

COVER STORY

- 16 ♦ **Managing the Unmanageable: Off-Cycle Payroll - Part I – Off-Cycle Workbench, by Satish Badgi, Unisys Corporation.** When we first read Editor Satish Badgi's article on Off-cycle Payroll, we knew it had to be our cover story. Satish came up with the perfect SAPtip, telling us about an underutilized, inexpensive solution with potentially substantial benefits. Many companies resist implementing the off-cycle payroll, fearing it will be too complex. Satish debunks this myth with a plainspoken guide through the configuration process.



Jon Reed, Managing Editor

FEATURES

- 22 ♦ **FINANCIALS - Electronic Bank Statements: SAP's® Cash Management Gem – Part I, by Stuart Lee, SAP FI/CO Consultant.** Have you longed to visit "Someday Isle"? As in "Someday, I'll look into implementing SAP's Electronic Bank Statements (EBS) functionality? Call your travel agent, because FI/CO expert Stuart Lee is going to show you how simple it is to implement this oft-overlooked functionality.
- 29 ♦ **LOGISTICS - SAP® Tools Management System: You Can Check Out Anytime You Like, by Sutrisno Japit.** Sutrisno Japit proposes a proven solution for checking tools in and out with SAP's standard Tool Management System.
- 35 ♦ **LOGISTICS - Queries in Logistics, by Suresh Sreenivasaiah, YesJ Expert** Not a programmer? Not a problem. You too can produce custom logistics reports using Suresh Sreenivasaiah's practical plan for query reporting.
- 41 ♦ **CRM - Getting Them to Sign on the Dotted Line: Building a Business Case for SAP® CRM, by Scott Cameron, SAP CRM Consultant.** You know the value of CRM for your business, but how do you convince management when so many of the benefits are intangibles? Scott Cameron shows how.
- 47 ♦ **BW - Creating a Well-Developed Master Data Management Solution in BW, by Arthur "Pat" Pesa, arthurpesa, inc.** Gentlemen (and Ladies); start your engines. BW Editor Pat Pesa shows you how to fine-tune your BW master data for optimum performance.
- 52 ♦ **ENTERPRISE PORTALS - Achieving Multi-System Integration Using SAP®'s Enterprise Portals – Part I, by Bill Guderian, BK Systems, Inc.** Most firms do not capture the impressive benefits of meshing disparate systems in one location through Enterprise Portals. Bill Guderian shares the structure, steps, tips, and tricks of integration through EP.

From The Managing Editor

Where did "SOA" come from? Talk about a buzzword from out of nowhere. Thinking back now, I guess I've seen the "Service-Oriented Architecture" phrase pop up more often the last couple years, but it's reached a fever pitch this summer. SAP® is never far from any kind of buzzword hype, and true to form, SAP's own version of SOA, called ESA (Enterprise Service Architecture), has been everywhere lately:

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- 56 ♦ **ABAP DEVELOPMENT -Understanding the Concept of Classes in ABAP – A Guide for SAP® Developers and Consultants, by Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan.** Resident ABAP guru Rehan Zaidi takes the “oops” out of object-oriented programming in the SAP, demonstrating once again that ABAP is the cure for the common code.
- 61 ♦ **CIO CORNER - SAP Quarterly Review – by Jon Reed.** Managing Editor Jon Reed gives his take on what’s hot and what’s not in the SAP marketplace.

WHITE PAPERS

New White Papers Now Available for SAPtips Subscribers on www.SAPtips.com
(each white paper is placed in the Document Library – the category we have placed the white paper in is listed in parenthesis after the author’s name)

Payment Terms and Date Calculation in FI-AP: Common Misconceptions and How to Address Them

By Anurag Barua, The Washington Post – (Financials)

Editor’s Note: If you’ve spent time in the accounts payable area of SAP’s financial module, you’ve probably felt baffled by it at one time or another. Just when you think you have oiled, tightened, and tuned every element so that each will perform in harmony when you conduct a payment run, you inevitably hear the screech of something off key. Take heart. In this useful guide, FI/CO expert Anurag Barua presents a practical explanation of payment terms and date processing in SAP. Anurag carefully defines each prominent payment term and shows examples of the variety of results produced with different settings in each. More importantly, he clarifies how and where SAP stores this information. Understanding this is key to making the payment function work correctly. The paper culminates with a troubleshooting section to ease you through some typical troubleshooting scenarios.

BW Security – Part II: How BW Security Functions in a NetWeaver Environment

By Arthur “Pat” Pesa, arthurpesa inc. – (BW)

Editor’s Note: Security is one of the areas of greatest concern in any organization. Securing your data is particularly challenging in these days of hackers, identity theft, and laws that are embarrassingly behind the technology curve. SAP BW expert Pat Pesa recognizes the importance of being proactive in addressing security issues. In Part I of his series on BW security, he discussed the “big picture” in SAP as it relates to security. In this white paper, Pat discusses the impact of the next generation of BW security concerns as companies upgrade to a NetWeaver platform. He thoughtfully discusses user management and administration, authentication, communication security, data storage security, and some miscellaneous security details found across all SAP systems. Readers may also note that SAPtips is announcing a new security-training course in this issue, in partnership with trainer Eric Walter. With Pat’s compelling white paper and the availability of Eric’s training, we think you’ll be feeling a lot more secure.

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At SAPtips, we take buzzwords seriously: we put them through our patented buzzword “reality check.” First, we apply the “go live” test, asking our experts for a no-bull view of the new technology in action. Then we add a touch of humor – nothing aids in buzzword demystification quite like a chuckle at SAP’s expense. Once we put these terms through our hype filter, they are usually safe for daily use. Disclaimer: a term as full of hype as SOA may not be safe for rational usage for another couple of years.

Our approach to ESA reflects something we take a lot of pride in at SAPtips. We know that our subscribers value our independence from SAP; with that independence comes a responsibility to tell it like it is. Though we do enjoy poking fun at SAP sometimes, we take our role as your partner in SAP optimization very seriously.

In conjunction with this issue, we are proud to release part two of a groundbreaking white paper series on ESA offered exclusively by SAPtips. Authored by NetWeaver™ experts Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice, this article series is truly a global collaboration. Axel is based in Germany, Lynton is in South Africa, and our editorial team is based in the U.S. The latest result of this global collaboration is a fifty page white paper packed with project-tested information, including an invaluable vendor-by-vendor evaluation of all the EAI vendors and messaging systems SAP users can utilize with ESA.

When you read the paper, you’ll learn that Axel and Lynton don’t feel that SAP’s XI product is up to snuff with the best messaging systems yet. It’s this kind of “new technology reality check” that we are able to offer our readers due to our editorial independence from SAP. Nobody has more passion for SAP than Axel and Lynton, but they also know that our

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Archiving Purchasing Data: Part IV

By Breck Whitten, Data Archiving Manager, Halliburton – (Data Archiving)

Editor's Note: Why is the system so slow? Your purchasing group may be the first to complain and the last to comply when it comes to purging the system of closed purchase orders. With the reassuring voice of someone who's "been there", Breck Whitten continues his series on Archiving Purchasing Data with more tips on managing purchasing data. In this installment, Breck goes into further detail on his methodology for archiving purchasing data, including the differences between a "one step" and a "two step" archiving process. Breck then describes the ins-and-outs of configuring the purchasing Archive Object MM_EKKO. As usual, Breck includes plenty of step-by-step screen shots and a helpful appendix of reference information, which includes the specifics of the Archive Write and Archive Delete processes.

Creating Employee Work Schedules Without Any Programming - A Guide for SAP® HR Users and Consultants

By Rehan Zaidi, Siemens Pakistan – (Human Resources)

Editor's Note: Give the users the ability to make the system work for them and you have empowered them to produce. Giving them the ability to squeeze the most from R/3 – without depending on programmers – may be the most appreciated perk you can offer. In this excellent white paper, HR expert Rehan Zaidi gives you a step-by-step guide to creating work schedules without the use of programming. He lays the foundation by presenting an overview of work schedules and how they work within SAP. From assigning employees and groups to defining daily and period-based work schedules, everything you need is right here. Once you have mastered the work scheduling functionality in SAP, you can schedule yourself for that well-deserved vacation.

Side-stepping the Labyrinth: - Part II:

Choosing the Best EAI Scenario Solution for SAP® NetWeaver™

By Axel Angeli and Lynton Grice – (Web App Server and NetWeaver)

Editor's Note: Our readers who attended Axel Angeli's presentation at the SearchSAP.com conference in Chicago recently may have gotten a sneak peak at this white paper already. For readers seeing this 48-page white paper for the first time, you will find it thoughtful, provocative, and comprehensive. As with Part I of this discussion, this paper is co-authored by Axel Angeli (in Germany) and Lynton Grice (in South Africa). Their virtual international collaboration is made possible by numerous integrated entities from their local PCs to cables, routers, servers, and satellites, resting finally on our server in beautiful Colorado, awaiting your download. In this extensive paper, Axel and Lynton finalize their discussion of EAI options for SAP NetWeaver. They evaluate and discuss the pros and cons of the larger "high-end" products as well as many of the smaller, more obscure packages on today's market, and step forward with their personal recommendation. We won't give the winner away here, you'll want to read the paper for yourself and understand how they reached their decision. Be sure to download and print the paper, as you'll surely want to use it for later reference or for making a case with management as you implement your EAI initiatives.

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readers cannot afford to be guinea pigs for immature product releases. You can download their latest white paper from the "Web services and NetWeaver" section in the document library, and see for yourself which aspects of the ESA solution are ready for primetime and which areas need work. Axel used this paper as the basis for a talk he gave this summer at the SearchSAP conference in Chicago.

As for poking a little fun at SAP, Publisher Andy Klee has that covered this issue in our humor section. He's issued an "SOA Buzzword Alert" that breaks down the different ERP vendors and how they're hyping their SOA solutions. Andy has a knack for taking the air out of big balloons of vendor hype; we think you'll enjoy his latest missive. If you haven't had your fill of SOA yet, you can check out my CIO Corner article, the SAP Quarterly Review, where I give my own take on the most important developments in the SAP marketplace, including ESA.

One vow we've taken at SAPtips is to never get too distracted by emerging (and unproven) technologies. If you're an SAP customer, one of the best moves you can make is to tap into unused functionality that has already shipped with your core applications. Our cover story by HR Editor Satish Badgi is a great example. In this illustrated "how-to" piece, Satish explains how to utilize off-cycle payroll – an area of SAP that is not difficult to set up but is often overlooked. This article is a good example of our other SAPtips mission: to offer easy-to-implement tips that result in real improvements to employee morale, productivity, and the ever-important bottom line.

Everything we do at SAPtips is affected by your needs and concerns. We continue to offer customized training and consulting to readers who want to go "beyond the articles." And

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Mobile and RF Data Collection In 3 Easy Steps...

- 1 Connect** - to SAP, PeopleSoft, World, EnterpriseOne, Legacy Systems, ODBC databases, and more.
- 2 Design** - wireless, mobile & RFID enabled applications using easy point-and-click methods.
- 3 Deploy** - your applications on any wireless or mobile device available



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RFgen Software

Delivering Solutions - Over 2000 Served

Join us for a Live RFGGen Demo

The SAPtips is hosting two RFGGen software demos.

The dates are:

- **Wednesday, August 24, 2005** at 1:00 pm EST
- **Monday, September 26, 2005** at 12:00 pm EST

Register at:
<http://www.saptips.com/WebcastSchedule.asp>

Any questions about our software demos can be sent to Frank Genevieve at Frank.Genevieve@ERPtips.com.

From the Editor continued from page 3 if we don't have a service offering you need, we'll create it. Recently, we started getting requests to offer the same kind of customized training for end-users that we already offer to in-house implementation teams. So in this issue, we officially kick off our end-user training services, and you can read that announcement on page 6. We're also pleased to announce two new team training courses on Basis and Security by Basis expert and SAPtips trainer Eric Walter (see page 7).

I'll wrap this letter up before I get tempted to use a few buzzwords of my own. We hope you enjoy the latest edition of SAPtips, presented with as little market hype as possible.

Jon Reed,
Managing Editor
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TRAINING GRANTS: Want to Get SAPtips Trainers on Site for Free?

Did you know that every year state agencies and the federal government invest hundreds of million of dollars in training for corporate America? Some of those dollars are even earmarked specifically for IT Training.

That means you can get a grant to pay for training delivered by Klee Associates/SAPtips. We know of half a dozen clients that have paid for training this way in the last few months. Why should they be the only ones?

Some clients have found grant information on their state's Department of Education website. Others have made use of professional grant managers to locate and apply for training monies.

We have made arrangements with a professional services firm that specializes in government sponsored financial incentives identification, award management & trainer augmentation services. They will help you identify, compete for, win & manage numerous state, local & federal government grant programs across the nation.

To be connected with our Training Grants partner, please contact Jon Reed at Jon.Reed@SAPtips.com or call Jon at 1.413.586.4590.

Please note: These grants are for companies only, not individuals.