



Klaus Kretschmer, Director of SAP-CC:

“Using RBE in a system landscape needing to be adapted increases the efficiency of the analysis and the implementation of changes.”

Bernhard Gaede, ICN Project Manager:

“Clear objectives, the right people, knowledge of methods and an active interpretation of results - RBE really pays off!”

Project

With the help of RBE, five SAP systems were examined and compared for Siemens “Information and Communication Networks“ (ICN) with respect to degree of coverage, similarity to the SAP standard and user friendliness.

Objectives of the project were the short-term consolidating and harmonizing of five systems as well as the development of a long-term SAP strategy based on standardized processes and the latest SAP developments.

Partners

- Siemens ICN, Munich
- Siemens Business Services, Munich

**“Comparing 5 Systems”
– Harmonizing and Consolidating
SAP Systems at Siemens ICN –**

Background

In the course of permanent business and organizational changes in the company environment, the SAP landscape and the long-term SAP strategy are constantly under pressure to adapt to changing circumstances.

Basic factors which impact the ERP system result from changes in the entire IT architecture and new technical requirements, as well as from additions to the service scope or process changes.

Companies must respond quickly to these changes.

Business processes and systems within the company need to be in tune with one another and emphasis must be placed on standard processes and functions.

Siemens ICN sensed the need for an objective overview and insight into all systems.

It is essential to use automated tools to boost efficiency of analysis and implementation.

An RBE analysis facilitated the examination of five SAP systems with respect to the following questions:

How is the degree of coverage for functions in the five systems?

How similar are the systems to the SAP standard?

What is the level of acceptance / user friendliness in these systems?

In the five systems, where do functions overlap or where are functions missing?

Technical Basis

SAP R/3 Releases: 4.5b and 4.6c

Tools: RBE™ and RBE Plus™

Objective

Strategic objectives were specified in a parallel approach to the solution:

- 1) Short-term consolidating and harmonizing of the five systems,
- 2) Development of a long-term SAP strategy based on standardized processes and the latest SAP developments.

Checking systems for their similarity to the SAP standard brings about a cut in costs associated with maintenance and upgrades.

Harmonizing the business processes performed in the systems achieves structures nearly identical to those used in the SAP standard.

Pinpointing missing or identical functions between the two target systems and systems to be replaced reduces the number of R/3 systems a company needs, i.e. the five logistics systems can be consolidated in two target systems.

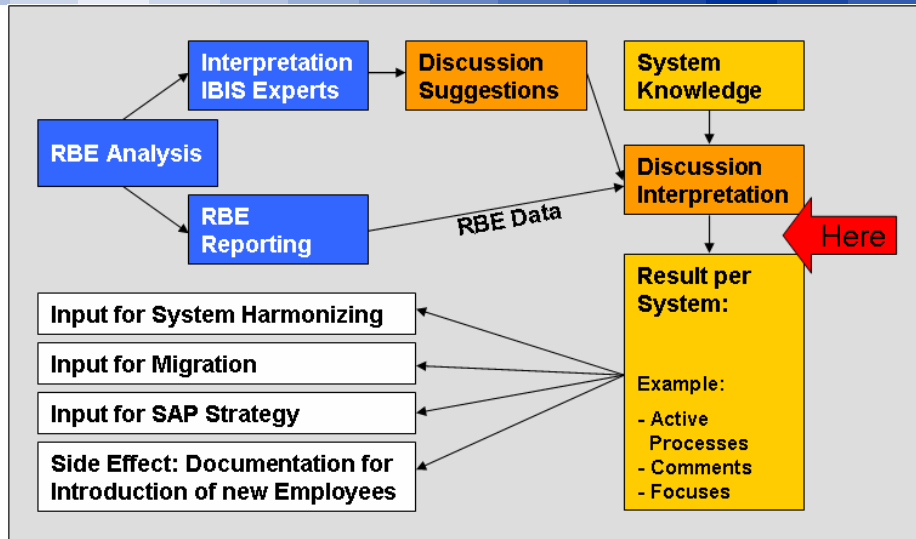
Procedure

1) Planning objectives for a tool-based RBE analysis of five Logistics systems with the main modules (MM, SD, LE, PS, CO).

2) Conducting the analysis: The RBE analysis was conducted in three stages: SCAN1 → SCAN2 → Final Check.

First Stage: "SCAN1"

The functional coverage and scope of the five systems was examined and narrowed down with the aid of a quick transaction analysis. Based on the pre-analysis, SCAN1, the scope of the analysis was limited to the application areas FI Accounts Receivable, FI Accounts Payable, PS, CO, MM and SD.



Second Stage: "SCAN2"

In addition to SCAN1, specific master, transaction and customizing data was analyzed and evaluated. The three source systems were compared with the two target systems and evaluated.

Third Stage: "Final Check"

A complete analysis including all previous adaptations was conducted to obtain additional data necessary for similarity to the standard version and user friendliness.

- 3) Interpreting the RBE data and establishing appropriate follow-up activities.

Result

Conclusions could be drawn about additional follow-up projects based on the RBE data.

Follow-up projects included the identification of "important" processes (quantity structure analysis), indicating/pointing out of "clean-up" options prior to/during migration, the assembly/putting together of links in the process chain, the checking of effects of harmonizing the "important" processes as well as the designing of a recommendation for harmonization based on these processes.

Example:

Comparing the three source systems with one of the target systems showed that in the SD processes, 36% of all RBE check steps were actively used in the source systems;

of these, 75% were just as active not active, i.e. according to the RBE Index, a quarter of the functions to be consolidated in the target system were missing. Based on detailed findings, a decision needed to be made on whether and how to deal with the missing/incongruent processes and functions - such as "goods issue" or "batch determination".

The results obtained enabled concrete recommendations to be made:

- Comparing customer transactions and customer reports to determine the "exclusion quantity".
- Core Customizing Comparison: Clarifying the relevance of document types, item types, etc. and standardizing typical processes for the system and product business as well as for the generic SD processes and MM Account Assignment.
- Master Data: Standardizing the conditions and the material master.

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