

Automated Structuring of the Process Model in the SAP Solution Manager

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RBE Plus for SAP Solution Manager supports the automatic evaluation of business processes in the SAP Solution Manager. RBE Plus technology makes it possible to determine the business processes actively used within productive SAP systems. The business processes available in the SAP Solution Manager's Business Process Repository (BPR) are automatically activated or deactivated on the basis of this data. This procedure significantly expedites implementation and upgrade projects involving the SAP Solution Manager.

Intelligent Analysis of Process Usage in Productive SAP Systems

In order to apply the SAP Solution Manager effectively in the area of implementation, the SAP-defined reference processes must be selected and characterized according to the customer's specific needs. Current system usage marks the starting point for structuring the customized process model. This can either be evaluated manually, i.e. by way of a time-consuming analysis project, or via a tool-aided solution, by applying the method of Reverse Business Engineering (RBE).

To identify each of the business processes or the individual process steps in the SAP Solution Manager's BPR, "check steps" were developed, which enable the process model to be created for the analyzed system, based on an SAP system's productive data. The RBE Plus check logic of productive SAP data facilitates the intelligent identification of processes currently "really used" and so, enables the structuring of an objective and verified actual situation. Depicting the processes that are actually used establishes the starting point for many application scenarios in the SAP Solution Manager. For example, in an upgrade project, it is necessary to document the current status of business processes in the Business Blueprint Phase before proceeding with the release change.

Combining RBE Plus and the SAP Solution Manager within the framework of the usage analysis for productive SAP systems provides beneficial implementation options for nearly every project scenario.

SAP Solution Manager as a Central Platform for Application Management in the Multi-System Environment

The SAP Solution Manager supports the entire lifecycle of a SAP solution - from the Business Blueprint, via configuration, to productive operation. It offers central access to tools, methods and preconfigured contents, which can be utilized during implementation and applied to systems operation.

The potential gains in efficiency in either the implementation or configuration phase depend on the SAP Business Content provided, and most importantly, on its targeted usage. Especially in a multi-system environment, the (manual) selection of relevant scenarios, processes and process steps proves exceedingly time-consuming, difficult and prone to errors. Information on business processes actually running needs, on the one hand, to be collected in this type of productive system and, on the other, to be compared with the process variants provided by SAP. The highly integrative processes, in particular, require a wide range of information sources.

Analysis Projects are extremely Time-Consuming

To perform the customer-specific depiction (scoping) of company processes, the SAP Solution Manager relies on preparatory work performed with the aid of external tools. For this reason, SAP offers defined web services, which facilitate the extraction of Business Content and, following this content's external configuration, are able to reimport it to an SAP Solution Manager project. In the case of initial implementation, process modeling tools, such as ARIS for SAP Net-Weaver from IDS Scheer or the LIVE Tools from Siemens IT Solutions & Services and IBIS Prof. Thome, provide applicable options for transferring the analysis project results to the SAP Solution Manager in the form of a blueprint structure.

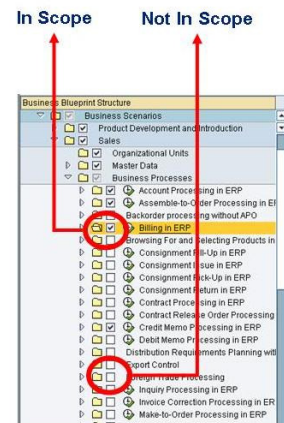
A far different matter is the creation of the Business Blueprint when a productive system has been in operation for several years and needs to be documented in the SAP Solution Manager as quickly, correctly and inexpensively as possible. Classic analysis projects require extensive personnel involvement. Documentations must first be "translated" and are very rarely up-to-date; in the majority of cases, meaningful documentation just doesn't exist.

Observation of the extensive number of different processes and the enormous quantity of information compiled in a system that has been in operation for such a long time reveals the fact that documenting this information would involve a great deal of time that could either be avoided or spent more effectively. A conservative estimate of the evaluation time required for manual documentation

- Which Business Processes are used within the analyzed system (in Scope)?
- Which Business Processes are not used (out of Scope)?
- Which Processes can be used within the analyzed context? (tap further potential)?



All processes are transferred to SAP Solution Manager with Scope / not in Scope - Information



Activating used processes in the SAP Solution Manager

and structuring of processes in the SAP Solution Manager would allow for a minimum of 15 minutes per process, ten minutes per process step in the active processes and three minutes per transaction. For several hundred processes and process steps, and over 11,000 transactions, it's simple to project the amount of time this would involve. Several SAP Solution Manager problem approaches and follow-up projects require a validated scope and a certain degree of detail concerning usage information, with the result that working with the alternative "without a current scope" in the SAP Solution Manager proves most ineffective. The actively used business processes, process steps and transactions must be clearly distinguishable from one another in their characteristics and intensity in order to enable proper implementation of the SAP Solution Manager's contents and tools.

Usage Analysis of productive SAP Systems via RBE Plus

RBE Plus allows you to conduct basis- and business-oriented analyses of productive SAP systems (as far back as SAP R/3 3.0f). Transaction usage, enhancements, customizing, master and process data can be identified and evaluated on the basis of reference structures. IBIS Prof. Thome's RBE Plus offers you the SAP Solution Manager's current content required for these analyses, enhanced reporting tools and scalable services. For the last eight years, IBIS Prof. Thome has been pursuing and advancing, in particular, the content development of its RBE Plus check steps. The knowledge base has been extended from over 300 projects to currently more than 12,000 table check steps for mySAP Business Suite, achieving profitable use in a wide range of cases. Another central aspect of its partnership with SAP is the availability of up-to-date RBE Plus check steps for the current implementation content for the SAP Solution Manager.

A good idea, particularly for large-scale SAP users, is the easy-to-install software package, "RBE Plus Customer Solutions", which, building on the content of RBE Plus, offers a configurable administration environment for RBE extracts and analyses.

For smaller landscapes or for one-time (project-by-project) use, scalable RBE Plus service packages offer quick retrieval of results - no tool installation or training necessary - for every person in charge of an SAP system, to meet his or her acute project needs.

Transferring the actual Analysis using RBE Plus

RBE Plus integrates the analysis results directly into the SAP Solution Manager. This procedure allows the preconfigured original BPR processes, along with the processes, process steps and transactions as well as the master data objects used, to be imported to an SAP Solution Manager project. During import, the original BPR objects are activated in order to make the complete content developed by SAP for the BPR elements available without exceptions. These include documentations, transaction assignments, configuration variables, etc. This means that the project configured via the import is virtually the same as a project originally created in the SAP Solution Manager. This ensures that the SAP Solution Manager's entire function scope can be applied to the imported project. For instance, it's even possible to conduct a comparison of the project with the SAP upgrade content for new release versions.

This direct form of RBE Plus integration helps afford you a quick overview of one or more clients, especially if no reorganization measures are necessary. As an alternative, or in addition to this, differentiated observation within a large client by organizational areas is just another form of data preparation RBE Plus can provide. In addition, RBE Plus's flexibility in combination with the wide variety of different check steps assists you in identifying cross-system processes, such as during the integrative implementation of CRM and ERP systems, and in transferring these to the Solution Manager.

There are essentially two scenarios for transferring RBE Plus Analysis results to the SAP Solution Manager:

Depending on the project an RBE Plus Analysis is to support, you can select the variant of the imported process model. For a mere Situation Analysis or redocumentation of a productive system, it's sufficient to transfer just the active elements (processes, process steps). Conversely, within the context of a business upgrade project, it is a good idea to transfer not only the active BPR elements, but the unused processes and process steps to the SAP Solution Manager Blueprint as well, in order to uncover potential capabilities or variants not used previously in the die productive system. A search for potential in the context of current usage is thus simplified.

In addition to importing the process model, RBE Plus offers you a number of additional analysis results relevant for the various process scenarios. These include, for example, statements concerning the intensity of process usage based on defined threshold values. The specific quantity structures concerning "actually used" transactions, master data and transaction data that are responsible for an "active scope", are shown by various detailed evaluations accompanied by check steps and figures. RBE Plus also determines all customer-specific transactions and reports that are active or inactive within the system. To the extent to which they have a process-related character, customer-specific transactions should be assigned to the business processes or process steps, to guarantee a complete and accurate picture of system usage in the Blueprint. During a workshop involving both the customer and IBIS Prof. Thome AG, this assignment can be performed before importing the process model to the Solution Manager, so that the customer's individualized model immediately contains all user-defined transactions. Another effective evaluation shows all SAP transactions used in the analyzed system but not assigned in the SAP Solution Manager BPR. These standard transactions should also be assigned to the actively used processes.

IBIS Prof. Thome AG of Würzburg, as a think tank and developer of methods and tools in the SAP environment, provides innovative solutions for the requirements-based integration of organization and information processing. With its official status as "SAP Content Partner" - worldwide - for RBE Plus services and products, IBIS demonstrates its particular competence in developing business and analytical contents of and for SAP solutions. SAP and IBIS have collaborated on research, evaluation and development projects since 1995. The SAP Solution Manager has been a focus of their cooperation since 2002.