Top 10 tools for Workflow Administrators





ITM222

Martin Maguth, Norikkon





Learning points

- The most important tasks of a workflow administrator
- Key reports available for SAP Workflow reporting
- How to troubleshoot and diagnose errors





Agenda

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Top 10 Tools for Workflow Administrators





Introduction

Why do we even need a workflow administrator?





Introduction

Your Workflow Administrator

- Makes sure that your workflow development and runtime environment are properly configured and maintained on an ongoing basis
- Coordinates workflow development and enhancements
- Is the point of contact for your users when workflows are not behaving as expected
- Communicates issues to the basis and/or ABAP team if changes in SAP are necessary





Introduction

"Running SAP workflows without a workflow administrator is like running SAP

without a basis team"





Agenda – Top 10 Tools for WF Administrators

- 1. Basis customizing
- 2. Runtime customizing
- 3. Workflow diagnosis
- 4. Frequency report
- 5. Items without users

- 6. Execute items without agent check
- 7. Event trace
- 8. Workflow trace
- 9. Administrator dashboard
- 10. Work item archiving





1. Workflow basis customizing "The Big One"







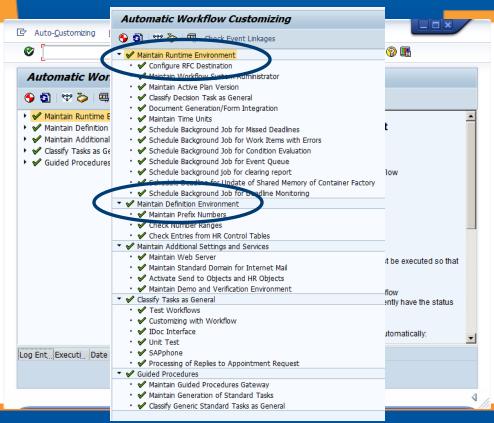
"The Big One" - Basis customizing

- Workflow basis customizing is necessary to configure the SAP workflow engine and its definition and runtime environment
- Use transaction SWU3 to access basis customizing
- Basis customizing is generally a one time setup task
- <u>MUST</u> be completed <u>BEFORE</u> you start developing and running workflows in your SAP system





"The Big One" - Basis customizing



No exceptions!

Must be complete





2. The runtime system "Grease the engine"







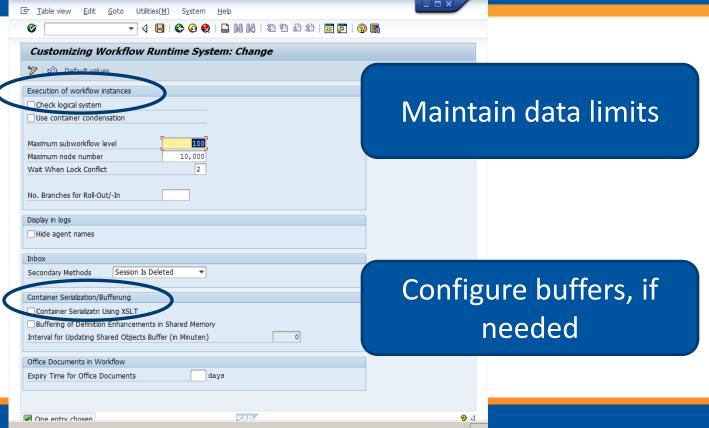
"Grease the engine" - Runtime configuration

- Workflow runtime should be configured to ensure best possible workflow performance
- Use transaction SWPA to access basis customizing
- Runtime customizing is also generally a one time setup task and manages system data volume and size, template levels, buffering, etc.





"Grease the engine" - Runtime configuration







3. Workflow diagnosis "What's wrong, honey?"







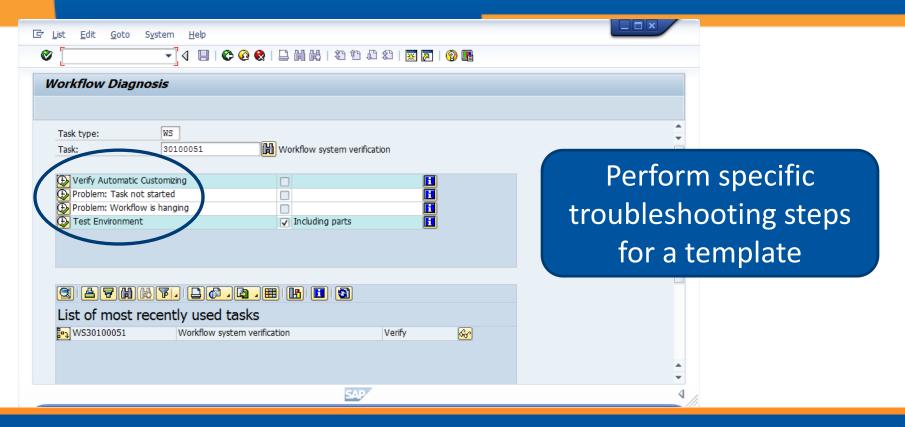
"What's wrong, honey?" - Diagnosis

- Workflow diagnosis allows you to run most diagnosis and setup steps from one screen for a workflow template
- Use transaction SWUD to access workflow diagnosis
- Transaction allows you to execute troubleshooting for a template based on certain symptoms, e.g. workflow is hanging or not started
- Should be run before a workflow template is activated in SAP production and monitored on an ongoing basis for frequently used workflow templates to detect issues early





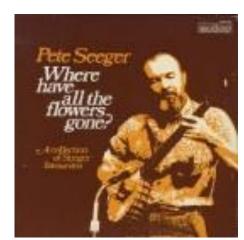
"What's wrong, honey?" - Diagnosis







4. Workflow frequency "Where have all the flowers gone?"



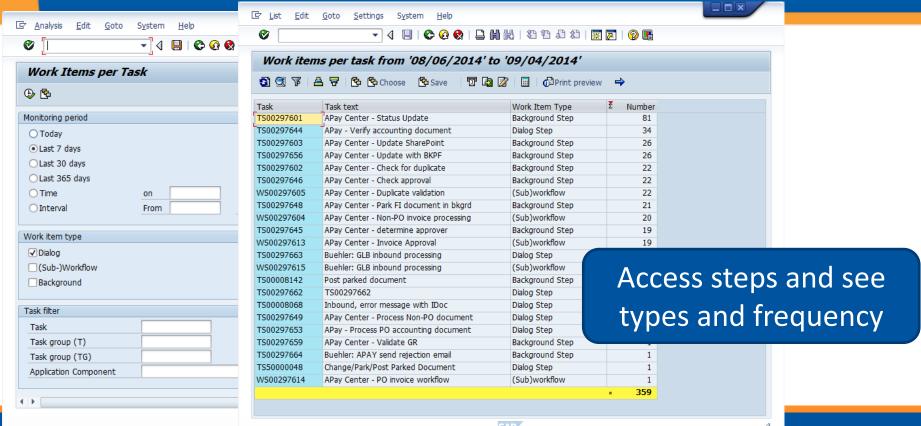




- Workflow frequency reporting allows you to see how many workflows were started for a particular template or task, get access to the workflow log, and access the workflow instance container ... without knowing the work item ID
- Use transaction SWI2_FREQ to access the workflow frequency report
- Transaction helps with troubleshooting when users notice that work items are not coming to their inbox or workflows appear to not be starting











Scenario:

User: "I don't see invoice 1900000123 in my inbox."

Workflow administrator: "What is the work item ID?"

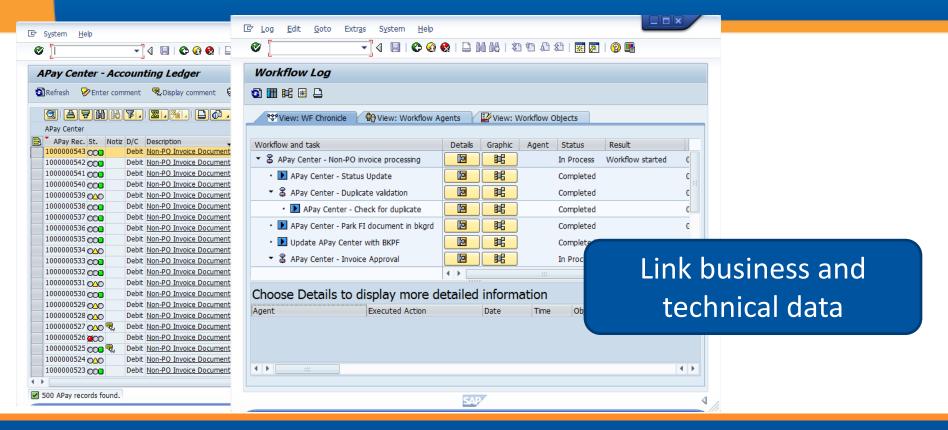




- Challenge: This report requires technical data while users communicate business process information
- Solution: Business process logs match business data with technical data for better, easier communication between end users and administrators











5. Work items without users "Who's in charge here?"







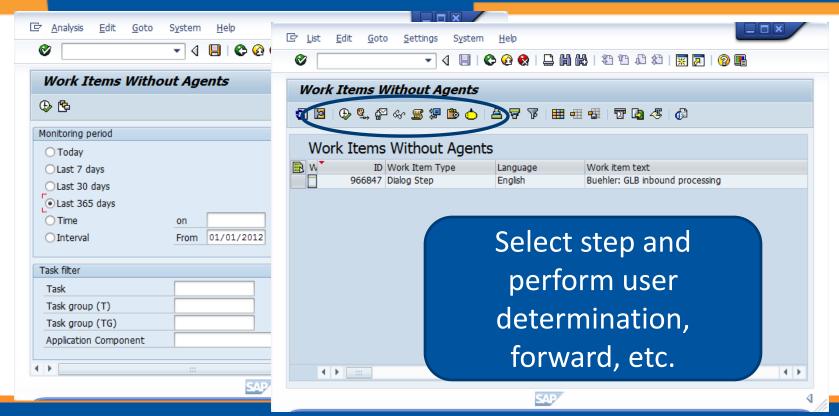
"Who's in charge here?" - Items without users

- Workflows may or may not raise an error when no selected user can be determined for a work item
- Use transaction SWI2_ADM1 to access the work items without agents
- Use this report to find items where no selected agent could be determined,
 e.g. when rules fail, the task or template has no possible agents, or the
 selected user no longer exists
- Administrative functions include administrative forward, restart rules, and execute





"Who's in charge here?" - Items without users







6. Execute items without agent check "Just do it"





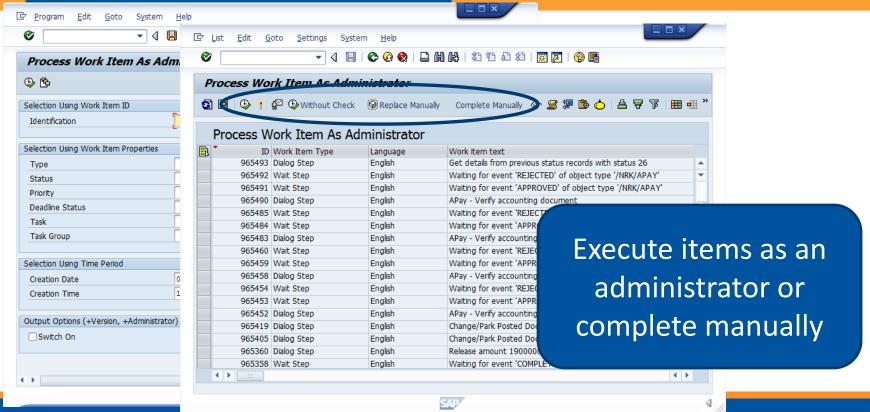
"Just do it" - Execute items without check

- Workflows can get "stuck" when no agent can be determined or when the selected agent is not available to execute the item
- Use transaction SWIA to access and execute the work items without agent check
- This transaction can be used by administrators to continue with a workflow that has been put on hold and cannot continue; the administrator can access and execute a work item even if he/she is not the selected agent for the step





"Just do it" - Execute items without check







7. Event trace "Whasss uuuuup?"







"Whasss uuuuup?" – Event trace

- If a task or template is supposed to be triggered or terminated by an event,
 the failure of the event will result in incorrect or no processing of the task
- This can be a result of the event not being raised or a failure in the event processing, such as bindings, check functions, incorrect linkage, etc
- The event trace is a technical tool that gives you details about the processing of the event, publishing, and receivers





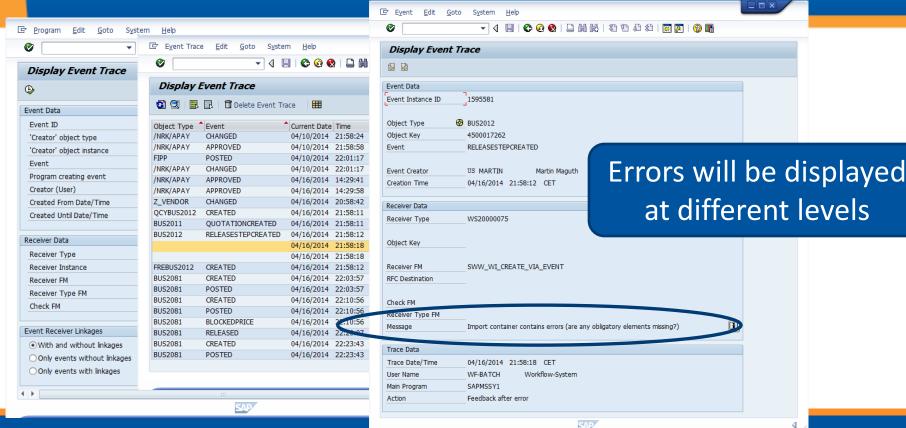
"Whasss uuuuup?" – Event trace

- Use transaction SWELS to start and stop the event trace
- Use transaction SWEL to access the event trace
- Remember to <u>turn on the trace only when needed</u> and to turn it off after usage
- Use SWEQADM to access event queue, if active





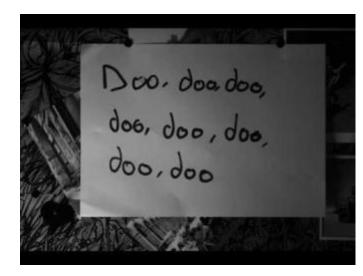
"What's uuuuuup?" – Event trace







8. Workflow trace "Take a walk on the wild side"







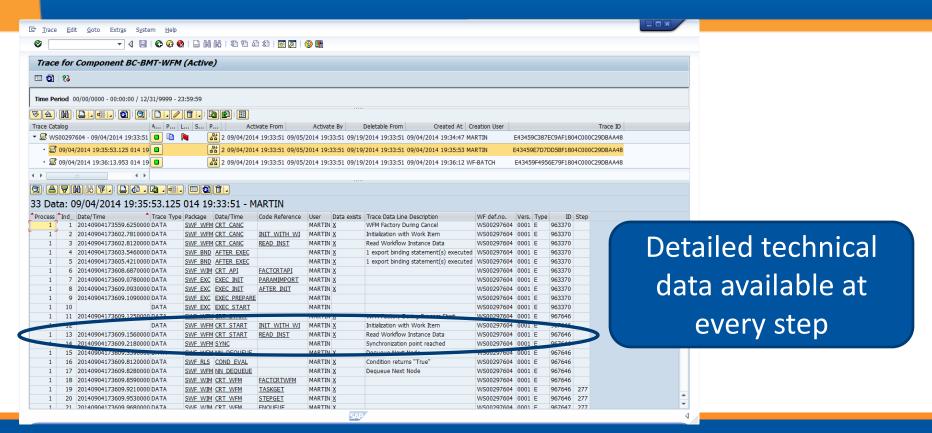
"Take a walk on the wild side" - Workflow trace

- Use the workflow trace when all else fails ...
- The workflow trace is started with transaction SWU8 and accessed with transaction SWU9
- It is a highly technical tool that is used for troubleshooting to view containers, errors at the object, task, and template level, event processing failures, error in agent determination, etc.





"Take a walk on the wild side" - Workflow trace







9. Administrator dashboard "I want it all..."







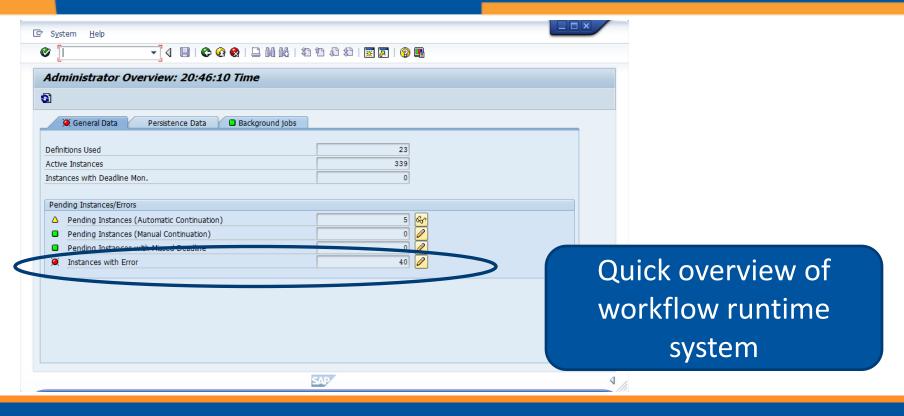
"I want it all..." - Administrator dashboard

- The administrator dashboard is the daily use tool for the workflow administrator
- Use transaction SWF_GMP to access the dashboard
- The dashboard gives an overview of the current workflow environment, shows the number of active steps, error, and gives access to troubleshooting activities





"I want it all..." - Administrator dashboard







10. Work item archiving "Waste management"







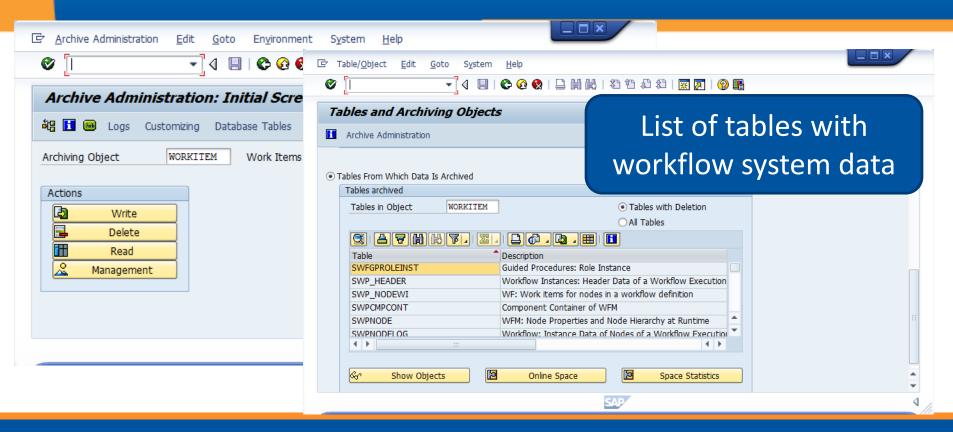
"Waste management" - Work item archiving

- Workflows at runtime store a significant amount of system data in the SAP database and, over time, the workflow environment will slow down as system tables become larger and the database performance suffers
- In response to that, work item archiving will remove old system data from the database (and store it offline, if needed) to manage database size and growth
- Use transaction SARA to configure and run work item archiving





"Waste management" - Work item archiving







Top 10 Tools for WF Administrators

- 1. "The Big One" or Basis customizing (TAC SWU3)
- 2. "Grease the engine" or Runtime customizing (TAC SWPA)
- "What's wrong, honey?" or Workflow diagnosis (TAC SWUD)
- 4. "Where have all the flowers gone?" or Frequency (TAC SWI2_FREQ)
- 5. "Who's in charge here?" or Items without users (TAC SWI2_ADM1)





Top 10 Tools for WF Administrators

- 6. "Just do it" or Execute items without agent check (TAC SWIA)
- 7. "Whasss uuuuup?" or Event trace (TAC SWEL)
- 8. "Take a walk on the wild side" or Workflow trace (TAC SWU9)
- "I want it all ... " or Administrator dashboard (TAC SWF_GMP)
- 10. "Waste management" or Work item archiving (TAC SARA)





Top 10 Tools for WF Administrators

Questions?

Martin Maguth
Norrikon
(646) 371-0935
martin@norikkon.com



