

Audit-ready change management processes for SAP application landscapes

Change and transport management is a thorny issue for all SAP administrators: New functions and master data need to be introduced into complex system landscapes, quickly, reliably and efficiently. TransportManager from REALTECH is a powerful tool for the controlled, automated distribution of all software changes to SAP systems.

: success story

Thomas Göttmann,
independent consultant for internal auditing



Thomas Göttmann

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Audit-ready IT

IT managers must not only ensure that systems run smoothly, they must also keep a close eye on data security and confidentiality, particularly when it comes to change requests. TransportManager enables critical SAP objects, such as reports containing employee and personal data, to be managed individually via a controlled, documented process. The solution can be used to effectively model defined security rules and procedures – TransportManager automatically requests authorization from relevant decision-makers before distributing software changes to the SAP system. Throughout this process, the solution creates detailed logs of all activities. Sophisticated authorization capabilities ensure that all modifications to SAP systems have a precise, verifiable audit trail.

ment tasks are not adequately insulated from operational processes in the user department. This can lead to financial-accounting systems failing to comply with applicable legislation, for instance.

One of TransportManager's key features is that it allows businesses to shield software development from financial-accounting processes. When a new version



dence that their processes satisfy all risk management needs. This is an important step on the road to compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOA), and to comprehensive and transparent financial reporting.

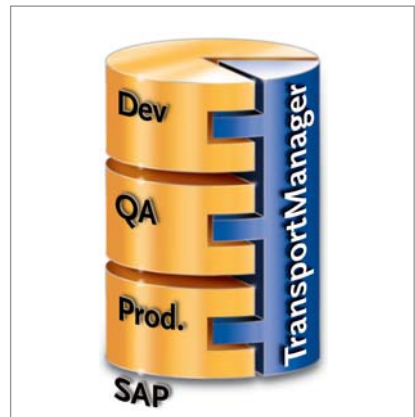
Key benefits of TransportManager:

- Reliable software distribution, even in complex IT environments
- End-to-end data distribution and protection against object conflicts and out-of-sync transport
- High level of automation for streamlined administration of SAP systems
- Modeling of internal security rules and procedures
- Critical objects containing personal data can be handled separately
- Audit-ready processing of change requests
- Basic knowledge of SAP is sufficient for the implementation of TransportManager
- Full integration in SAP for ease of use

TransportManager has already played a key role in ensuring that scores of SAP solutions can be reliably audited. Thomas Göttmann, an independent consultant for internal auditing and co-author of the SAP Audit Guidelines, is a firm advocate of TransportManager: *"The solution is ideal for companies wishing to efficiently and reliably manage often very complex change management processes in SAP R/3 environments."*

of an application is published, the user department is directly involved in the authorization process for the new SAP objects. TransportManager also logs every step of the workflow, including actions that deviate from standard procedure. The resulting log files can be viewed using standard SAP transactions.

In other words, TransportManager can be employed to make IT systems audit-ready and give administrators absolute confi-



REALTECH's TransportManager

TransportManager in practice

Businesses often only discover that individual processes do not fully comply with data security and confidentiality guidelines when the time comes to audit their IT systems. All too often, an internal or external auditor finds that SAP software develop-

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Thomas Göttmann is an independent IT consultant specializing in internal auditing. He has been supervising international IT and business audits for SAP R/2 and R/3 environments in a wide variety of industries since 1985. His work

focuses on SAP security concepts and on SAP authorization processes. Thomas Göttmann is co-author of the SAP Audit Guidelines and makes regular presentations on auditing within SAP environments.