

Minimum SP Stack Level



Applies to:

SAP Business Suite 7 and following product versions and its maintenance procedures performed by the Maintenance Optimizer MOpz. For more information, visit the [Application Management homepage](#).

Summary

The aim of the introduction of Minimum SP Stack Levels is to reduce direct as well as indirect costs (e.g. regression testing) during the maintenance process when applying SP Stacks caused by dependencies between multiple SAP applications.

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Author Bio



Stefan joined SAP in 1992 starting in development of SAP R/3 Version 1.2 and accompanied this product through all ups and downs and ups again. Since 2006 he works as chief development architect in the central On-Premise Suite Architecture Team. He is heading the System Landscape Governance Board founded in 2008 and supports all TCO reducing activities from an architectural perspective in the On-Premise World of SAP.

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SP Stack Strategy Enhancement to Support Minimum SP Stack Level

The aim of the introduction of Minimum SP Stack Levels is to reduce direct as well as indirect costs (e.g. regression testing) during the maintenance process when applying SP Stacks caused by dependencies between multiple SAP applications.

SP Stacks

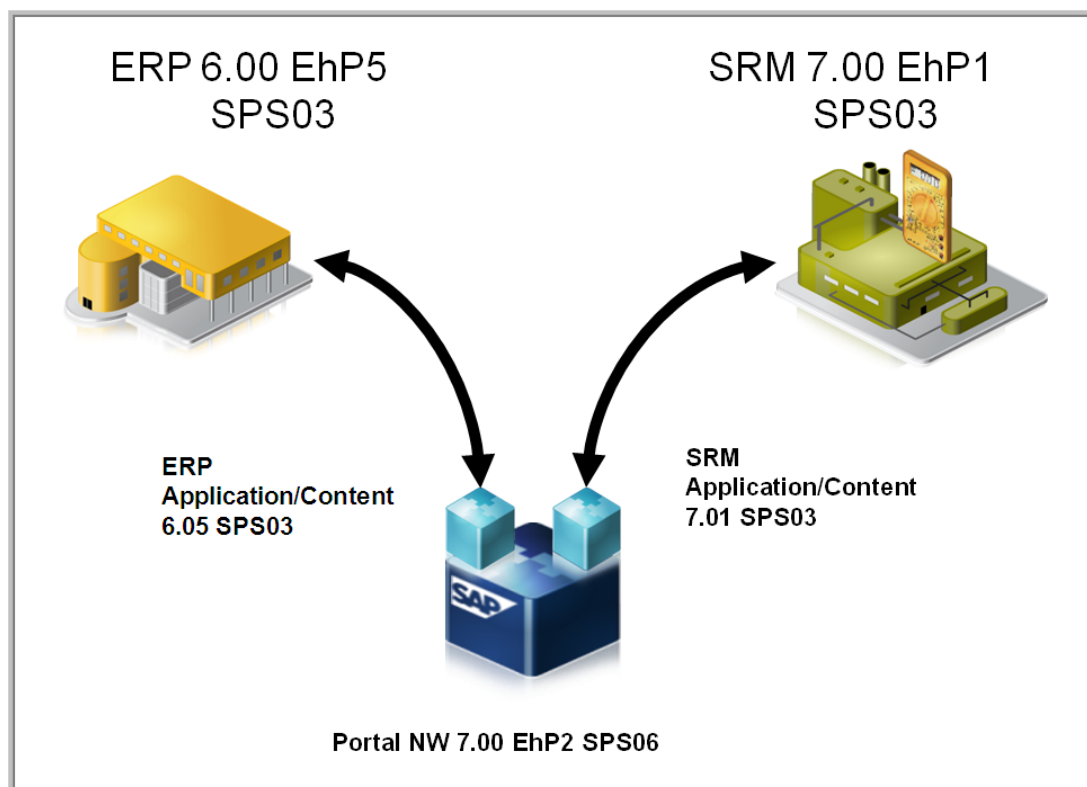
SP Stacks are compiled for each product version following the SP Stack strategy (founded in 2003). An SP Stack contains the optimal combination of Support Packages and patch statuses for the individual software components at a given time. In general two to four SP Stacks per year are produced for main products.

SAP strongly recommends regular application of these SP Stacks, at least once a year. SP Stacks should be seen as an entity in themselves – customers must heed the minimum requirements and dependencies between individual components and apply the Support Packages and patches specified in the SP Stack.

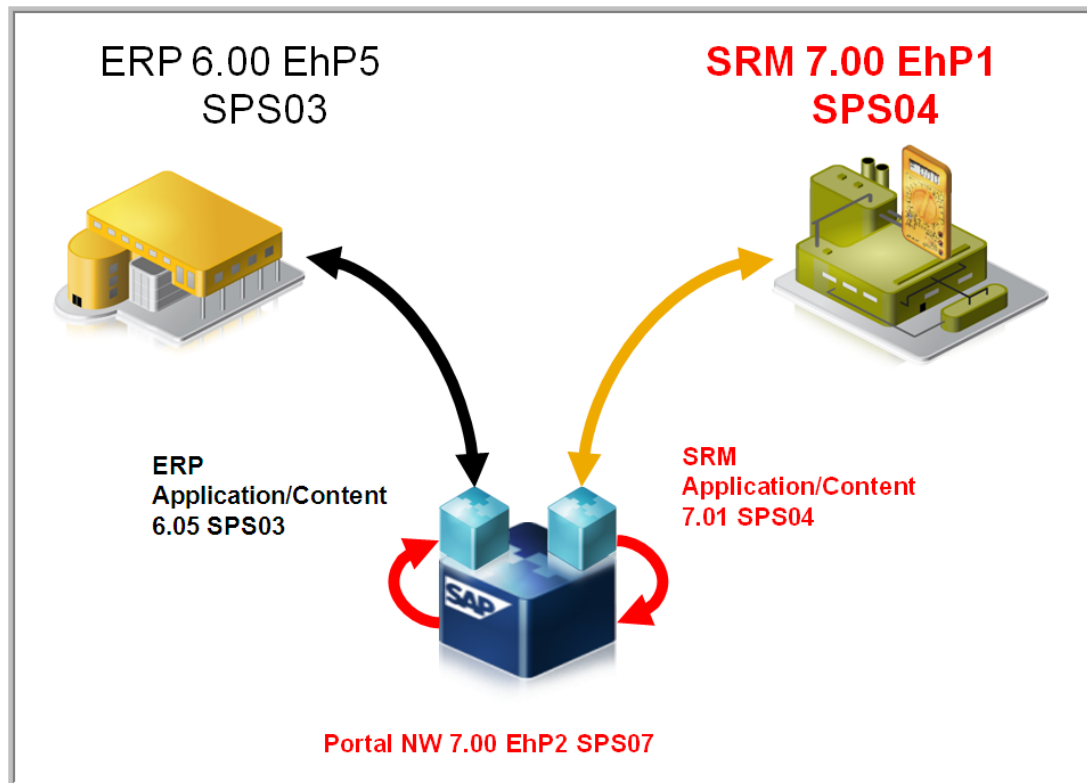
The Problem

In complex system landscapes it is very common to implement software components of different product versions (e.g. ERP and SRM) on a commonly used NetWeaver Technology Hub (e.g. Enterprise Portal). Here the current SP Stack strategy might lead to follow-up actions on another product version while implementing SP Stacks on one product version. This so called 'Domino Effect' has to be avoided.

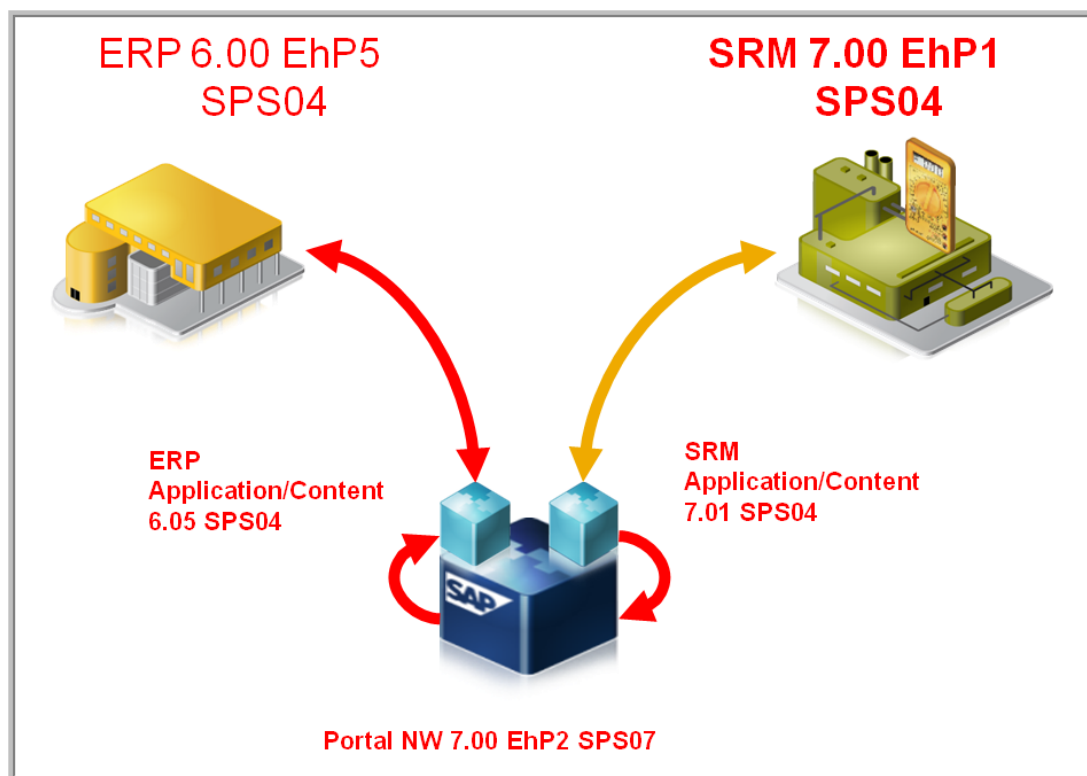
The following pictures show the unexpected effects on the ERP backend system when starting a maintenance process in SRM.



Customer wants to update SRM 7.0 EhP1 SP-Stack 03 to SP-Stack 04



Customer has to update SRM Portal Application/Content to SP-Stack 04 which requires also NW 7.00 EhP2 update from SP-Stack 06 to SP-Stack 07



As a result of Portal NW 7.00 EhP2 update, the Customer is forced to update ERP 6.00 EhP5 Backend and Portal Application/Content from SP-Stack 03 to SP-Stack 04 as well

How it works

Based on the example from above, the SRM and ERP content/applications and their runtime relations to Enterprise Portal will be enhanced. The SP stack definitions will be changed from an 'exact SPS07' SPS definition to a 'minimum SPS06' definition. This enables the maintenance optimizer (MOPz) to calculate that the Portal Hub System can be kept stable concerning its NW SP Stack Level. No update of Portal NW 7.00 EhP2 will be required if it is already on NW SP Stack level 06 or higher– this then also does not force to update the ERP application/content and its related backend as well.

For sure, it is also possible to do an independent maintenance process for the Portal itself as the Applications/Content of both product versions ERP and SRM have now introduced minimum SP Stack Levels. This enables more flexibility and independence for customers regarding planned maintenance of SAP applications.

Requirement to make use of

The stack calculation is taking the defined Minimum SP Stack Levels into account only for those central system systems which are defined as 'HUB' concerning their landscape pattern. This definition is done in the SMSY of the Solution Manager.

Technical System: F6X
System Type: Java

Header Data | Instances | Software Components | **Other Attributes**

List of Attributes

Attribute	Attribute Value	Value Description
Logical Port for CTC		
RFC Dest. for BPMon BW Aler		
Available SP Stack		
Implemented SP Stack		
Service Contract		
Service Type		
Location		
Priority		
Group Key		
Landscape Pattern	HUB	

Availability of Minimum SP Stack Levels

The changes in the calculation logic are done in the Maintenance Optimizer Backend at SAP as well as the changes in the SP Stack Definitions of related product versions.

- The calculation in the MOPZ Backend has been activated on August 1st, 2011
- The adjustments in the related product versions will start not before September 2011 - the current status of updated SP-Stacks is available in SAP note 1620472
- SP stack calculation for NW part of hubs might lead to different results after updating the SP stack definition compared to earlier calculations. Previous calculations are still valid but new results provide more flexibility

Related Content

For more information, visit the [Application Management homepage](#)

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