Choosing an SAP Form Tool:
SAPscript, Smart Forms or the Adobe/SAP Solution
[Session code 2301]

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MHS Systems Consulting, Inc.

Matthias Zeller, Sr. Product Manager,
Adobe Systems Incorporated
Agenda – Choosing an SAP Form Tool

- Introduction
- Tool Overview
  - SAPscript
  - Smart Forms
  - Joint Adobe/SAP Solution
  - Other Tools
- Tool Selection
  - New Forms
  - Existing Forms
- Summary
Mark Smithson: MHS Systems Consulting, Inc.
- Senior Consultant with special expertise in form printing and development in SAP applications

Matthias Zeller: Adobe Systems, Inc.
- Senior Product Manager responsible for the product requirements, evangelizing, and roll-out process in the Adobe/SAP Alliance
"To the man who only has a hammer in the toolkit, every problem looks like a nail." - Abraham Maslow
Introduction

• SAP offers three distinct output form tools
  • SAPscript
  • Smart Forms
  • Joint Adobe/SAP Solution
• Third-party form tools exist as well

Choosing the right one can be confusing
Tool Overview - SAPscript

- **Background**
  - Based on mainframe product from 1980s
  - Minor improvements over time
- **Pros:**
  - Legacy tool – a ‘known quantity’
  - Many existing preconfigured form templates
- **Cons:**
  - Not particularly ‘user-friendly’
  - Limited output options
  - No further enhancement
Screen Shot – SAPscript output

Current System = TRN

IDES HOLDING AG

MHS Systems Consulting, Inc.
2280 Woodland Ln N
Riverwoods IL 60015

Order confirmation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number/Date</th>
<th>20 / 10/30/2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference no./Date</td>
<td>unconfirmed line</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cust. no.</td>
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We deliver according to the following conditions:

Terms of payment: WITHIN 14 days 2.000 % cash discount
WITHIN 30 days without deduction

Terms of delivery: CIF destination

Weights (gross/net): Volume: Mark
Gross weight: 7.600 LB Net weight: 7.600 LB

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Price unit</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>C-125-0001</td>
<td>Codein Phosphate</td>
<td>152 EA</td>
<td>7.95</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>1 EA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Split the overall quantity over the following delivery dates:

<table>
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<th>Unit</th>
<th>Delivery date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Day 11/30/2003</td>
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</table>

Final amount: 1,208.40
Tool Overview – Smart Forms

• Background:
  • Introduced in release 4.6c
  • Replaced SAPscript as official form tool

• Pros:
  • More advanced output options (PDF, XML)
  • Graphical editor
  • Table & template painters
  • Vastly improved graphical interface

• Cons:
  • Fewer form templates than SAPscript
  • No further enhancement as of Web AS 6.40 (bug fixes only)
### Invoice

**Sold-To-Party**
Smart Print Inc.
3475 Deer Creek Road
LOS GATOS CA 95032
USA

**Information**
- **Document No./Date**: 90000217/03/22/2002
- **Delivery Note No./Date**: 90000212/03/22/2002
- **Reference Order**: 9986/03/22/2002
- **PO No./Date**: PRINT TEST ORDER/03/22/2002
- **Customer No.**: 1034822
- **Currency**: USD
- **Invoice Amnt**: 4,212.14
- **Terms of Payment**: Up to 04/21/2002 without DHL
- **Gross Weight**: 50 LB
- **Net Weight**: 50 LB

### Item

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<td>2 EA</td>
<td>499.99</td>
<td>999.98</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Purchase Order

**Information**
- **PO Number**: 216
- **Date**: 01/21/2002
- **Vendor No.**: 10348
- **Currency**: USD
- **Payment Terms**: NT30
- **Description**: Not due in 30 days
- **Buyer**: myPCC Buyer 1
- **Photo**: 850.849.4000
- **Resale No.**: XX XXX-XX-XXXXXX
- **Delivery Date**: 02/04/2002
- **Inco Terms**: CIF
- **Description**: San Francisco

### Item

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<th>Unit</th>
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<td>EA</td>
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### Request for Quotation

**NOT AN ORDER**
- **Date**: 03/01/2012
- **Buyer**: myPCC Buyer 1
- **Photo**: 850.849.4000
- **Description**: San Francisco

Dr. W. recommends that the Quotations to Purchasing Dept. at the

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Tool Overview – Adobe/SAP Solution

• **Background:**
  - Collaboration between SAP and Adobe Systems
  - Being introduced in Web AS 6.40/NetWeaver 04
  - ERP 04 solution will provide forms based on the new technology

• **Adobe provides**
  - Open technology, de-facto standard for forms
  - Combine benefits of PDF with open XML technology

• **Benefits of SAP-Adobe cooperation**
  - Integration of Adobe PDF technology into SAP solutions
  - 500 million Adobe Readers distributed worldwide
  - User-friendly design tool significantly reduces TCO
  - Pre-existing PDF forms, e.g. government forms, can be re-used
Adobe/SAP Solution - Print forms

**Pros:**
- Adobe Designer integrated into ABAP Workbench Form Builder
- User-friendly, ‘paper-like’ layout
- Adobe Designer can import existing PDF forms
- Leverages people's experiences with paper forms (e.g. IRS W4 form)
- Easy client-side form printing
- Supports PDF, PS, PCL and ZPL output

**Cons:**
- No direct conversion from SAPscript (Smart Forms only)
- Limited number of SAP pre-built forms today
Adobe/SAP Solution – Interactive forms

• **Graphical Forms Designer**
  - Integrated with SAP development environments (NetWeaver Developer Studio and ABAP Workbench)
  - Import existing PDF documents and make them interactive

• **PDF Documents with Adobe Reader Rights**
  - Enable new functionality in Adobe Reader, like “Save as”, Annotations, Digital Signature and Certification
  - Can be turned on by document

• **Interactive online forms**
  - Visually rich Adobe PDF forms
  - Tightly integrated with existing SAP User Interface framework

• **Interactive offline Adobe PDF forms (round-trip forms)**
  - Created and distributed from the SAP application
  - Are completed by the user in Adobe Reader while offline
  - Completed form can be submitted using the integrated “submit” button, via e-mail or http
Demo – Adobe/SAP Solution – Print forms
Choosing a Tool for New Forms

Factors to consider:

- Current SAP version
- Preconfigured form availability
- Form complexity
- Resource availability
- Tool ‘ease of use’
- Output options needed
  - Short-term
  - Long-term
Choosing a Tool for New Forms

• **Scenario 1: Customer Account Statement**
  - Potentially complex form where only SAPscript offers preconfigured version
  - Consider SAPscript – start with preconfigured form

• **Scenario 2: Invoice**
  - On Web AS 6.40 or higher: Consider Joint Adobe/SAP Solution
  - Otherwise, consider Smart Forms – start with preconfigured form

• **Scenario 3: Personnel Change Request Form**
  - On Web AS 6.40 or higher: Consider Joint Adobe/SAP Solution
  - Otherwise, consider Smart Forms Web form (e.g. in BSP)
Upgrading Existing Forms

- **Path:** SAPscript → Smart Forms → Joint Adobe/SAP Solution
  - Basic SAPscript to Smart Forms conversion tool
  - Semi-automatic wizard from Smart Forms into Adobe/SAP Solution
  - Interface definition (Forms Context) from Smart Forms can be re-used with new Adobe/SAP Solution

- **Factors to Consider:**
  - Typical form lifespan (3 to 8 years)
  - No ‘loss-less’ conversion

- **The Bottom Line:**
  - Convert only with good reason and support
  - Use structured approach
    - e.g. our ‘SAPscript to Smart Forms Conversion Methodology’ presented with SAP Labs at 2003 ASUG Annual Conference
"Our Age of Anxiety is, in great part, the result of trying to do today's jobs with yesterday's tools."

- Marshall McLuhan
• Learn the differences among the various form tools
• A ‘hybrid’ approach is fine!
• For new forms, use the most advanced tool available which fits your needs and implementation timeframe
• Protect your investment in existing forms by upgrading judiciously
Further Information

Public Web:
Preconfigured Forms: [http://service.sap.com/smartforms](http://service.sap.com/smartforms) (-> Preconfigured Smart Forms)

Contact Information:
Matthias Zeller, Adobe ([mzeller@adobe.com](mailto:mzeller@adobe.com))
Markus Meisl, SAP ([markus.meisl@sap.com](mailto:markus.meisl@sap.com))
Mark Smithson, MHS Systems Consulting ([msmithson@mhs-sys.com](mailto:msmithson@mhs-sys.com))

Further related Presentations at ASUG
Using Electronic Forms to Streamline HR Business Processes (1902)
Using Adobe Interactive Forms: Part 1 – Business Overview and Usage Scenarios (708A); and 2 – Technical Overview and Demonstration (708B)
Adobe Partner Booth #2443
Thank you for participating. Please remember to complete and return your evaluation form following this session.

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