

Quick View Insider: What Is an Invisible Building Block?



Applies to:

SAP SNC (Supply Network Collaboration) release 7.0 enhancement pack 1

For more information, visit the [Supply Chain Management homepage](#).

Summary

This article explains how quick view sequences building blocks and how you can use invisible building blocks to even out the layout.

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Author Bio



I have been part of the SNC development team in Palo Alto since 2004. Overall I have been a developer at SAP in Germany, Japan, and California since 1997 and at Software AG in Germany since 1989. I hold a masters degree in industrial engineering and computer science.

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The Sequence Column in the Configuration

Invisible building blocks are used to balance the building block layout between the left and right column.

To understand why we need invisible building blocks to do that, let's take a look at how you define the position of a building block on the screen. You can sequence your building blocks in the quick view configuration by giving them ascending numbers in the *Sequence* column:

The screenshot shows the 'Assign Building Blocks to Quick View' configuration window. On the left is a 'Dialog Structure' tree with folders like 'Assign Building Blocks to Quick View', 'SAP Default Configuration (Information)', 'Define Tabs for Quick View', 'SAP Default Tabs (Information)', 'Define Building Blocks for Quick View', 'Define Key Figures for Quick View', 'Assign Key Figures to Blocks and Define Nav', and 'Define Split Criteria for Quick View'. The main area is a table with the following columns: 'A...', 'Screen ID', 'Partner', 'User Name', 'Block ID', 'Tab', and 'Sequence Display'. An orange arrow points to the 'Sequence Display' column header.



As a quick view user you can also sequence building blocks on-screen using the [Personalize](#) link: Hide all blocks but the one you want to be first, then one-by-one add the other building blocks in the sequence you want to see them, saving between every step.

No matter how you configured the sequence, quick view arranges the building blocks along that sequence from top to bottom and from left to right (exception: double-wide building blocks, such as the microblog block, are always displayed on top):

The screenshot shows the 'Quick View' interface for 'Supply Network Collaboration - ZIMMERMANCOR - Business Partner: CARPENTER'. The top navigation bar includes 'Exceptions', 'Release', 'Purchase Order', 'Work Order', 'Delivery', 'Invoice', 'Quality', 'Master Data', and 'Tools'. Below the navigation bar, it says 'Currently Showing Data For: All Products / All Locations / No Filter on Change Date' and 'Refresh (Last Refresh: 14.11.13 12:11) Change Selection'. There is a 'Personalize' link on the right. The main content area shows a grid of five orange building blocks numbered 1 through 5. Block 1 is in the top-left position, block 2 is in the top-right position, block 3 is in the middle-left position, block 4 is in the bottom-right position, and block 5 is in the bottom-left position.

Using the Invisible Building Block

If that is not the layout you have in mind, you use the invisible building block to work around that restriction. The SAP default delivery of the *Invoice* tab is an example how to do it:

Quick View Supply Network Collaboration - ZIMMERMANCOR - Business Partner: CARPENTER

Exceptions Release Purchase Order Work Order Delivery Invoice Quality Master Data Tools

Currently Showing Data For: All Products / All Locations / No Filter on Change Date
Refresh (Last Refresh: 10:06:42 PST) Change Selection

Label for Tab 1: Microblog Label for Tab 2: Planning
Label for Tab 3: Confirmation Label for Tab 4: Shipping
Label for Tab 5: Invoicing Label for Tab 6: Quality **New Tab**

Microblog: Tab 1
SM Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 2
OFM Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 2
New Note Alerts for POs, Releases, and WOs: Tab 3
SA Release: Changed Items by Release Date: Tab 3
SA Release: Items by Release Date: Tab 3
SA Release Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 3
Purchasing Documents Due for ASNs by ASN Due Date: Tab 4
Kanban Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 4
Shipment Due List by Shipping Date: Tab 4
Shipment Status by Delivery Date: Tab 4
ASNs + POs Requiring Invoices by Delivery Date: Tab 5
Invisible Building Block for Layout Purposes: Tab 5
Open Quality Notifications by End Date: Tab 6
SN Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 2
DCM Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 2
PO: Items To Be Confirmed by Change Date: Tab 3
PO: Canceled/Rejected Items by Change Date: Tab 3
PO Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 3
WD Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 3
Planned Receipts Due for ASNs by ASN Due Date: Tab 4
ASN Status by Delivery Date: Tab 4
ASN Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 4
Invoice Status by Due Date: Tab 5
Invoice Alerts by Alert Creation Date: Tab 5
Invoicing
Save Cancel Personalize

Microblog (1) Planning Confirmation Shipping **Invoicing** Quality

ASNs + POs Requiring Invoices by Delivery Date

Past Delivery Date	26
Delivery Today	
Delivery Within 7 Days	14
Delivery Within 30 Days	2

ASN / PO Items

Invoice Status by Due Date

Rejected	
Open Invoices	2

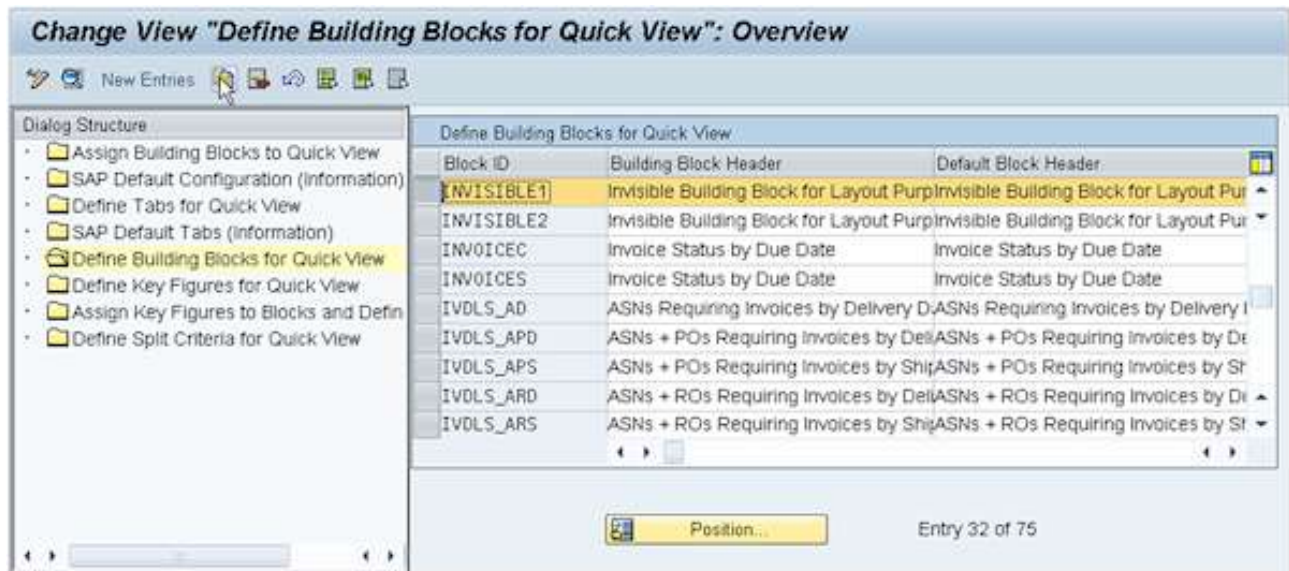
Invoices

Invoice Alerts by Alert Creation Date

No Alerts

How to Create More Invisible Building Blocks

Since a building block can only be assigned to one tab, SAP delivers two invisible building blocks. If you need more, just copy one of the building blocks as many times as you need:



Start the name of the building block with Z, Y, or X to put it into customer namespace and protect it during upgrade.

Then go back to the Assign Building Blocks to Quick View folder and add your new invisible building block to your configuration.

Related Content

[SNC Wiki](#)

[SCM-SNC Forum](#)

[SCM on BPX](#)

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