Consulting Workbench:

The system is designed to support functional consultants with early prototype capability for technical requirements by:

Being more productive for data conversion and reporting:

- Save time and money with automated functional requirement generation
- Be more responsive by creating flexible solutions
- Be more competitive with your own standards and methods
- Be more productive through code generation

SAP implementations have a number of recurring technical tasks. Implementers are acutely aware of this and often use tools as their differentiator to outperform competitors. SAP has provided several implementation tools in the past such Solution-Manager, LSMW, ABAP Query and XI/PI. However, these common tools alone are not capable of separating a particular implementer from the rest of the industry. Companies such as Back-office Associates are also using one or several of these tools to distinguish their business (LSMW based data conversion solutions).

Consulting workbench is now considered the next generation of performance tool – acting as an easy and complete solution geared toward typical programming requirements.

How does it work?

The consultants select from a template library an existing program and the workbench allows than to customize and configure specific functions:

The workbench delivers:

- A functional description with program purpose, element description and configured details
- A technical specification with purpose, object listing and detailed data handling
- Generated ABAP code, including screens, user interface, dictionary elements etc.

The concept is template based. The templates describe the solution as a set of modules and parameters, vs. programming language. The modules are stored in an object library. The workbench allows users to easily and securely maintain the modules and templates. The consultant can adapt or copy an existing template.

The modules contain the static and/or dynamic ABAP code, script language and static and/or dynamic descriptions.

The core process is based on combining standard code elements in a structured way. The structure depends on the program type such as dialog programs or reports. The generated solution delivers source code with the readability of manually coded sources. Manual enhancements in USER* forms are automatically reapplied, if regenerations are requested.

The functional documentation is the actual text documentation; managerial items can be added from a standard shared library and automatically edited with parameters.

The workbench allows technical personnel to document additional requirements and enhance the system to meet the required solution.

Every solution has an automatic version back-up, triggered by a structural template changes or a new change date generated during save actions.

The heart of the WB is an ABAP based system, located on the local drive and contains the programs as well as the library and the control data. The Abap execution occurs dynamically on the development server in a subroutine pool. This design keeps the customer SAP system virtually free of tool and version data with only the actual customer objects uploaded.

The system is licensed to specific users.   Workgroup or system wide solutions are also available. License validation is based on

- o   Workbench installation number
- o   SAP installation number
- o   User Id in SAP

and requires a numeric key. A 30 days trial period is currently being offered.

The file storage can be encrypted by configuration switch, which protects from manipulating the files without workbench.

The system base is compatible to SAP's evaluation and training system which is available in bookstores or as download.

Installation:

Upload of one 400 line ABAP report (SYS_BASE) as local object with a Z or Y name (sugg.: Y_CHECK_OBJ).

Copy of the folder /SOS_SYS/ from the delivery media to the work storage, preferred (default) C:\.

Start the base report.

The Initial task is the request of a permanent license key or a 90 day key (delivered with media).

The system is available with modules and configuration functions for a demonstration of a sample solution for:

- A joined table data display in an ALV report.
- Documentation
- Source objects

Classical application areas include reports, interfaces, conversions, data input and extracts. (RICEF). However, the system is also very useful in applying predefined add-on solutions as an alternative of data transports.

Uploads to SAP are treated as manually coded objects and follow SAP standards.

 The consulting workbench accommodates more complex programs compared to the limited LSMW or PI generators. For example, implementers can design their own conversion models with table configurations per interface and propriety execution models. The workbench ensures the production of similar programs following a standard for file handling, messaging, routing and processing etc.