

## **Forging New Paths in SAP System Landscape Optimization Solutions to Industrialize SAP System Landscape Optimization Projects**

Heidelberg, June 8, 2009 - **Critical to the success of SAP System Landscape Optimization is the definition of implementation rules coupled with an in-depth understanding of the process variations and data deviations that determine this definition. If processes and data are subject to change or there are structural differences between the SAP systems, these additional operational issues must be accounted for when data is transferred as part of system consolidation. This makes it impossible to carry out a secure and efficient system consolidation at the technical level of the database; instead, it must be managed at application level by means of business objects. Unlike other migration and SLO tools commonly found on the market, the cbs SHC Framework takes the business-based approach of performing consolidation on the basis of business objects. Companies benefit significantly from the uniformity of the application and the added value of a specific precision control methodology for transferring data, particularly in respect of transparency, security, cost, time, and quality.**

Global companies are increasingly confronted by changes. For example, they have to deal with acquisitions and sell-offs, enter new markets, and respond to changes in the law. Changes can come in a variety of forms that necessitate modifications in the SAP system landscape. Optimize system landscapes and migrate data – securely, rapidly, flexibly, cost-effectively, and with minimized risk; these are the challenges faced by companies on a daily basis.

### **Two categories of optimization tasks: Merging/splitting systems and making changes within existing systems**

As general conditions change, optimization tasks manifest themselves in the standardization of processes, harmonization of data, and consolidation of systems. These tasks fall into two broad categories: The first covers system mergers, splits, and carve-outs of business units. The second comprises conversions within the SAP production environment without actually replacing systems.

Systems might typically have to be merged in order to integrate an acquired company with an existing SAP system landscape. Or business units might have to be carved out when, in light of a strategy of concentration, they no longer belong to the core focus of the company and are to be outsourced as a result. In these scenarios, great importance is attached to transferring historical data and ensuring downtime is minimized when the merger takes place.

Conversions often involve making changes to the chart of accounts, merging controlling areas and operating concerns, and renaming enterprise structures, for example company codes or plants. These changes are often the necessary consequence of standardization efforts and may extend to the standardization of material, customer, and vendor numbers, taking into account all related data.

### **The specific course of action is defined by the project approach**

cbs Corporate Business Solutions enables companies to perform fast and effective tool-based system consolidations (System Landscape Optimization (SLO)) in response to the constant changes arising from acquisitions and sell-offs, tapping new markets, and other developments in the global business landscape. If required, it is possible to go beyond a purely technical system consolidation and take a comprehensive, holistic approach, calling on the wealth of experience built up by cbs. This enables the optimization process to cover not only the system level but also to examine and connect the processes and data in use.

A different course of action must be taken for each of the possible project approaches. This does not necessitate an "either-or" decision but calls for flexible adaptation of the key components of

standardization, harmonization, and consolidation. As the need for standardization and consolidation grows, so the complexity of system consolidation projects increases.

Critical to the success of such projects is the definition of implementation rules coupled with an in-depth understanding of the process variations and data deviations that determine this definition. If processes and data are subject to change or there are structural differences between the SAP systems that point toward different types of operational procedures and organizational forms, these additional issues must be accounted for when data is transferred as part of system consolidation. This makes it impossible to carry out a secure and efficient migration at the technical level of the database. It can, however, be managed at application level by means of business objects. Processes and data can be seen in their business context at this level and it is possible to establish connections between the two. Business objects can be used to simulate and then perform migrations of entire processes, which means that not only table entries but entire objects are transformed, converted, and migrated.

### **The cbs SHC Framework gives companies the freedom to choose their migration method**

From a technical perspective, companies that use the cbs SHC Framework have the freedom to choose their preferred migration method: They can choose the standard SAP transfer methods and use direct table updates as conventional SLO tools do, or they can opt for a mixed strategy in which they follow the business approach of a cbs SHC Framework migration on the basis of business objects. Business objects include sales orders, purchase orders, deliveries, billing documents, and so on. The most suitable transfer method and migration plan is defined for each object or process. The cbs SHC Framework shows how data contents relate to each other and makes it possible to individually migrate elements such as business objects and processes that are linked to each other at application level. By comparison, other tools commonly found on the market support neither business-based organization nor selective migration. Instead, databases are converted in their entirety without any iteration options. This is first evident in testing, as it is only possible to perform mass tests. If objects and processes are migrated individually, on the other hand, tests can also be performed at the level of each of these elements. The database-oriented approach necessarily results in long cycles with a complete lack of flexibility in the way tasks are shared out between the customer and the external SLO service provider. This drives up costs, draws out projects, and diminishes quality as a result of the lack of control and transparency.

By combining the M-cbs for SHC Projects method with the cbs SHC Framework, cbs offers an alternative, business-based approach that helps make SAP system consolidation projects more manageable and enables companies to take gradual, iterative steps. Unlike purely technical conversions of complete databases, data transfers can be split into phases, organized via business objects, and structured according to processes and (SAP) objects.

The cbs SHC Framework offers the same range of functions and level of automation as other standard migration and SLO tools found on the market, but – thanks to the uniformity of the application and the added value of a specific precision control methodology for transferring data – significantly outperforms its competitors with regard to transparency, security, cost, time, and quality.

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## **About cbs**

### **Global SAP Solutions. Best Practice for Industrial companies.**

cbs Corporate Business Solutions creates global SAP solutions for industrial companies. As an international consultancy, cbs combines the comprehensive know-how of SAP solution consultants with the particular expertise of process consultants for the manufacturing industry.

Experienced consultants, holistic and methodical approaches, and a comprehensive service portfolio help companies to successfully manage optimization projects to standardize, harmonize, and consolidate their system landscapes and to roll out SAP best practice process solutions company-wide.

cbs is the consultancy and SAP expert of the MATERNA Group, with 135 employees and 110 consultants. The company has its head office in Heidelberg and also maintains regional offices in Munich, Dortmund, Hamburg, and Berlin as well as international offices in Copenhagen, Paris, and Zurich (cbs Switzerland AG). (End)

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