EFFICIENT DATA TRANSFER
with the *FIS*/mpm Shadow Database

Today's customers expect more detailed product information and greater choices than ever. As a consequence, the growing product and variant diversity involves ever increasing data-sets in the company's ERP system that have to be created, maintained and retained in a time-consuming manner. However, maintaining and storing this data is time-consuming and cost-intensive. Due to the multitude of articles, it is particularly important in trade to automate the data creation and maintenance processes and keep data retention costs low. The *FIS*/mpm shadow database guarantees efficient master data management in your company.

Efficient data creation and maintenance with *FIS*/mpm

For data creation and maintenance, the tried and tested *FIS*/mpm functionalities are used, such as the automated and workflow-supported data transfer of larger data records. This, for instance, enables a fast import of large vendor datasets into the SAP environment. By using *FIS*/mpm, entire vendor catalogs with several thousand items can be imported fast and efficiently, manually postprocessed or completed if required and will not be transferred to the live system before they have been released.

YOUR BENEFITS

- Improved data quality
- Lower costs due to reduced effort for data creation and maintenance
- Reduced costs for data retention
- Automated processes instead of manual work steps
- Higher ease of use thanks to automated workflows
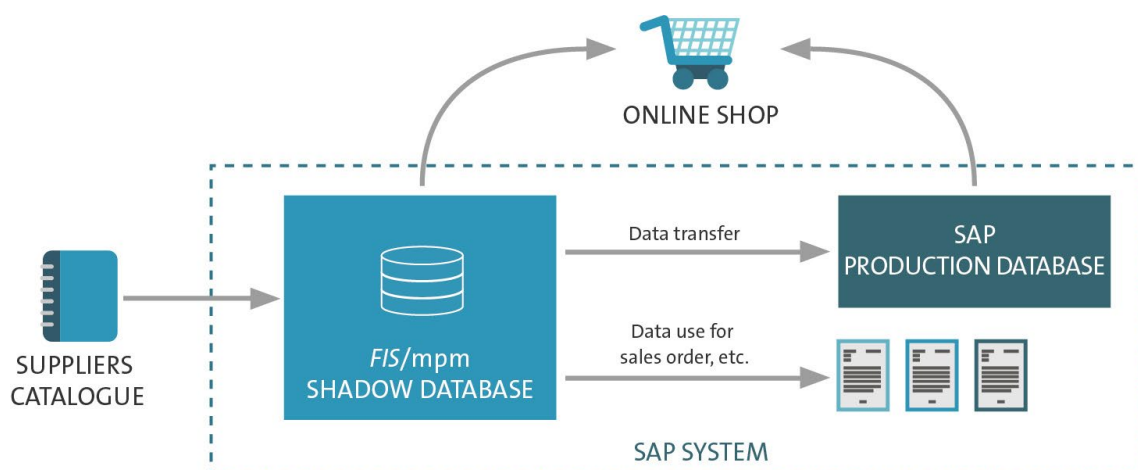- Larger assortment for the customer

Figure: Integrated *FIS*/mpm shadow database in the SAP system

The FIS/mpm shadow database is used as an external data basis for subsequent processes. Here, data with minimum requirements, such as basic product information, simple descriptions and prices, can be decoupled from the SAP live system and kept in the optimally integrated shadow of FIS/mpm. Thanks to the consistent SAP integration, you can continue to actively use and process this data in the ERP system as it is already available in the appropriate format. The reduced data volume requires significantly less maintenance efforts. Only if the information stored in the shadow master is required in the live system (e.g. if the product was ordered) will it be transferred to the ERP system, enriched and created as an article. The following exemplary and individually implemented application scenarios illustrate how the FIS/mpm shadow database helps accelerating processes and lowering data retention costs. Moreover, further individual applications and developments can be implemented, which increase the efficiency of master data maintenance. Please contact the FIS SAP experts to jointly develop a suitable solution for your very specific challenges.

Scenario 1: Step-by-step data enrichment for article creation

When initially creating products, shadow data can be used as a basis. For this purpose, large datasets are imported into the shadow database. In the article creation process, the respective data is copied and refined step by step via workflows. Once the data has reached a certain quality, it can be easily copied to the ERP system. In this way, the data is already entered in the required format without incomplete data being available in the live system. By using FIS/mpm in this manner, a clinical center is currently further developing approximately 500,000 articles in its system.

Scenario 2: Fast assortment enhancement due to automatic article creation

If a trading company wants to enhance its (online) offering by new vendors and their product range in a short time, an automatic creation of products will be helpful. Here, the data is retained in the FIS/mpm shadow database until it is required due to a sales order, a purchase order or its use in the production. Even if the products have not been created in the ERP system yet, the data from the shadow database can already be displayed in the online shop for instance. If one of these articles is eventually required in the SAP system, the data can automatically be transferred from the shadow to the SAP database. Due to the data structure oriented towards SAP within the FIS/mpm shadow, the transfer is possible in an automated way. This significantly increases the speed of data creation and, moreover, enhances the data quality for manual data transfer. As a consequence, the (end) customer can fall back on a larger product selection in a short time. By using FIS/mpm, a trader is currently enlarging their assortment by 3.5 million articles for instance, which can already be offered for sale without much maintenance effort.

Scenario 3: Reduced data maintenance through dummy articles

For very specific products that are ordered only very infrequently, the shadow database can be used to generate a dummy article instead of creating it directly in the ERP system. Only the most important information, such as article number and description, is transferred from the shadow master to this dummy article. Purchase orders, sales orders and other subsequent documents can be created by means of this dummy. This enables a constant traceability of the traded articles without enriching the ERP system with an enormous volume of unnecessary data. Due to the automatic data transfer, an error-free processing of orders is ensured in addition. Consequently, erroneous entries and complaints resulting from this are avoided.

Automated processes and streamlined article master

The applications described above clearly show how a shadow database can reduce the costs for the maintenance and creation of articles. Due to the workflow-supported creation of articles, the ease of use and the speed of article creation and maintenance are significantly increased. A smooth process flow is ensured, which avoids considerable rework efforts. By means of data maintenance in FIS/mpm, the active article master is kept slim. Nonetheless, a greater article selection is available to the end customer and the selling company keeps track on the articles used and offered at any time.

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