

Introduction

With the R/3 System, SAP is setting the pace in the market for flexible standard software. Using advanced development techniques, SAP has produced a sophisticated system which provides data processing solutions for all areas of business.

The components of the R/3 System are characterized by a high degree of functionality taking advantage of state-of-the-art technology. The high level of integration of the individual applications guarantees consistency of data throughout the system and the company itself (see Figure 1-1).

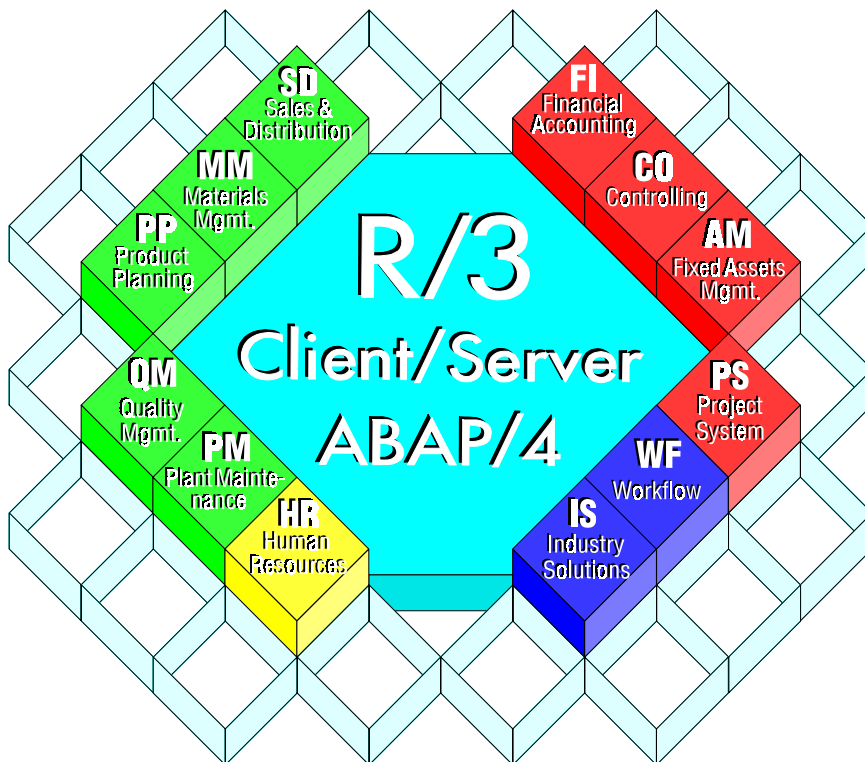


Figure 1-1: The R/3 System

The basic R/3 System is described in Appendix 1. This contains technical information on the concept of the R/3 System, a user guide and information on the support available when installing the system.

Plant Maintenance in the SAP System

The increase in automation and the resulting high fixed costs of operational systems mean that increasingly, plant maintenance plays a decisive role in the success of a business. Production systems need to be available 24 hours a day in order to guarantee a cost-effective distribution of fixed costs.

More stringent quality assurance requirements mean there is an ever greater demand for regular maintenance of production systems. Furthermore, the status of plant maintenance has been significantly raised by an increase in the number of legal and public demands for environmental protection and systems safety standards.

PM System The PM System provides solutions for the management and maintenance of technical systems in all branches of industry. It can manage both internal company systems, such as production, procurement, disposal and transport systems, and third party systems such as customer equipment.

The maintenance of a technical system incorporates the following types of tasks

- Inspection: determining the actual condition
- Regular maintenance: maintaining the ideal condition
- Repair: restoring the ideal condition

As a rule, maintenance organizations also carry out additional technical services, such as the construction or modification of systems. Although these services do not belong to maintenance itself, they do require processing with the same tool used for order planning and processing.

Scope of Activities in PM The PM System offers appropriate support for all the following activities:

- The operational systems and technical resources used are managed using functional locations and equipment.
- Activities that recur on a regular basis are defined using maintenance and inspection plans and released at a scheduled point in time.
- Malfunctions and other direct maintenance requirements are entered directly as maintenance notifications and forwarded to the planning units responsible for processing.
- Maintenance tasks are carried out using maintenance orders, in which the type of activity, the necessary task steps and the resources required are defined, for example, internal and external processing, materials, and so on.

- The completed maintenance orders form the basis of a task-related, function and object-related history. Technical completion confirmations, for example, types or causes of problem, are copied together with the order data in the maintenance history.

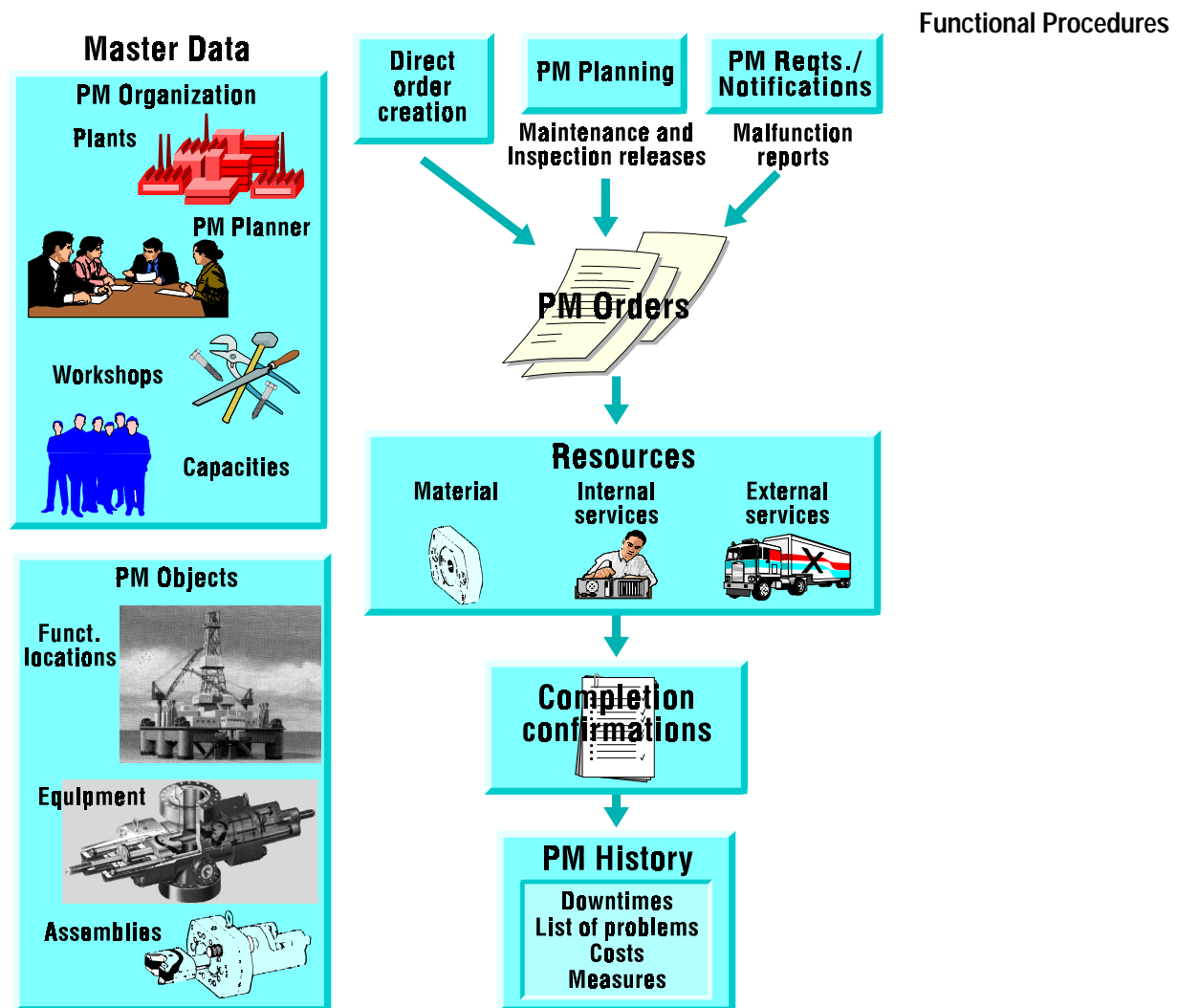


Figure 1-2: Functional Procedures in the PM System

The PM System is a fully integrated component of the R/3 System with direct links to the Logistics and Accounting Systems. The continuous exchange of information with other application areas in the R/3 System ensures a state-of-the-art data base. Fully integrated processing helps you optimize operations within your company.

The range of functions in the standard PM System covers all the regular business requirements in the area of maintenance and servicing. The experience and suggestions of customers from various branches of industry have played and continue to play an important role in the development of the component, ensuring that the PM System can be installed by a wide variety of companies throughout the world.

What are the outstanding features of the R/3 System?

- Functionality**
The R/3 System provides the user with a comprehensive software solution for all the activities performed within a company.
- Integration**
The data base and functionality of the system ensures that all the procedures carried out in a company are interconnected.
- Ease-of-use**
R/3 offers a uniform, graphical user interface for all its applications.

