Streamlining the Accounts Payable Process Using SAP



IBM Information Management software

Dolphin Process Tracking System for SAP® **Accounts Payable**

Partner Solution

■ Target Industry Cross Industry

■ Business Application Accounts Payable

■ Products

IBM CommonStore for SAP IBM Content Manager IBM FileNet Capture IBM FileNet Content Manager IBM FileNet Image Manager IBM FileNet SAP Portal Connector IBM FileNet SAP R/3 Connector for P8

Business Challenge

Managing copious amounts of paper and information throughout the Accounts Payable process poses numerous challenges for businesses. Companies rely on vital financial information as the basis for decision making, so they need to ensure that the information they get is accurate and available on demand. They are also required by the laws of virtually every country to retain accounting documents and data for specified periods of time.

Manually keying invoices into SAP from paper documents is a laborintensive and time-consuming process that produces inaccuracies, lost and misplaced documents, and filing and retrieving from physical storage. By automating the process with scanning and capture, the above challenges are alleviated. Increased volume is processed faster, more accurately, and with fewer people.

Typically, 20 to 25 percent of all invoices require additional research that elevates them into the exception handling process. When this occurs in SAP, these invoices cannot be viewed until they are approved, creating a theoretical "black box" during which time users cannot track the invoices. Without the ability to view the complete process, management does not have up to date information to forecast accurately.

Solution

Dolphin, with more than a decade of best-practice SAP experience, has developed the Process Tracking System for SAP® Accounts Payable (PTS-AP), providing a central point of access to all accounts payable data in the system. Containing continuously updated vendor information, PTS-AP provides a holistic view into the accounts payable process, enabling business owners to more effectively manage vendors, efficiently make decisions, and confidently forecast cash flow.

Fully integrated with the IBM Enterprise Content Management (ECM) suite of products, PTS-AP automates the accounts payable process in SAP providing comprehensive data throughout the process, including accounting information and supporting documents as well as financial reporting and analysis. For internal SAP centric processing, the PTS-AP application is built using best practice SAP GUI, SAP framework, SAP Business Workflow[™] technology and SAP tables. Process information



and the business documents are instantly available for reporting and display online in both SAP and on the Web.

PTS-AP enables automated exception handling, such as master data maintenance, rescanning, and rerouting of accounts payable documents. All steps and data in the process, from document receipt to posting, are recorded and continuously updated, creating a detailed audit trail for each accounts payable transaction.

Value Proposition

Other features include enhanced duplicate checks, ERS warnings, optimized payment terms, enhanced approval and information requests, real-time tracking of vendor management and report generation. When approvers do not use SAP, PTS-AP alerts non-SAP users by email and allows them to access the documents and approve them using Dolphin's web interface which is entirely built on the NetWeaver platform.

Company Description

Dolphin's PTS-AP delivers benefits for both business users and management by providing turnkey solutions that give access to vital information throughout the accounts payable process when and where needed. Delivering these solutions on-time and on-budget, Dolphin enables businesses to:

- Reduce invoice processing costs by \$5-\$9 per invoice
- Increase productivity by 40 to 60 percent
- Improve vendor relations
- Shorten the accounts payable cycle
- Track and prioritize invoices
- Negotiate better payment terms
- Take advantage of all vendor discount offers
- Reduce finance charges to increase cash flow
- Grow without additional headcount
- Create audit trails
- Track exception handling
- Reduce operational and administrative costs
- Manage risk and streamline compliance
- Analyze vendor and employee performance

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