Describing Application Lifecycle Management

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson provides an introduction to application lifecycle management in SAP systems. We begin by discussing the individual steps in the lifecycle of an application. We then examine two of the tools that support you in managing this lifecycle: the System Landscape Directory (SLD) and the SAP Solution Manager system.

Business Example

Your company plans to implement new business processes. As the project manager, you want to know how you can use SAP tools to simplify lifecycle management for your SAP applications.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Outline the Concept of Application Lifecycle Management

- Explain the Importance of the SAP Solution Manager System and the System Landscape Directory in Application Lifecycle Management

Application Lifecycle Management

Software, like any other product, has a certain lifecycle. A software product's lifecycle is the time span between its conception and market launch (in the company) and its removal from the market. Software lives as long as it is still in use and continues to be a profitable product on the market. Planning a software lifecycle is a task for a company's strategy management.

In the SAP environment, the focus is more on the applications (that is, the business processes) than the individual SAP systems involved. Therefore, Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) is a top priority for SAP. ALM is an ongoing process for managing the entire life span of an application through active control, development, and maintenance. In contrast, Software Lifecycle Management contains tools and processes to install, maintain, or upgrade a specific SAP system, which is needed for certain applications and business processes.

Due to the increasing complexity of solution landscapes, every business has integration needs specific to its mission-critical applications. The more integrated and more complex the software applications and solutions are in the customer landscape, the greater the need for an end-to-end approach to lifecycle management. Application Lifecycle Management guarantees extensive support to cover the entire life cycle of IT applications, from design to decommissioning.