

INTRODUCTION

You probably need this booklet if you are busy with management and have had few reasons to recently touch the SAP screen. This is true even if you are an SAP manager who was once an ABAP developer or a Configurator.

It is important to stay current with the latest SAP trends and technologies. This booklet helps you do that. Imagine getting a Friday afternoon call from the helpdesk that a batch program failed in production and your helpdesk or operators cannot reach your on-call developer or configurator. You have to diagnose the problem yourself. One tip from this booklet could help solve or identify where the problem is. That alone would give you a worry-free weekend and the satisfaction of realizing you are the person with vital solutions. It's the small detail you know that can easily be quick wins for that moment. That's what these tips are about.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Synod Phahla is an SAP consultant. He is Founder and CEO of STP Consulting, Inc. His SAP R/3 experience since the mid-1990's includes working on more than 20 projects. These range from mini SAP projects taking 3 months, to full implementation and upgrades of 6 months to 2 years. Synod has worked for companies like Unilever, Accenture, and BrightStar. STP Consulting, Inc., founded in 1997, helps companies by providing high quality, experienced SAP consultants. Some of the clients that STP Consulting has served are Allergan, 3Com, Abbott Vascular, Merisel, Pacific Gas & Electric, Respirationics, and MCR Safety. STP Consulting, Inc. is developing a new SAP tool called MYSNAPSHOTS.

For more information about this tool, our other services, and bulk and customized purchases of this booklet, please use the most convenient contact method below.

STP Consulting, Inc.

27475 Ynez Road, #378, Temecula, CA 92591
1-866-787-2661 (Pacific time zone)
mysnapshots@stpconsulting.com
synod@stpconsulting.com
www.stpconsulting.com

© 2008, Synod Phahla



NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SAP TRENDS

1 Smartforms. Use smartforms as the standard for developing output documents like invoices, delivery notes, and customer order confirmation. They have not yet completely replaced sapscrip (layout set). Smartforms are powerful enough to create a web form and easier to use for development. While this is a good tool for your developers to use, the value of converting all sapscrip to smartforms versus the benefits might not be quickly realized.

2 Adobe Forms. Build electronic PDF forms that use enterprise data like HR info (from SAP) and require electronic signature. Adobe forms came from SAP and Adobe. This allows users to work with interactive forms that can reach users without SAP access. It is ideal for complex government forms. You no longer have to print and enter data from your enterprise system. SAP Netweaver ERP 2005 has 900 print forms and 60 interactive forms available.

3 Document Management System (DMS). Store all documents relating to master data in your SAP system in a DMS. You can revise and re-link new documents very easily, allowing everyone in your organization to print accurate information each time.

Examples:

You sell hazardous material requiring a material data sheet accompanying the sale to warn the user. This document can be stored in SAP and linked to that material.

Your team needs instructions to follow when receiving material from a vendor. These can be printed on the goods receipt.

4 VIRSA. Use this security and compliance solution to reduce costs associated with Sarbanes Oxley regulatory act (SOX). VIRSA