Applies to:
All SAP Technical and functional people
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Summary
About the UPGARED PROJECT and what are the phases involved in it and what happens in technical upgrade time

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Created on: 1 December 2008

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About SAP Upgrade

As the mainstream support for SAP R/3 4.6C is over by Dec 2006 and the extended maintenance will also be over by Dec 2007, it’s important or in a way imperative to upgrade from R/3 4.6. The version we upgrade depends on lot of factors and is entirely driven by Organization’s need. This blow highlights some of the critical factors that affect the success of the upgrade project. This is more from project planning point and has minimal technical contents.

The scope of an upgrade project is determined on the basis that is it a pure technical upgrade or a functional upgrade is also combined. In technical upgrade it’s mainly the system upgrade and no new functionality is implemented.

What are the Different Phases Involved in Upgrade project

The upgrade is carried out in four phases - PRE_UPGRADE, PREPARE, UPGRADE and POST-UPGRADE.

PRE-UPGRADE is where you prepare your system like clearing qRFC queues, executing certain jobs specific to database before copying the database to a fresh system for upgrade.

PREPARE is where a new instance is introduced which, is called a shadow instance. All the tables of the existing system are copied to the new shadow instance with most of them clustered and ready for upgrade.

UPGRADE is really where the upgrade happens from old to the new. Most of the upgrade happens in the shadow instance which, basically helps in reducing the downtime and again the downtime part varies based on the type of upgrade you have decided between 'Downtime Minimized' and 'Resource Minimized'.

POST-UPGRADE is where the system is brought back to operational state and other maintenance activities are performed to make the system as a well oiled machinery.

The system landscape design will depend on the project plan. To increase the availability of system for production support and new developments following dual system landscape helps.

Technical Upgrade—completing a technical upgrade to SAP ERP 6.0 that retains existing functionality and carries over modifications from previous versions

Functional Upgrade—reducing customization while achieving the highest possible standardization level as you introduce new SAP ERP 6.0 functionality
System landscape in Upgrade

Before Upgrade

After Upgrade

Retaining older version system after the upgrade for about 2-3 months helps in resolving post-upgrade issues. The objective should be to minimize dual maintenance window.

Points to remember during the Upgrade

Some facts which should be kept in mind when performing an upgrade project to SAP R/3 Enterprise...

There is no direct connection between DB size and SAP upgrade runtime!

Since SAP R/3 Enterprise is Unicode compliant, the ABAP syntax check is more intensive, even on a non-Unicode system. As a result, some customer programs might be checked and adjusted.

For a realistic estimation of upgrade project efforts, an upgrade on a copy of the productive system is needed

The better the quality of documentation on modifications, the easier the modifications adjustments can be performed! Customers starting from SAP R/3 4.5B or higher benefit from the SAP Modification Assistant

Some recommendations based on experiences from previous upgrade projects...

Upgrade without implementation of new functionality (except “low hanging fruits”)is preferable

Going Live -Functional Upgrade Check should be requested Distribution of new SAPGUI version should be started as soon as possible “Downtime minimized” method should be used

Returning of modifications to SAP standard should be one of the main targets
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