

The Definitive Guide to Printing With SAP



How leading companies are saving money on software licensing fees, reducing employee stress and cutting labor costs by optimizing the cumbersome SAP printing process.

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes it's hard to imagine how a software solution that **allows your company to make great strides in ERP and CRM** is also the reason for **such tremendous headaches** when it comes to the simple task of viewing and printing documents.

The productivity losses and licensing costs related to native SAP printing make it extremely difficult to run a lean, dynamic business.

Locating required documents, pre-converting them, printing them one-by-one and then collating them by hand is an antiquated and unnecessary process which often leads to oversights and omissions of important paperwork.

In fact, Tech Target, a leading IT industry website, says, “printing from SAP is a lot like root canal. The process is slow and painful”.

Yet, until recently, a user-friendly, single-format, efficient SAP printing solution has been elusive.

Without one, SAP users are frustrated, bogged down and confused when faced with viewing and printing multiple attachments stored in SAP as service documents.

Consequently, it's your company's bottom line that is taking the biggest hit.

This paper discusses alternative SAP printing solutions currently available in your industry, plus demonstrates how leading companies like Toyota and Roy Hill are lowering their costs, boosting employee morale and simplifying the SAP printing process all in one simple step.

Why “Out of the Box” SAP Printing Doesn't Meet Industry Demands

Because SAP was originally designed for printing basic form and report data, printing multiple formats is **time consuming** and **expensive**. It provides minimal functionality when tasked with grouping different attachments stored in SAP into a single place.

Users must undertake an exhaustive and lengthy search for files associated with a single work order. This disjointed, non-linear process often results in the oversight or incorrect assignment of safety critical information. After all documents are gathered, users are required to license the authoring application with which a document was created in order to view it properly. This can be an expensive and logistical nightmare *just to view a single document*.

When surprise single-use licensing requests begin piling up, it adversely affects a company's ability to operate with a consistent budget. In addition, workflow is stunted and employees are rendered less productive because they cannot easily view important, time-sensitive information.

Many companies find it necessary to hire extra personnel simply to handle the burden that SAP printing creates; an extra outflow of cash that could be put to better use elsewhere inside the company.

Without a single software solution to streamline the viewing and printing of SAP business objects, your company will continue to struggle with **slow turnaround times**, the **omission of critical attachments** and the **unpredictability of one-time licensing fees**.

What are the Alternatives?

Whilst other printing software options have been available to industries utilizing SAP, these are typically more expensive and time consuming, lacking in functionality and file types as well as being limited to the maintenance module. The other alternative is to accept the limitations of the SAP printing process and calculate man-hours and turnaround times accordingly.

In order to accommodate the shortcomings of manual SAP printing, companies now respond by:

1. Hiring extra personnel for printing and work pack assembly...

Due to the complicated steps and the risk of duplication, errors and omissions, companies often find it smartest to hire a dedicated staff member to handle SAP printing tasks and maintenance pack assembly. This diverts valuable company resources that could be better spent on internal operations or growth.

2. Licensing additional applications to view and print documents...

In order to simply view a file associated with an SAP business object, companies are forced to spend additional money on 3rd party viewers and integrations tools. This wastes valuable time on requesting access to appropriate applications or requesting conversion to more suitable formats.

As you can see, instead of permanent solutions, the only options available have been costly stop-gap measures that don't allow maximum efficiency or cost savings.

Solution: “Push Button Simple” Printing in SAP

Companies utilizing SAP are looking for an affordable “install it and forget it” software solution that will simplify and streamline the SAP printing process. They must find a solution that frees up man hours, lessens stress in the workplace and reduces the possibility of errors in maintenance pack assembly.

The solution must be a **smart, integrated approach** that allows for a seamless and headache-free assembly experience.

Better yet, once implemented, this “push button simple” solution should pay for itself in a matter of weeks by:

1. **Reducing employee time** spent manually collating documents, and
2. Significantly **reducing the likelihood** that **crucial documents have been omitted**

Benefits of a Customised SAP Printing Software Solution

A software solution that overcomes the inherent limitations of SAP printing will effectively cut costs, save time and reduce errors on a daily basis.

The solution must enable any SAP user to instantly print or view any document located anywhere in SAP, including all Microsoft Office and common drawing formats, without the need for the underlying application or pre-conversion.

The solution must also provide customisation options that ensure the software will add the maximum value without the expense of unnecessary features. This can be achieved by a concise but comprehensive need-finding consultation prior to implementing any software installation.

An SAP printing software solution that can be remotely installed via VPN or screenshare will ensure that:

- 1) Normal business processes continue uninterrupted
- 2) Accessibility of SAP is not affected
- 3) The installation time frame does not exceed 10 days

A successful SAP printing solution drives efficiencies and allows users to find, print and finish a task faster than ever before. **It must also:**

Save time by...

- Eliminating manual sorting
- Locating all necessary documents quickly and accurately

- Auto collating work order forms and attachments in the order specified
- Supporting file conversions to PDF without loss of fidelity or clarity
- Converting hundreds of pages to PDF quickly
- Allowing the user to save work order print preferences

Eliminate frustration and confusion by...

- Alerting the employee of print errors in real-time
- Performing 100% autonomously on the client or server
- Replacing complex 3rd party interfaces with a single intuitive, user-friendly interface
- Allowing the user to “click and forget” when printing
- Providing a simple way to add configurable water marks, batch headers and page numbering
- Giving the option to electronically distribute documents via email or fax

Cut costs by...

- Eradicating licensing costs and user rights management requirements
- Using default windows printers
- Allowing the user to view any file from anywhere in SAP without the authoring application

Putting These SAP Print Solutions to Work For You

If you are considering implementing a single-software solution for SAP print management, ask yourself (and your team) these questions:

- Is our current SAP print management effort as **effective and streamlined** as it could be?
- Is printing in SAP currently utilising man-hours and capital that **could be refocused** on key tasks?
- Are licensing costs and rights management fees making it difficult to predict upcoming budgets?
- How do employees feel about the **request process** leading up to viewing SAP documents?
- How would my company/department **function differently** if viewing and printing in SAP no longer required pre-conversion, manual collating, and application licensing?

After taking the time to answer these questions, you will have a better understanding of the impact that integrated SAP print management could have on your company's performance and bottom line. Cumbersome, outmoded systems are not just an IT problem; they extend company-wide and affect everyone tied to a project, including clients.

Optimizing and accelerating the SAP printing process is a simple yet effective way to elevate your internal operations, turning what has long been considered a burdensome chore into a satisfying, hassle-free print management system.

About *Snatcher Print Manager*

Snatcher Print Manager satisfies a customer demand for the cost-effective viewing and printing of attachments stored in SAP as service objects and document information records in a single streamlined process.

Available in three versions **Client**, **Server** and **Live-View**, Snatcher Print Manager was created to make SAP printing and print management fast, simple, and hassle-free.

Snatcher Client Print Manager streamlines the process of converting native documents to a PDF then batching them into a combined seamless PDF to be printed to a default client printer. Snatcher Client Print Manager also supports the conversion of shop papers developed in SAP Script and Smartforms – and can be effortlessly configured to print water marks, headers, and even page numbers.

Snatcher Server Print Manager comprises 2 money-saving components. One: The SAP installed Snatcher Server Print Manager allows operators to select work orders for print via IW33, IW38 and IW37N at different stages of planning. Two: The Snatcher Print Server controls the feed and conversion of data from the work order selection and back to the SAP spool for printing or sent directly to network attached printers using Windows Active Directory accounts. 20 work orders with a total of 800mb of attachments takes just 120 seconds to convert to PDF batch ready for printing. And the conversion process takes place in the background so the operator can continue working in SAP uninterrupted.

Snatcher Live View permits quick, easy viewing of 50+ document formats without the need for 3rd party viewers and integration tools. Live View also incorporates high-level security protocols.

Snatcher Print Manager has received the endorsement of SAP Certified Powered by SAP NetWeaver.

Snatcher is delivered as a SAP transport and a client & server .NET component and is compliant with SAP 4.7, ECC5 and ECC6 and Windows XP, Vista, 7 & 8 (32bit and 64bit) and MS Server 2003 through to 2012.

Ready to move one step closer to saving time, money and hassle when it comes to SAP print management?

[Download our free report](#), “**The Snatcher Print Manager Implementation Process**” and discover what you can expect when working with the Maintology to develop a customised printing solution that's just right for your business.

You may also visit our website at www.printinginsap.com.au or call us at +61 7 3719 6600.



About Maintology, the team behind Snatcher Print Manager

Maintology provides flexible and cost effective IT solutions that optimise the efficiency of SAP and other ERP systems, including Oracle and Microsoft. They combine outstanding technical expertise with demonstrated industry understanding to deliver software, support and solutions that work in the real world.

As a recognised industry leader in SAP support, the Maintology team has worked on-site with some of Australia's largest mining companies and manufacturers – with a growing client list that includes Toyota, and Roy Hill. Maintology ensures organisations get more out of their existing ERP implementation by identifying opportunities for improvement and bridging the gaps between current systems and required functionality.

With a commitment to generating real business benefits and return on investment, Maintology offers hands-on support at all stages from identification of requirements and software options to implementation, training and ongoing support. Founded in 2010, Maintology is headquartered in Brisbane, Australia and is a certified development partner with SAP.