

Atlas-Copco: Leveraging SAP Technology Tour

Applies to:

Business Intelligence, Visual Composer

Summary

Atlas-Copco is a high-tech manufacturing company founded in 1873 and headquartered in Sweden. It produces compressed air and gas equipment, generators and construction and mining tools as well as industrial tools worldwide.

Satyabrata Basu is a Technical Specialist for the SAP Team that provides support for Groupwide IT Services at Atlas-Copco. He recently spoke with SAP contract writer, Catherine LaCroix, about SAP's Technology Tour.

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LaCroix: What led you to participate in SAP's Technology Tour?

Basu: In Belgium we have a local SAP user group called Sapience.be. One of the commissions is a technology commission, which meets each year. This year, for the first time, SAP joined forces with SAPIence.be at the Technology Tour. That was the main reason for attending the conference. We were mainly looking for information on the SAP NetWeaver technology stack, so we needed to see the complete technology spectrum. At Technology Tour, you not only see what's going on in the existing platform, but you also get to see what's coming up from SAP in terms of future direction. It also helped to understand what other companies are implementing and to exchange information with them. In addition, you meet a lot of other users from SAP Belgium.

LaCroix: Can you provide a specific example of how your participation in Technology Tour has helped you accelerate or improve a project?

Basu: A presentation on Business Intelligence (BI) performance optimization helped me. I used those techniques in our company. For example, we publish reports using Visual Composer so that users can get the reports with an Internet browser. Over time, we can see how these analytics tools help shape our business.

Also, I had attended one session focusing on IBM DB2 UDB (the latest V9 version), which was developed with close cooperation with SAP. We run our SAP on IBM DB2 database. This session convinced me to start a DB2 upgrade, and now I'm running that database upgrade project.

LaCroix: Which TechTour sessions did you attend?

Basu: I attended a good keynote on "Business at the Speed of Change," a parallel track on infrastructure, and one on business intelligence. My main interest was in the platform-specific (i.e. TDMS data migration, copying production data) and the BI tracks. I also followed a presentation on composite applications, which was new to me.

LaCroix: In what ways were these sessions helpful to your business?

Basu: When we heard the keynote "Business at the Speed of Change," it uncovered the ESOA architecture of SAP and how the vision is shifting toward the business side. Technology Tour gave us the kind of input we required to apply this idea to our business.

LaCroix: What specific benefits have you gained as a result of attending Technology Tour?

Basu: My main goal was to collaborate and meet other SAP users from SAP Belgium to exchange ideas. Over time, the knowledge we gained from the Technology Tour can be applied to new projects in the future. With the knowledge we gained, we can evaluate all the possibilities for future projects.

LaCroix: How has collaboration with other SAP developers at Technology Tour helped you in your daily work?

Basu: We've formed an ongoing collaboration with other users in Belgium. That's where SDN comes in; collaboration on SDN is fantastic. When we see something new, we can always go to SDN and find out about it there. But also we don't underestimate how important it is to have a connection with SAP locally – meaning, through the local SAP group.

Also, I should mention there was a track on the SAP Exchange infrastructure (XI) during the Technology Tour. The SAP person who was giving the presentation was part of the installation team at our company. That always helps because you know who you can contact if you have any issues. Today there is great demand from the business to implement new technologies. Often, the new technologies are more complicated than before, so you need to get the information quickly and collaboration is essential.

LaCroix: Do you plan to participate in future Technology Tours? If so, what is the key driver behind this decision?

Basu: Yes, definitely. This year's was excellent and it was very useful. User Day in October [2007] will also include collaboration with SAP. Getting input on the different platforms and getting to know people face-to-face is essential. In addition, hearing about the future direction from SAP is truly valuable.

LaCroix: How does Technology Tour differ from other events you've attended?

Basu: It offers whole-day presentations and different tracks. It shows that SAP has evolved with its customers. SAP, as a company, doesn't just sell a solution and then go away. Having these events and knowing we have a local connection to SAP gives us a very good feeling. It's very important that SAP is accessible to us. The Technology Tour focuses solely on technology and the needs that we have right now, but also on how to solve new needs in the future. We really appreciate this commitment from SAP towards us, the SAP customers.

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