SAP Solution Brief
SAP Services

System Landscape Optimization

SYSTEM LANDSCAPE CONSOLIDATION AND HARMONIZATION

SIMPLIFYING YOUR IT LANDSCAPE AND REDUCING COSTS

Many companies with disparate IT landscapes struggle to secure their business future via IT consolidation and harmonization. The System Landscape Optimization group offers services to simplify your IT landscape by consolidating systems and migrating data via high-speed, high-volume data transfers.

Consolidating and centralizing disparate IT solutions can result in impressive cost-cutting benefits. The System Landscape Optimization group of experts from the SAP® Consulting and SAP Active Global Support organizations offers services to help you design and build an IT infrastructure that can better support the business needs critical to your organization's continued success. The group not only supports organizational, structural, and harmonization efforts throughout the full lifecycle of all SAP solutions, but it also provides complementary service offerings to meet customer-specific requirements and better manage and control transformation needs.

The need to rationalize the capabilities of strategic data centers is a top concern for any successful corporation. Moreover, a lean and clear data system is essential for transparent data management and is a prerequisite for quick and sustainable business decisions. System consolidation can be a first step in designing a more rational, efficient, and resilient IT infrastructure that can support the targeted business model.

Many international companies operate a widely distributed system landscape with data centers spread out across the world. This often leads to disparate systems that boost operating expenses, require great effort, and can cause major security issues for a company. Establishing a single-system instance with standardized processes, add-ons, programs, and business data can significantly reduce system complexity. As a result, many customers opt to establish a central, consolidated system landscape, which gives them better control over holistic business strategies. In addition, this centralization can significantly lower the overall cost and reduce the effort required for maintenance and administrative work.

Service Portfolio for Data Transfer Approaches

Depending on your project goal, the System Landscape Optimization group offers various approaches for transforming and migrating your data. These approaches range from transferring one or more clients to a target system, merging several clients into a central solution, or transferring only a selected amount of data from a source to a defined target system. These different scenarios vary in the amount of data selected for final transfer, the time and effort required, and the extent to which processes are adapted. Sometimes, a system landscape requires a complete remodel.

Building Up a Multiclient Environment

Broadly dispersed data centers are a huge and growing expense for enterprises. In an SAP system environment, a client transfer supports the centralization of data from multiple source systems into a single target system with multiple stand-alone clients. This approach can be seen as a "quick-win solution," since it requires no process harmonization. By bundling your data center resources into one location, you can enhance your business performance and at the same time cut operating costs and reduce the communication efforts for your IT staff. System

administration becomes significantly easier because there is only a single, centralized system landscape to support. Moreover, the new environment facilitates future implementations and upgrades.

Setting Up a Single-Client Environment

If your company's vision is to establish a single client to better handle dispersed data, then the System Landscape Optimization group can enable you to holistically optimize your landscape to increase profitability. The system client merge not only means a physical consolidation of locations, servers, and number of systems, but it can be seen as a major factor for aligning your business processes and improving the management, quality, and transparency of your data.

A system client merge normally affects the complete data set of all clients. The System Landscape Optimization group helps you migrate the full data history, custom development components, add-ons, and standard SAP tables. Before merging disparate clients, you will need to define common business processes and templates – an exercise that will help you reduce the number of interfaces, standardize the IT environment, and align your business processes.

Transferring Selected Data

To support the full spectrum of hybrid approaches, the process data migration for the SAP ERP application complements standard data transfer solutions (such as the SAP Legacy System Migration Workbench tool and batch input) and enables you to transfer business data selectively and efficiently. This high-performance approach facilitates the migration of master and transactional data, including historical data, from any source system to a defined target system. Together with the SAP experts, you define the business process elements to be transferred to the dedicated target environment and help ensure overall business continuity and integrity. This service offering operates in a test environment so as not to interrupt daily business. The transformation technology enables a high-performance transfer of large data volumes between SAP applications.

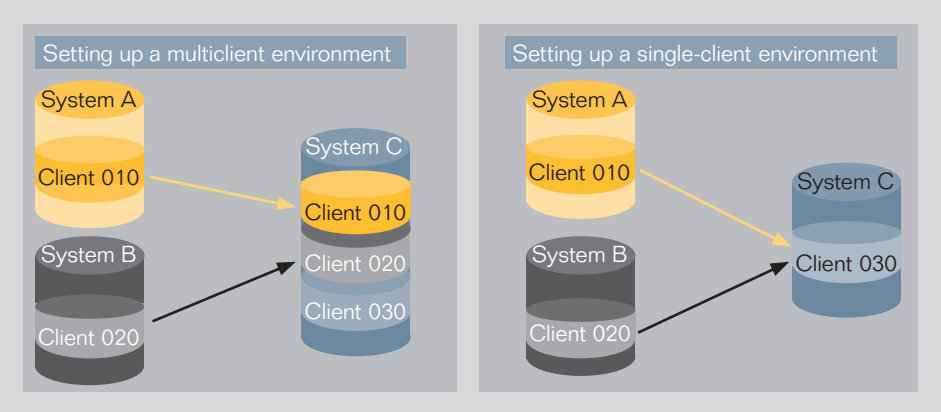

Figure 1: Examples of Multi- and Single-Client IT Environments

During such a project, one of the key challenges is to carve out the selected data set completely and transfer it into a precustomized target environment in a secure and consistent way. The selective approach can be applied according to parameters that you determine, such as by date or organizational unit. This approach puts you in control of the transformation scenario. For example, you can selectively transfer specific business objects such as purchase orders, serial numbers, or sales orders relevant to a particular fiscal year.

Complementary Solution Options

The System Landscape Optimization group provides various additional solutions to help you meet all your business needs. One option can be to perform an integrated upgrade to the latest release of SAP ERP; another could be the simultaneous data transfer from several source systems to a dedicated target system. Moreover, making a system Unicode-compliant could require a full data conversion.

Of course, the duration of downtime for any of the above options depends on project complexity, number of systems, database size, and system environment. However, the group offers dedicated methodologies and technical approaches to minimize system downtime as much as possible. This strengthens your planning process and helps you ensure performance optimization.

First Steps Toward a Lean System Landscape

A detailed system analysis marks the first preliminary step of the overall system consolidation project. The group's technology helps to compare essential system settings and data structures, such as repository objects and different customizing settings. This procedure identifies conflicts, missing information, and duplicate entries. The analysis offers a full picture of existing discrepancies, which need to be tackled throughout the project realization phase and during the actual data migration.

Project Procedure

SAP recommends that all projects begin with a one-day kickoff workshop. At this event, SAP experts get together with your own specialists to discuss the company's business case and the project scope. This is followed by an implementation cycle that results in several test cycles before the actual migration to the production environment takes place. The first test phase determines whether the current database is sufficient for your production conversion. Project duration varies with the amount of data to be converted and with the performance and settings of your system. The group conducts a large part of the production work via a remote connection.

The System Landscape Optimization Group

The group's experience, expertise, and outstanding performance in the transformation and system landscape optimization business helps you tackle complex migration scenarios while meeting international standards. The group's knowledge and guidance assures process continuity, data consistency, and high quality for your entire project. The group's experts – in close cooperation with your functional departments – will develop the optimal consolidation strategy that incorporates best practices, proven methodologies, and high-performance technologies. The services cover the whole process – from selecting the best approach, setting up a project plan, realizing and implementing a blueprint, to helping you design your system landscape.

Find Out More

For more information about the System Landscape Optimization group and its offerings, please visit us at www.service.sap.com/slo.

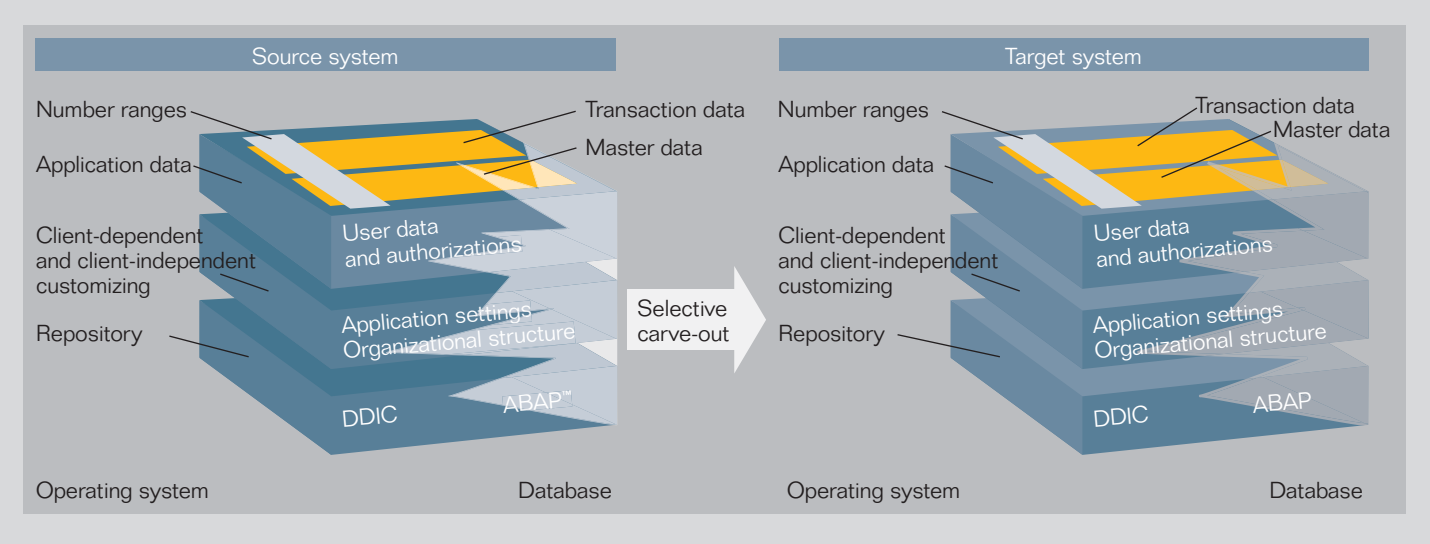

Figure 2: Transferring Selected Data

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Summary

The System Landscape Optimization group of experts from the SAP® Consulting and SAP Active Global Support organizations offers services to transform your IT landscape by consolidating systems and migrating data via high-speed, high-volume data transfers. The need to rationalize the capabilities of strategic data centers is a top concern for any successful corporation. This rationalization requires a company to examine its existing IT structures and invest in a lean and powerful IT foundation to support the future transparent management of data. Such a system becomes the basis for sustainable business decisions. System consolidation can be a first step in designing a more rational, efficient, and resilient IT infrastructure that can support the targeted business model.

Business Challenges

- Reduce and simplify your system landscape
- Facilitate maintenance
- Downsize and recentralize the existing structure
- Integrate companies currently running on a separate instance
- Harmonize business structures and processes

Key Features

- **Client transfer service** – Build up a multiclient environment
- **System client merge service** – Set up a single-client environment
- **Process data migration for the SAP ERP application** – Transfer selected data into a defined target environment

Business Benefits

- **More transparency and insight** into the consolidated landscape
- **Ability to leverage data knowledge and data consistency**
- **High-quality data** through harmonization and consolidation efforts
- **Clear and transparent reporting** via fast and easy access to a centralized system
- **Lower administration costs** thanks to a reduced number of data centers and systems
- **Hybrid consolidation approach –** and optional upgrades and Unicode conversion approaches

For More Information

Visit us at the SAP Service Marketplace extranet at www.service.sap.com/slo.

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