

BUSINESS PROCESS INTEGRATION PROJECT USING SAP

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Enterprise Resource Planning Systems are widely used in Fortune 5000 firms and are also being increasingly deployed in mid-market enterprises. Forrester Research estimates that in 2008, the ERP applications market had total revenues of \$38 billion with a projected growth rate of 6.9% reaching \$50 billion in 2012 (Hammerman, Leaver and Donnelly, 2008).

Teaching ERP systems is challenging because it is difficult to get the students to go beyond point-and-click to understand how business processes are integrated by these systems. ERP teaching material available from the SAP University Alliance (SAP UA) can be used to teach students how to use SAP systems as well as how to configure the system. The Business Process Integration course material (as well as other configuration courses available through the UA) walks the student through the process of configuring an ERP system through a series of exercises. After completing the exercises, students will be familiar with the configuration of the various core modules of SAP. In order to help students integrate this knowledge, they need to be able to configure a system based on business process descriptions rather than configuration instructions. This can be achieved by assigning students a project requiring them to use a business scenario as the basis for configuring a system.

Teaching objectives: Enable students to 1) develop business process blueprints from a business scenario 2) translate these business blueprints to SAP configuration based on best practices and 3) develop an understanding of the integration necessary between functional modules to support business processes.

Pre-requisites: Understanding of business processes. SAP configuration using one of the configuration courses available through the SAP University Alliance

Target Level: Graduate

Project Description: Students are given a business scenario based on a client engagement by a consulting company. The scenario given is significantly more complex than the company they configured using the SAP UA materials. The new company is global and is both a trading good and manufacturing organization with sourcing done from multiple global plants. The company also uses multiple currencies and is liable for taxes in multiple jurisdictions. Students work in teams to develop SAP business blueprints and create a straw-man organizational structure for the organization. Then they review SAP best practices for each of the business process for the industry sector of the company. Finally, they configure the SAP from scratch.

A completed project will be demonstrated at the conference. Business blue prints developed by students will be available for review at the conference.

References

SAP University Alliance available at: <http://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/uac>

Hammerman, P. D., Leaver, S. and Donnelly, M. "ERP Applications 2008: The Battle Goes Vertical", Forrester Research, June 23, 2008 (Updated July 2, 2008).