ERP Implementation

Implementing ERP Systems

- Implementation was a major challenge in the late 1990s as firms rushed to implement ERP systems to avoid the Y2K problem
 - Implementations were hampered by a lack of experienced consultants
- Since 2000, the pace of implementations has slowed significantly
 - Most Fortune 500 firms have implemented ERP systems
 - Current growth is in small to midsize business market
 - New products include Microsoft Great Plains and SAP Business One

Implementing ERP Systems

- Firms that implemented ERP to avoid the Y2K problem likely installed ERP systems that covered only the basic functionality necessary to operate the business
- Many firms are looking to leverage their ERP investment by finding ways to improve their firm's business processes
 - These implementation projects are smaller in scope, but still require effective management for success

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ERP System Costs and Benefits

- Software licensing fees: Most firms charge annual fees based on the number of users
- Consulting fees: ERP implementations require experienced consultants with extensive experience
- Project team member time: Key people must participate in the ERP implementation project to make sure that consultants understand their company's requirements
- Employee training: Project team members need extensive training in the software, and all employees need training to work with the system
- Productivity losses: No matter how effective the implementation, productivity will decrease during the first weeks and months after the system is implemented

ERP System Costs and Benefits

- Companies must identify a significant financial benefit that will be generated by the ERP system to justify the money spent on it
- The only way companies can save money with ERP systems is to use them to make their business processes more efficient and effective
- It is possible for a company to "recreate" its old information system in SAP using modifications via ABAP programming, rather than adopt "best practices"

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Implementation Change and Management

- Key challenge in managing ERP implementations is managing people, not technology
- More effective processes require fewer people
- Some employees will not be needed after implementation
 - It is a challenging task to ask employees to participate in a software implementation process that will not only change their day-to-day activities, but might eliminate their current jobs
- Managing the human behavior aspects of organizational change is called Organizational Change Management

Implementation Tools

- · Business Maps
- · Solution Manager

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Business Maps

- SAP Business Maps help to focus on business core processes and functions.
- Two kinds of business maps
 - <u>Solution Maps</u> model the business processes within an organization. They help visualize, plan, and implement a coherent, integrated, and comprehensive information technology solution.
 - <u>Business Scenario Maps</u> provide a detailed view of end-to-end processes. They define the activities, roles, system interfaces, and business documents
- <u>Solution Composer</u> is a free, easy-to-use PC-based tool that allows planning of an implementation project.

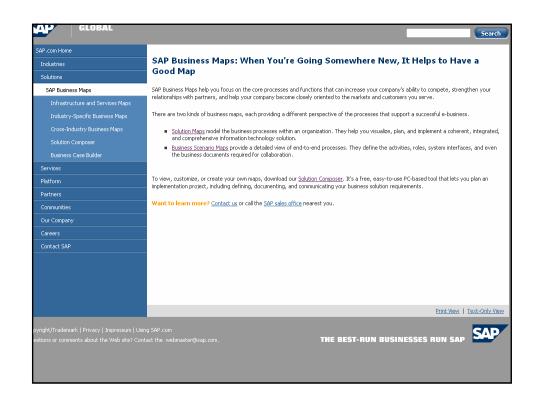
Solution Maps

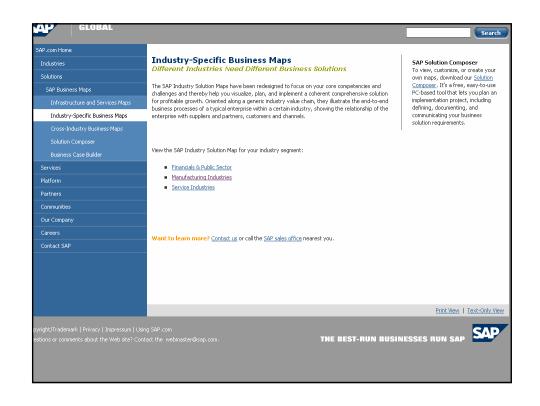
- SAP Solution Maps are well-defined tools that outline the scope of an organization's business. They help visualize, plan, and implement a comprehensive information technology solution.
- Solution Map views:
 - Level I View -- An Overview. This overview provides a broad picture of the major processes within a given industry. Organized according to process categories that represent the critical business processes for a specific industry.
 - Level II View -- Business Blueprint. The business blueprints provide more detailed information about the specific functionality required for each business process. A detailed description is provided for each process, and business processes are mapped to the specific SAP or partner products that support them.

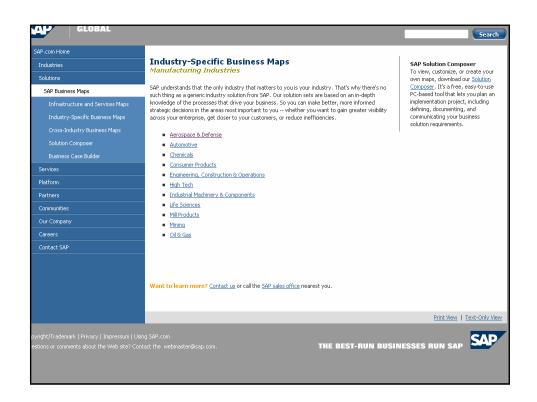
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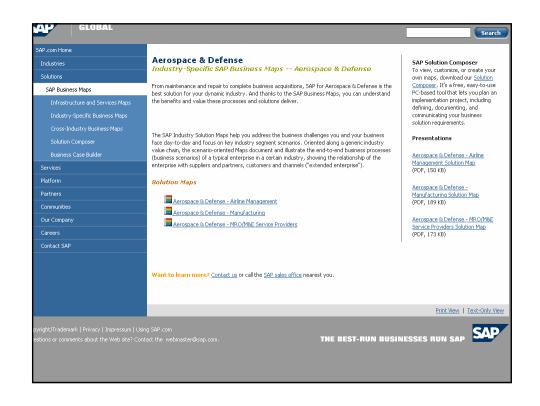
Business Scenario Maps

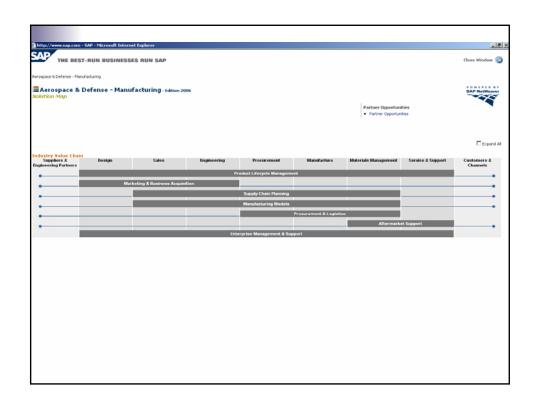
- A collection of industry-specific and cross-industry process blueprints. They explain proven state-of-the-art Internet business processes and they show you how to apply the mySAP Business Suite to support those processes. In addition, they help you understand what you need to invest and what you will gain in time, money, and competitive advantage.
- Define the activities, roles, system interfaces, and business documents required for inter-enterprise collaboration.

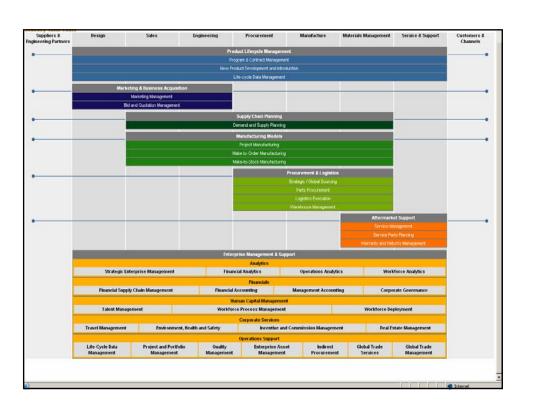


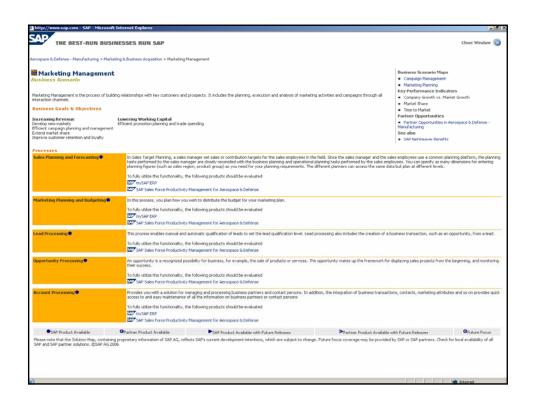


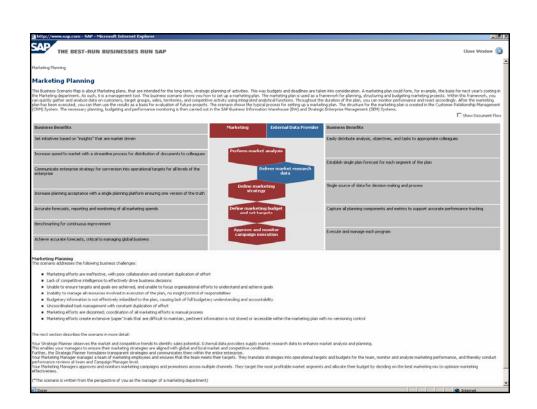


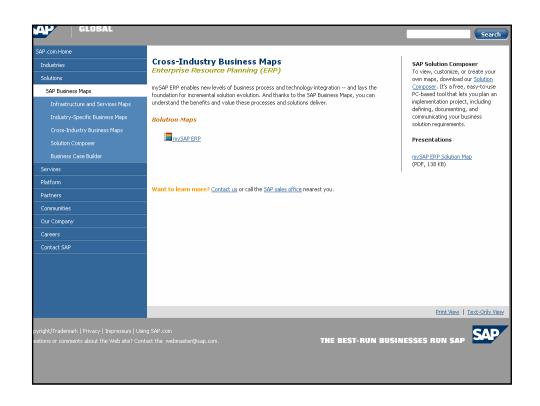


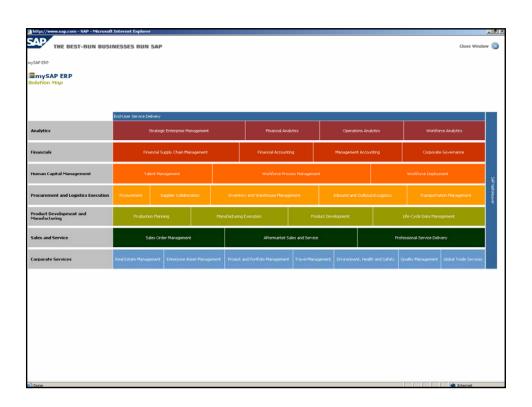


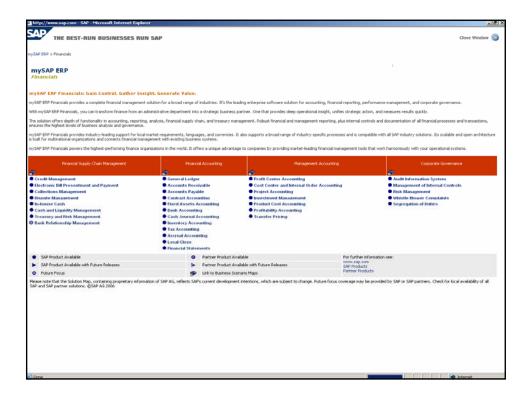


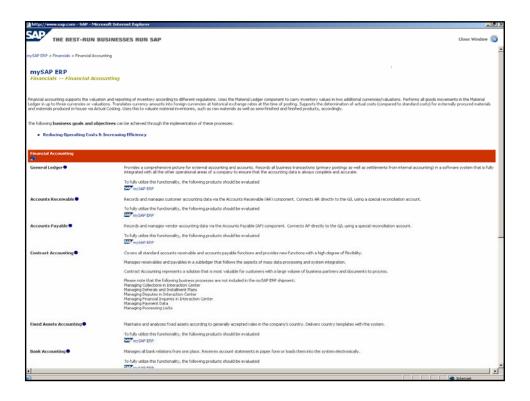












Solution Composer

- Display and edit Solution Maps and Business Scenario Maps.
- The Solution Composer helps you visualize, plan, and implement coherent and comprehensive IT solutions that integrate business processes within your enterprise and between organizations.
- The Solution Composer makes it easy to create and change content included in Solution Maps and Business Scenario Maps.
- Must be downloaded from SAP's Web site.

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Solution Manager

- SAP provides Solution Manager to help manage implementation projects
- In Solution Manager, the R/3 Implementation Project is presented in a 5 phase Implementation Roadmap
 - Project Preparation (15 to 20 days)
 - Business Blueprint (25 to 40 days)
 - Realization (55 to 80 days)
 - Final Preparation (35 to 55 days)
 - Go Live and Support (20 to 24 days)

Solution Manager

- Project Preparation Phase
 - · Tasks include organizing technical team
 - Defining system landscape (servers and network)
 - Selecting hardware and database vendors
 - Defining projects scope—what the project is supposed to accomplish
 - Scope creep—unplanned expansion of the project—is probably the primary reason projects go over time and budget

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Solution Manager

- Business Blueprint Phase
 - Produces the business blueprint, which is a detailed description of how the company intends to run its business with the SAP R/3 system
 - Process mapping is critical to the business blueprint phase
 - The business blueprint guides consultants and project team members in configuring the SAP R/3 system
 - During this phase, technical team members determine how they will transfer data from the firm's legacy systems

Solution Manager

- Realization Phase
 - Project team members work with consultants to configure the SAP R/3 software in the development system
 - Developers create:
 - Special ABAP programs
 - Connections to legacy systems
 - Integration with 3rd party software packages

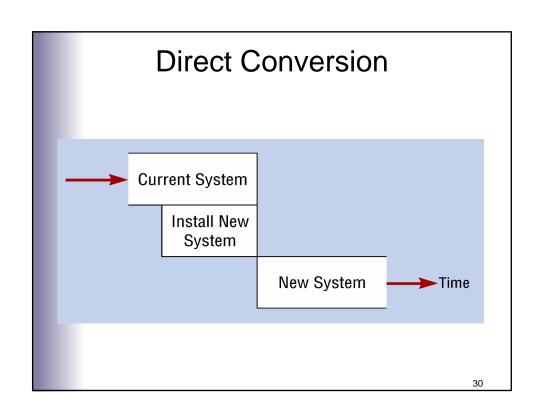
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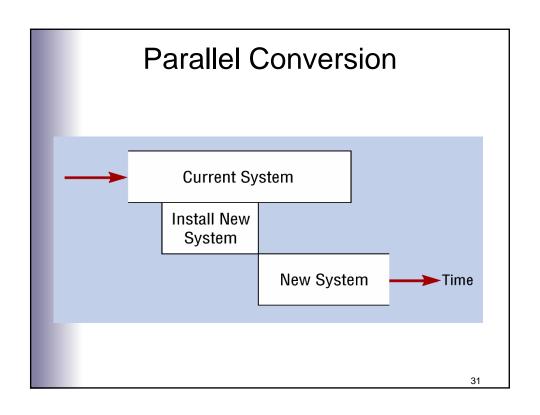
Solution Manager

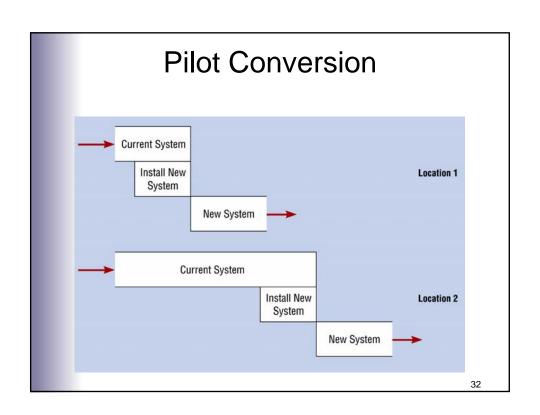
- Final Preparation Phase
 - Testing the system throughout for critical business processes
 - Setting up help desk for end-user support
 - Setting up operation of the production system and transferring data from legacy systems
 - Conducting end-user training
 - Setting the Go Live date
- When scope creep results in projects going over time and budget, testing and training is usually all that is left to be cut
 - Cutting testing and training always leads to disaster

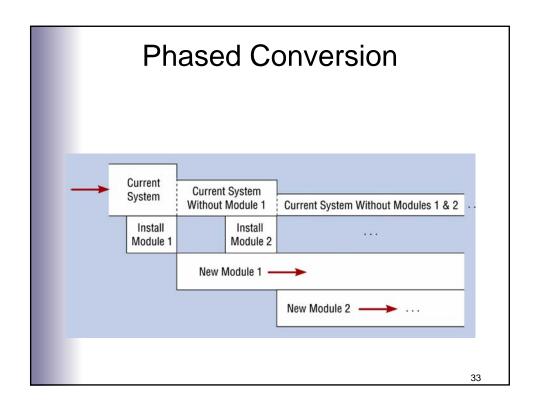
Solution Manager

- Go Live Phase
 - · Company begins using the SAP system
 - Go Live date should be scheduled for a slack business period
 - Properly staffed help desk is critical, as most questions occur in the first few weeks of operation
 - Project team members and consultants should be scheduled to work the help desk during this period
 - Monitoring of system performance is also critical
 - Also important to set a project completion date
 - New features or enhancements should be a new project









System Landscape Concept

- SAP recommends that companies set up three completely separate systems
 - Development (DEV)
 - Used to develop configuration settings and ABAP programs
 - Quality Assurance (QAS)
 - Used to test configuration settings and ABAP programs
 - Production (PROD)
 - Actual system where the company runs its business
- Changes are transported from DEV to QAS to PROD via the Change Transport system