Z Option

EzyScript

Success Story

Aol.

Customer:
• AOL

Industry:
• Internet

IT Challenges:
• Time consuming data migration and testing
• Costly data error corrections and reprocessing
• One-off data updates, requests, and query needs
• Multi-language support needed for new regions and countries

Solution:
• EzyScript from Z Option

Examples:
• Changing the Billing Split for Business Partners
• Resetting Previously Cleared Transactions
• Adding New Languages to SAP GL Accounts
• Testing SAP Updates and Changes

IT Results:
• Improved data entry time-savings
• Quickly provided SAP Data Management templates, processes, and one-off or ad hoc reports
• Accelerated SAP process improvement requests

Future Plans:
• Script Library

SAP Partner ™

AOL Data Management Processes Improved with Ezy*Script*

Customer Profile

AOL's mission is to simplify the internet for consumers and creators by providing content from the world's best builders of culture and code. For the AOL IT department, this mission includes entering, editing, and maintaining SAP Master Data for thousands of content creators, as well as the millions who visit AOL and consume that content.

IT Challenges

AOL IT is tasked with managing the finance and accounting processes using SAP. This involves multiple types of Master Data Objects such as Business Partners, Cost Centers, Profit Centers and Groups, Cost Elements, and WBS Elements. Uploads and queries of transactional data such as Sales Orders, Inquiries, Quotes and Contracts, Goods Issue and Receipt, and Purchase Orders and Requisitions are all part of the IT responsibility.

Originally, these data changes and requests were entered manually, directly into SAP, on a one-off basis or by using SAP software tools such as LSMW/CATT. A number of years ago, AOL IT had also purchased a third-party scripting tool to speed up the data management process.

According to Robert James, IT Financial Systems Manager at AOL, manual set-up and repetitive entry is labor intensive, time-consuming, and can sometimes increase the errors that the process is trying to prevent. Therefore, a real solution was needed to avoid this manual work. Since AOL IT needed to provide multi-language support for new regions and countries, the solution would also have to be flexible and portable. Faced with the fact that updating the existing scripting tool was proving troublesome, James knew he needed to find a new solution that met their requirements more completely.

Solution

James notes, "I was sold on Ezy*Script*, first of all, because I knew our existing third-party scripting tool was slowly becoming obsolete. We needed a solution to speed up the Master Data update process while reducing errors that were added by manual entry. I also wanted to free up my time regarding these kinds of changes. With Ezy*Script*, IT can hand over a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with labeled columns to a business user and they can easily enter the updates. When their manager sees the results, they like it too."

"Z Option's EzyScript helps me to do more SAP scripting with less effort, makes data updating easier and more accurate, and provides a better way for my SAP users to support the data management process. They take an Excel spreadsheet and fill it out, and then use EzyScript to upload or change the data in SAP."

– Robert James, IT Financial Systems Manager, AOL

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AOL.

AOL is a media technology company with a mission to simplify the internet for consumers and creators by unleashing the world's best builders of culture and code. As the 4th largest online property in the U.S., with more than 200 million monthly consumers of its premium brands, AOL is at the center of disruption of how content is being produced, distributed, consumed and monetized by connecting publishers with advertisers on its global, programmatic content and advertising platforms. AOL's opportunity lies in shaping the future of the digitally connected world for decades to come.

ZOption

Z Option offers software solutions (GLSU, BudgetLoader and EzyScript) that enable organizations to streamline SAP financial data entry and reporting with Microsoft Excel. By leveraging existing Excel expertise, users can calculate financial transactions and post them directly to SAP. Z Option, an SAP partner, was established in 1999 and has hundreds of customer companies, with thousands of users worldwide.

SAP Partner

Examples

The following examples were shared by James:

Example 1: Changing the Billing Split for Business Partners
With EzyScript, AOL IT was able to build the script to accomplish this task of Billing Split in five minutes. Running the script for all 4,000+ Business Partners took about 45 minutes, according to James, replacing the previous method of manually updating four screens plus 26 keystrokes to change each split.

Example 2: Resetting Previously Cleared Transactions
James says "If you have transactions to unclear (ie. erroneous payment run), you may be unclearing thousands of transactions, resulting in many additional hours of work." Ezy*Script* enables an IT person to easily author a script so Accounts Payable can perform a Mass Document Reset. An experienced person can build the script in less than a minute and it takes seconds to run since there are only a few fields to change.

Example 3: Adding New Languages to SAP GL Accounts
Prior to using EzyScript, if the AOL Master Data team decided to change the GL Accounts' language from English to Japanese, the business users had to manually type in the FST2 translations for each GL Account. James reports that this time consuming task was replaced with EzyScript. A script was easily written to modify the Master Data English text and automate the change from English to Japanese.

Example 4: Testing SAP Updates or Changes
When a company wishes to implement an SAP Enhancement Pack, normally it is not problematic to deploy if a company is running an unaltered SAP environment. James shares that AOL, like a majority of companies, changes the SAP environment by adding fields, releasing specific features, and a variety of other business-related decisions, making implementing an SAP Enhancement Pack challenging. As a result, AOL IT write test scripts, using Ezy*Script*, for the key transaction codes. The test scripts are run in both the pre-Enhancement Pack environment and the Enhancement Pack test environment and the recorded results are compared within the two sets of runs.

IT Results

James found that Master Data processing is certainly the number one area for scripting. Ezy*Script* supports this because it allows IT the opportunity to provide templates, improved processes, and more; Master Data can easily be updated by business users in Excel spreadsheets. "Master Data is the life building blocks of the whole SAP system. Of course, as the quality of your Master Data slowly slips away, you need a way to enter and update Master Data correctly," reports James.

Ezy*Script* reduced the time needed for manual data entry by at least 10 times while enabling business users to enter data without requiring IT assistance. "Prior to using Ezy*Script,* we would need more than 60 person-hours to change the billing split for Business Partners," says James. "Now the entire process takes just an hour instead of a week and a half."

James contends that the software paid for itself very quickly when doing mass uploads, downloads and queries, but where it really shown was when IT was inundated with ad hoc requests for mass updates. "Instead of having to dig out the data and update one item at a time, or write labor-intensive scripts using SAP tools, we empowered the users to do mass updates, by themselves most of the time, without IT involvement," says James. "If you are looking for a way to accelerate SAP process improvement requests in a way that traditional SAP software tools and in-house scripting solutions can't, Ezy*Script* is a perfect solution. It simplifies complex legacy data migration, management and query transactions for master data, and more because it uses familiar software tools that business users already understand how to use," reports James. Ezy*Script* is secure and compliant because it uses existing SAP security processes. Scripts can be written for most standard SAP transactions, as well as for most custom transactions.

James adds, "Z Option Ezy*Script* is an excellent 'hammer' to have in your IT toolbox. You never know what you're going to need to do and that's why we need a versatile tool. If somebody wants to change the value of a specific field in the Business Partner screen because something's being done differently now, we can do that."

> ***"I love Z Option EzyScript because it offers a very easy way to align the Master Data in all of our different SAP clients." - Robert James, -IT Financial Systems Manager, AOL***

Future Plans

James expects to build a library catalogue of scripts that can be used repeatedly by others. The library will provide examples of how scripts work as well as provide "best practice script examples". In addition, test scripts can be run together in a job (a script of scripts) to create complex processes.

James already sees Ezy*Script* usage seep into other business areas that need help updating SAP data. "We started this to see if Ezy*Script* would speed up the process for IT regarding Business Partner Master Data. However, the word is getting out so we are seeing requests from people in Fixed Assets and other departments who want to know more about what we are doing and want to see if they can benefit from this solution, as well," states James.

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