

GLOSSARY

ASAP (AcceleratedSAP): A standardized methodology that brings together the latest approaches and experiences in R/3 implementations. ASAP minimizes the time required for an R/3 implementation, optimizes quality, and – by more effectively using resources – lowers costs. ASAP can reduce the time required to implement the R/3 System by as much as 50%.

ALE (Application Link Enabling): Message-based integration of distributed applications. ALE enables cooperation between SAP's R/2 and R/3 Systems and other, non-SAP systems, by loosely linking the respective applications, even if they are running on different platforms in different companies or locations. Within the Business Framework, ALE technology enables customers to integrate business processes and information flows across component boundaries.

APO (Advanced Planner & Optimizer): Part of the SAP SCOPE initiative, this advanced planning and optimization tool is shipped as an independent product and integrated in the R/3 core applications. By combining the APO and the Business Information Warehouse, SAP customers can optimize performance and cut costs throughout their entire supply chain. The APO lowers operating costs, reduces complexity (since external interfaces are eliminated), increases speed, and, by synchronizing data, allows simultaneous cross-system and cross-company decision support.

ATP (Available-to-Promise) Server: A new technology which provides availability information throughout an entire company. It is aimed at enterprises with high production and sales volumes, and allows integrated, real-time availability checks throughout a supply chain. As soon as demand arises, the system defines and supports delivery requirements.

BAPIs (Business Application Programming Interfaces): Open, stable, object-oriented standard interfaces for integrating business applications, for example over the Internet. Even systems based on different technologies can be linked to one another, and business processes can be enhanced throughout the supply chain. BAPIs enable interaction between R/3 and third-party applications. In addition, customers and partners can use standard programming languages such as Visual Basic, Java, and ABAP/4 to create their own Internet and intranet applications and link them to R/3.

Business Engineer: A comprehensive set of tools integrated into the R/3 System which support fast, simple, and customer-specific R/3 implementation and configuration. The Business Engineer supports customers in the analysis, design, and modeling of their business processes in the R/3 System, and makes R/3 implementation as simple as possible.

Business Framework: The strategic R/3 product architecture that transforms the R/3 System into a family of distributed products. Integration technologies and open interfaces (BAPIs) insure seamless interaction between these components, and can also integrate applications from third-party vendors as required. The main benefits to customers of the Business Frame-

work include: simplification and acceleration of system implementation and continual business process optimization; the step-by-step implementation of business components; fast and dynamic reconfiguration of business processes independent of conventional release cycles; easy integration of the Internet and intranets in business processes; simple linking between the R/3 System and complementary software and/or customer-specific developments; and the evolutionary introduction of the latest technology without interrupting ongoing operations.

Business Information Warehouse: This pre-configured, integrated solution is an intelligent information system combining and summarizing data from R/3 applications and external sources into a management-level database. Besides supporting decision-making and analysis, the Business Information Warehouse controls and monitors key factors impacting overall profitability. The Business Information Warehouse links the latest warehouse technology with SAP's business know-how. The three main components – Business Information Warehouse Server, Business Explorer, and Administrator Workbench – support users in the rapid retrieval and analysis of information, thus supporting the decision-making process. The Business Information Warehouse is the first solution available on the market that links a data warehouse with the R/3 applications based on a uniform business process model.

Business Workflow: SAP's concept for optimizing business processes through integrated, cross-function business procedures.

Client/server architecture: System architecture in which business applications are split between the servers that provide specific services and the clients that use these services.

CSP (Complementary Software Products): Software components from third-party vendors that work together with the components of the R/3 System and take advantage of the potential offered by the new software architecture (Business Framework). Examples of CSP components include solutions for EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), GIS (Geographical Information Systems), and communications software.

SCOPE (Supply Chain Optimization, Planning & Execution): Combines the benefits of the R/3 System with a variety of new SAP products and technologies, including third-party solutions and Internet capabilities for managing the supply chain. SCOPE represents SAP's most comprehensive application solution for cost-efficient handling of processes along the entire supply chain.