to" piece, Joey takes readers through the process of setting up CUA step by step. Once he has covered the basics of CUA setup, Joey closes with a section on user management within CUA and a handy chart of common CUA setup errors and their resolution. I have a hunch more than a few SAP administrators are going to be glad they came across Joey's article and learned the "good news" about the "new CUA."

Introduction

As organizations add more systems and clients to their SAP landscape, the burden of user administration compounds quickly. After the Basis team finishes off the new installation and hands it over to the security team, the mundane tasks of setting up users starts all over again. "Is there no relief in sight!" gasps the security administrator. Unbeknownst to the security team, a solution is in

sight. Central User Administration (CUA), a term often spoken with fear and disdain in earlier releases, is now a robust and plausible solution for centralized user management in Web AS 6.20. This article will outline the steps in setting up and administering a CUA landscape. Note that to have access to Web AS 6.20, you will need to be running R/3 version 4.7 or higher.

Overview

CUA is an implementation of user management via ALE links to multiple child systems from a parent system. The distribution of data is performed in an asynchronous manner. This ensures that changes have the ability to reach their intended recipients even if the system is offline at the time of the request. The primary purpose of CUA is to enable synchronized user master administration in one client. CUA has been released and working since release Web AS version 4.5. Many shortcomings have been improved since its inception. In this document I will discuss the following:

1. Release restrictions
2. Design

3. Setup CUA
4. Operations with CUA
5. Common Problems

Release Restrictions

It is possible to manage multiple clients on various versions of SAP using CUA. As a baseline, this document uses the versions in Figure 1 as a minimum requirement for the following discussions.

Design

CUA is implemented in CUA groups. These groups consist of one parent client and multiple children clients, possibly on many separate SAP systems. These groups can be any concatenation (linkage) of clients within your landscape. This logical distinction depends on your business and technical requirements. Lastly, it is best to locate the parent on the highest SAP release level as well as in a separate client solely designated for CUA.

A CUA group can be as centralized or as decentralized as you can imagine. For example, you can have one CUA group managing all your clients in your SAP land-

SAP Version	Support Package Level
4.6B	49
4.6C	40
4.6D	29
6.10 Web AS	28
6.20 Web AS	16

Figure 1: CUA and SAP Version Compatibility

scape. Conversely, you can split your CUA group into subsections, managing only certain portions of your landscape: sandbox, development, test, and production. This portioning all depends on your specific requirements.

Let's roll forward with an example design. In this example, we have one parent (SX2 client 010) managing two (SX3 client 777, SX4 client 707) on Web AS 6.20. The name of the CUA group is CUA_300. For an illustration of this setup, see Figure 2.

In our example, Client SX2 client 010 will serve as the parent from which all user administration will occur. SX4 and SX3 have their own user master records that will be administered by SX2 010. At this point of the discussion, all clients are not part of a CUA. This will be the premise for the following setup and discussion of CUA.

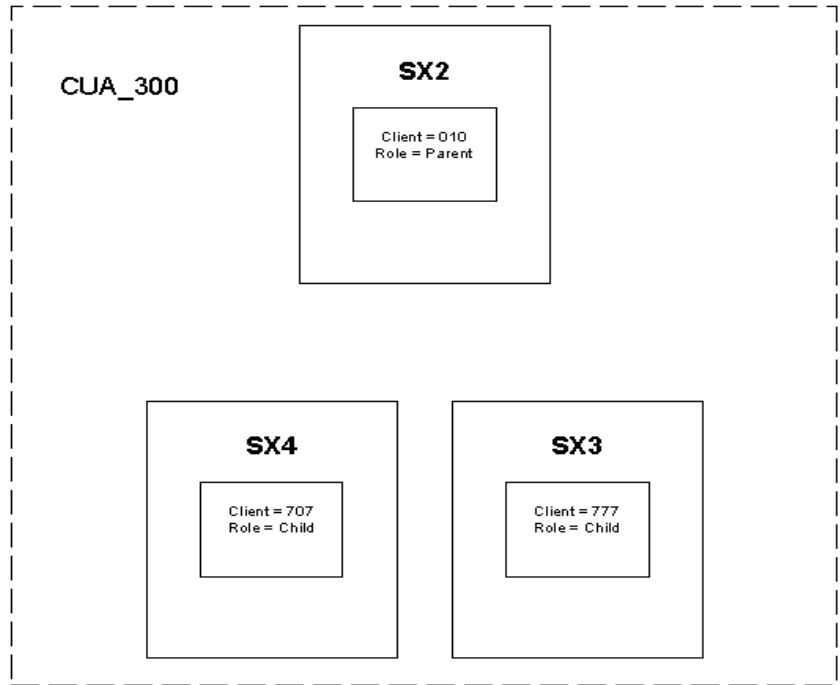


Figure 2: CUA Group, One Parent, Two Children

**The system name
is commonly used
as a unique identifier
for every client
within the landscape.**

Set Up CUA

The next step is the setup of the CUA. But before you do that, you will need to perform the following steps:

1. Create logical system for Parents and Children in all systems.
2. Assign logical system for Parents and Children in all systems.
3. Create roles for users.
4. Create Users.
5. Create RFC Destination.

1. Create Logical System for Parents and Children in All Systems

A logical system name has meaning to SAP beyond CUA. The system name is commonly

used as a unique identifier for every client within the landscape. A common standard should be decided upon and implemented. Logical systems names are used to identify clients as well as specific transactional data within a system. Here are some ideas for logical system names:

1. <SID>CLNT###
 - a. <SID> = SAP system name
 - b. CLNT = Text
 - c. ### = client
 - d. Example: Per this naming standard, the logical system name of our parent is SX2CLNT010.
2. CLNT###
 - a. <SID> = SAP system name
 - b. ### = client
 - c. Example: Per this naming standard, the logical system name of our parent is SX2010.