



● A client:

- Is a unit of the SAP system that is technically, organizationally, and commercially self-contained
- Has its own set of user master data, application data, and customizing based on table key ranges

● Technical implementation of clients:

- All users exist in one specific client within an SAP system
- Application data (master and transaction data) belongs to one specific client

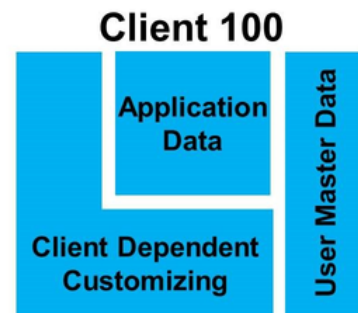


Figure 30: Clients in SAP Systems

The data of different clients is separated at the kernel level. Open SQL statements executed by an SAP application use the client number in the `WHERE` clause. A table may contain data from several different clients, however the `WHERE` clause limits access to particular clients.

Client-dependent data types are as follows:

- User master data, such as parameters and user groups.
- Customizing data, such as organizational units, assignments, and document types.
- Application data, such as business transaction data and material master data.

The SAP client concept can integrate several companies or subsidiaries in a single client. It does so using the following methods:

- Company Codes

Company codes define the smallest corporate organizational units, for which a complete self-contained set of accounts can be drawn up for external reporting.

- SAP Authorization Concept

The SAP authorization concept enables the parent company to access all subsidiaries for report purposes, while subsidiary-specific data is protected against access from other subsidiaries through company code definition.