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Efficiently Improving the Quality of Master Data in Your SAP System

Introduction

Poor data quality can have disastrous consequences for any organization: delays in the supply chain, wasted time and money, and poor decision-making based on bad data. According to a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers survey of large companies, only 34% of the respondents claimed to be very confident of their data quality. More than 80% of the survey respondents agreed that their company should view data quality more strategically.

The quality of data in an ERP system may be poor for many reasons, such as errors occurring during initial manual data entry, duplicated records, delays in keeping the data up-to-date, and a lack of synchronization with external systems.

Fortunately, there are some simple best practices that companies can employ — in conjunction with using software applications such as TxShuttle from Winshuttle, Powered by SAP NetWeaver — that are making a tremendous impact on master data quality for hundreds of SAP customers worldwide. Three of these best practices are described in the sidebar.

Conclusion

Poor data quality wastes time and money and adversely impacts your company's bottom line. Maintaining high-quality data in your SAP system is essential to business success. The simple methods shown in the sidebar, used in conjunction with SAP NetWeaver and Winshuttle software, can make a significant improvement in your SAP data quality.

Next Steps

Try Winshuttle applications on your own SAP system. Easily download and install these applications on your desktop by requesting a free trial at our Web site, www.winshuttle.com. ■

3 Effective Ways to Improve Data Quality

1. Automate data entry without programming, improving data quality at the source.

There are many ways in which an enterprise can automate the process of entering both master and transactional data. This is particularly true when the data being entered already exists in other digital formats, such as Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, or PDF and Microsoft Word files. This automation can have a significant positive impact on data quality, as well as offer cost- and time-savings by eliminating manual data entry.

Easy-to-use applications, such as TxShuttle, are designed specifically to automate the process of uploading and downloading data between SAP and Microsoft Excel and Access without burdening IT resources.

2. Make mass data changes as soon as needed.

Companies can maintain high-quality data by making mass changes to the data in their SAP systems as soon as the need arises. Such mass changes can be done quickly and easily by first downloading the data into Excel spreadsheets, modifying it as necessary, and uploading it to the SAP system. Winshuttle applications are designed to help business users update their SAP data effectively with this method.

3. Synchronize SAP data with external systems frequently.

Data stored in external systems should be synchronized with SAP data frequently, in real time, if possible. SAP's enterprise service-oriented architecture (SOA) facilitates real-time synchronization. For non-real time, but frequent, synchronizations between external systems and your SAP system, Excel or Access databases can be used as the intermediary. Winshuttle applications can be scheduled to automatically load such Excel or Access data into your SAP system. ■