Update on the SAP GUI Family Q4 2008

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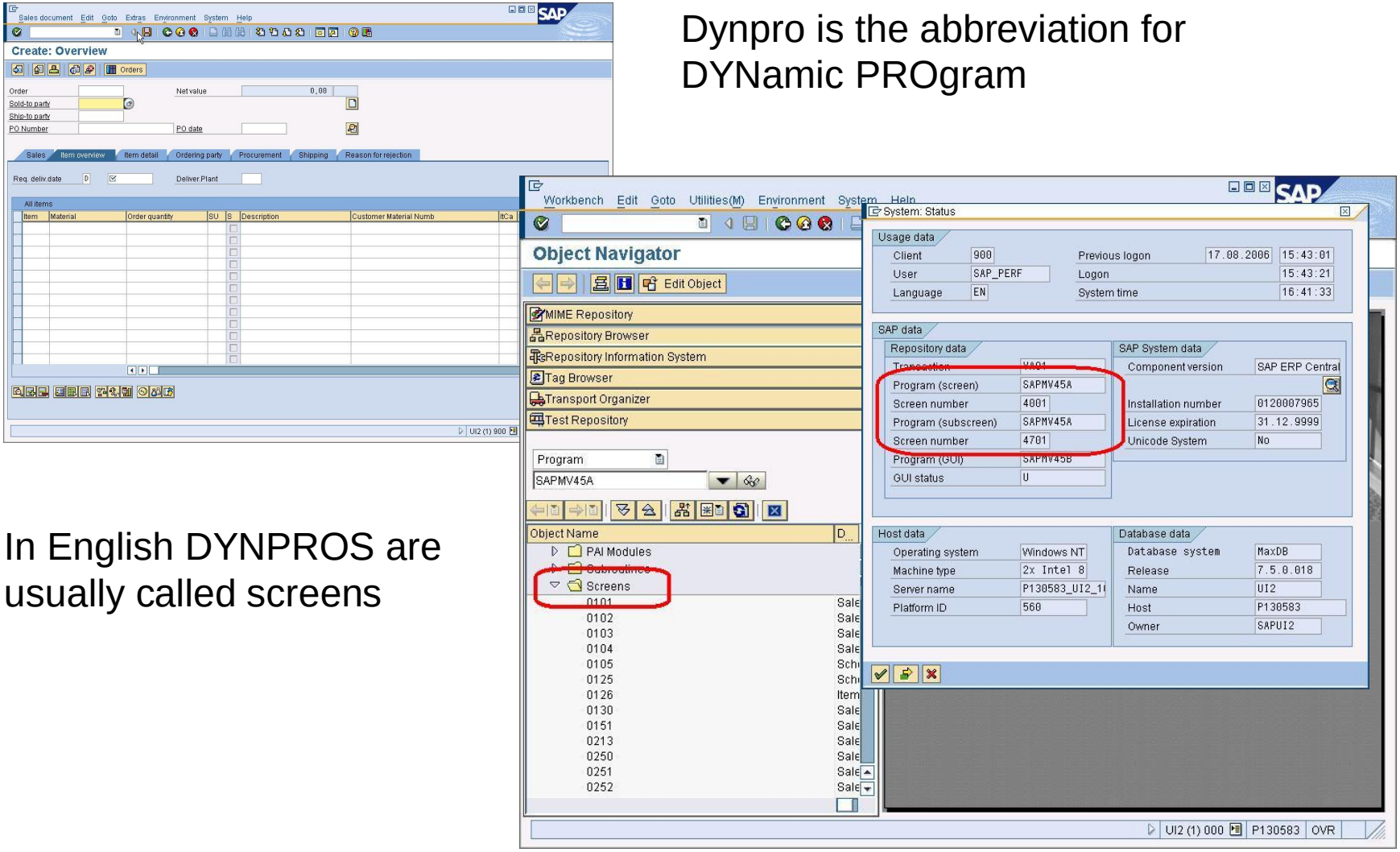
Agenda

1. **What is the SAP GUI Family**
2. SAP GUI for Windows
3. SAP GUI for Java
4. SAP GUI for HTML
5. Choosing the right GUI
6. Summary

Technologies Covered in This Presentation

This presentation is about the Dynpro-based front end technologies.

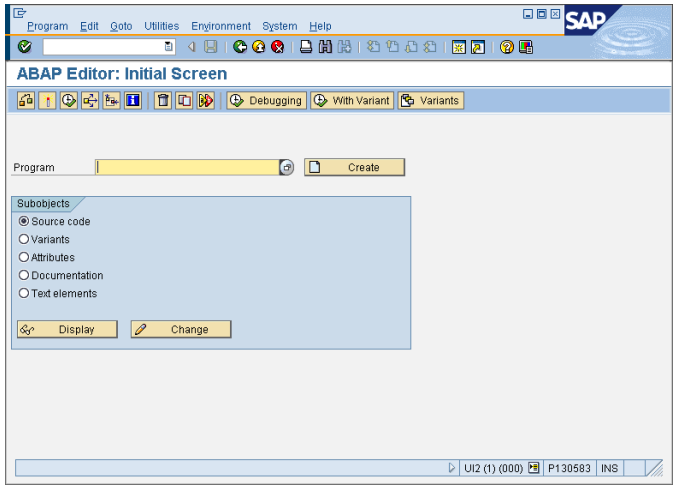


Dynpro is the abbreviation for DYNamic PROgram

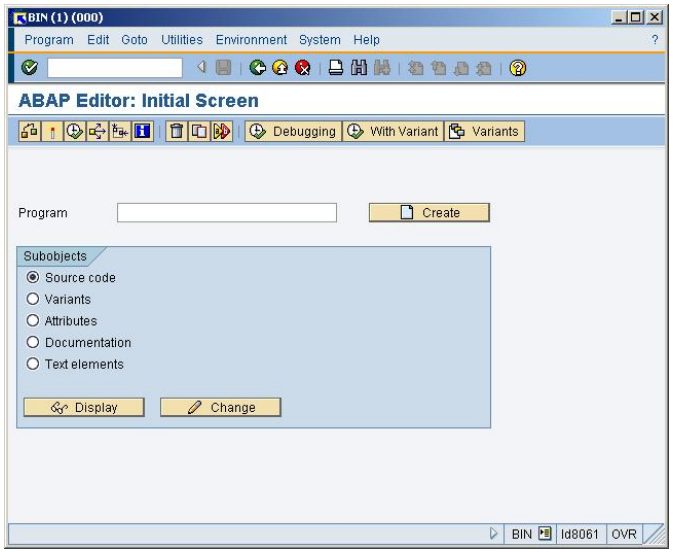
In English DYNPROS are usually called screens

Members of The SAP GUI Family

SAP GUI for Windows



SAP GUI for Java



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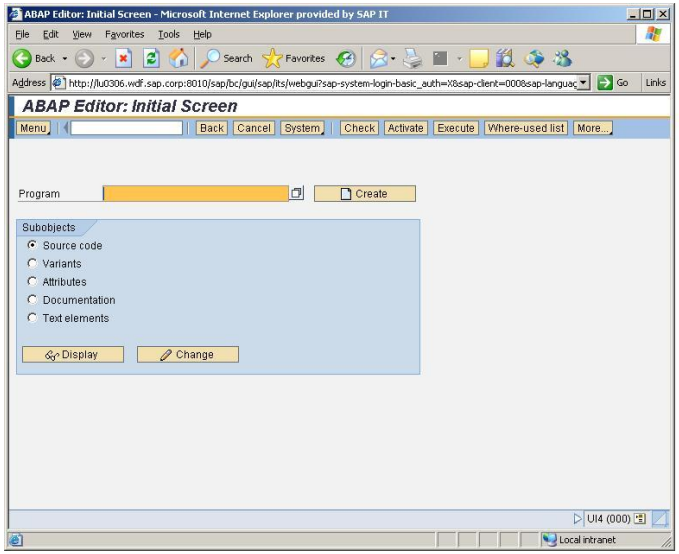

The Fundamentals of The SAP GUI Family

Separation of user interface and SAP system

- Changes in the GUI do not affect business rules and logic
- Business data reside in the back end system

Why are there multiple GUIs for the same applications?

- Different client operating systems (Windows, Linux, …)
- Different user experience (power user, plant worker, …)
- Different tasks (developer, clerk, worker, …)
- Different environments (standalone client, portal integration, …)

Best fit into the existing infrastructure

- Low or high bandwidth available
- Use of terminal servers possible
- Available for all supported back end releases

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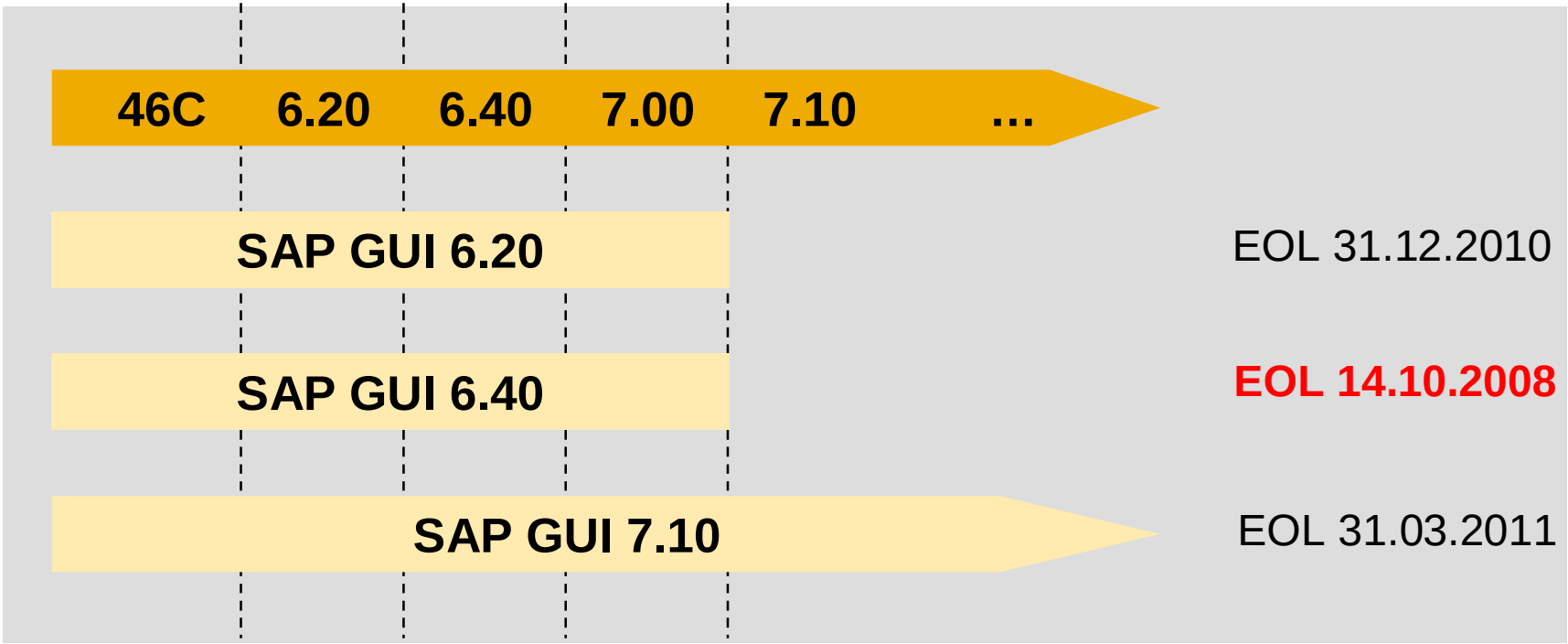
Which GUI version for which backend release

Timeline for SAP GUI for Windows



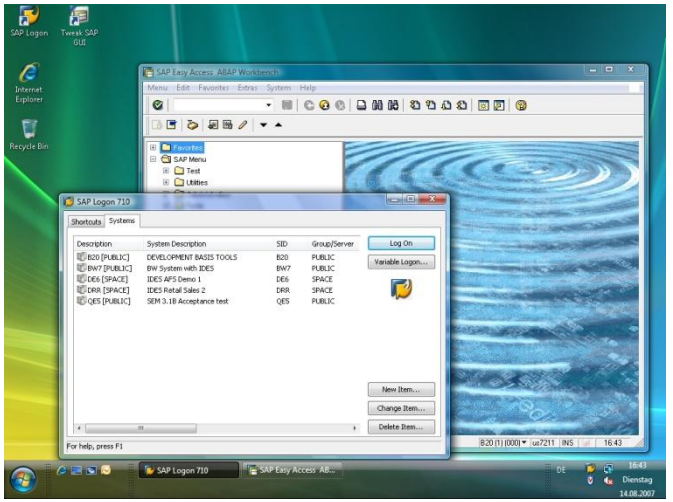
If you are still using the SAP GUI for Windows 6.40 be aware of the end of life date.

See SAP note 147519, http://service.sap.com/pam and http://sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/sap-gui for details

Supported Operating Systems

SAP GUI for Windows 7.10 is supported on

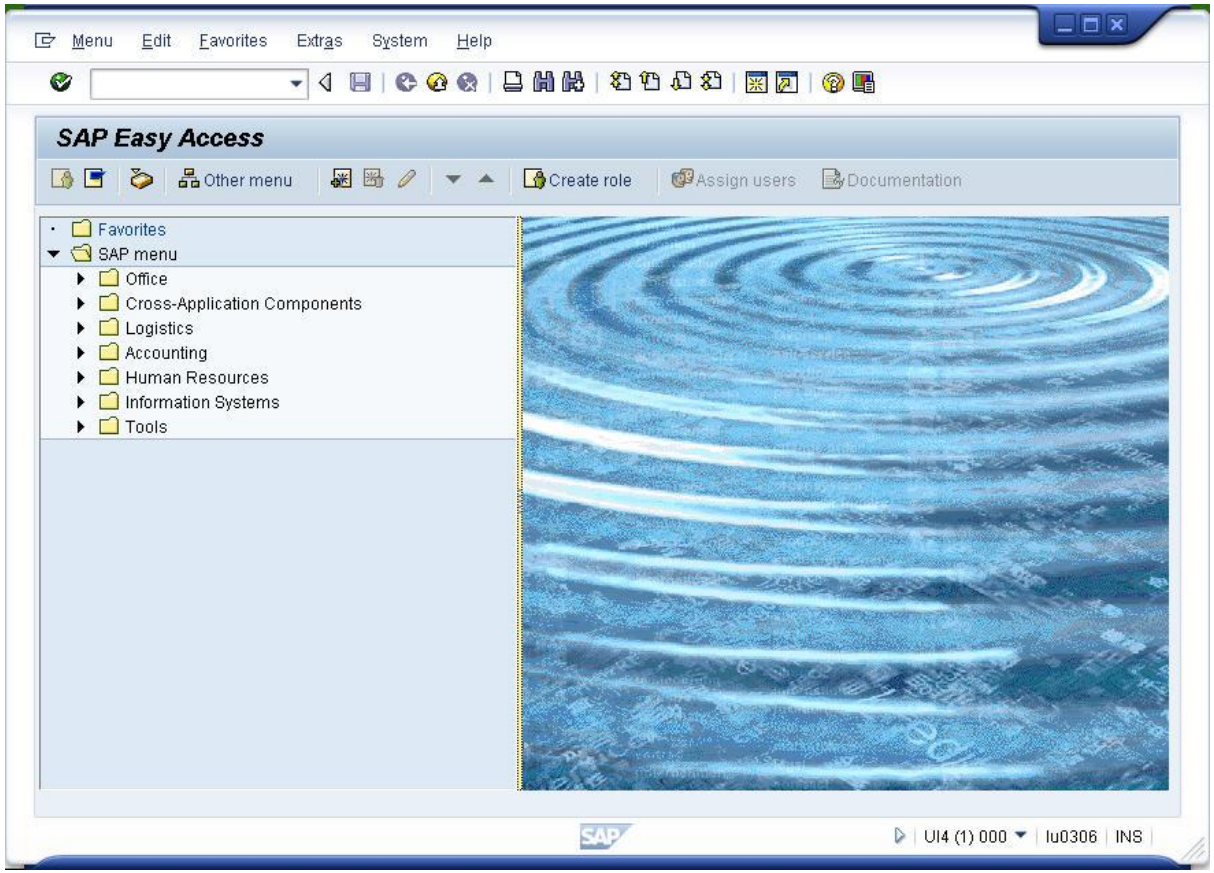
- Windows 2000, Windows Server 2000 (32 bit version on IA32) - restricted support
- Windows XP Home, 32 bit version
- Windows XP Professional, 32 and 64 (AMD64, EM64T) bit versions
- Windows Server 2003, 32 and 64 (AMD64, EM64T) bit versions
- Windows Vista (Business / Ultimate), 32 and 64 (AMD64, EM64T) bit versions
- Windows Server 2008, 32 and 64 (AMD64, EM64T) bit versions

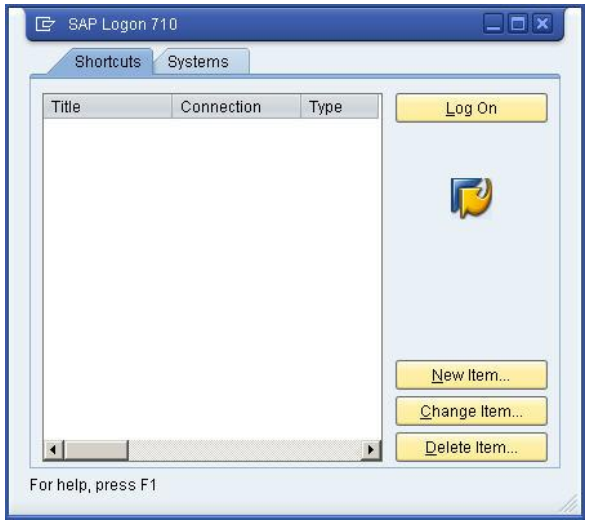


See http://service.sap.com/pam and SAP note 66971 for details

The SAP Signature Design (new in 7.10 Compilation 3 – patch level 11)

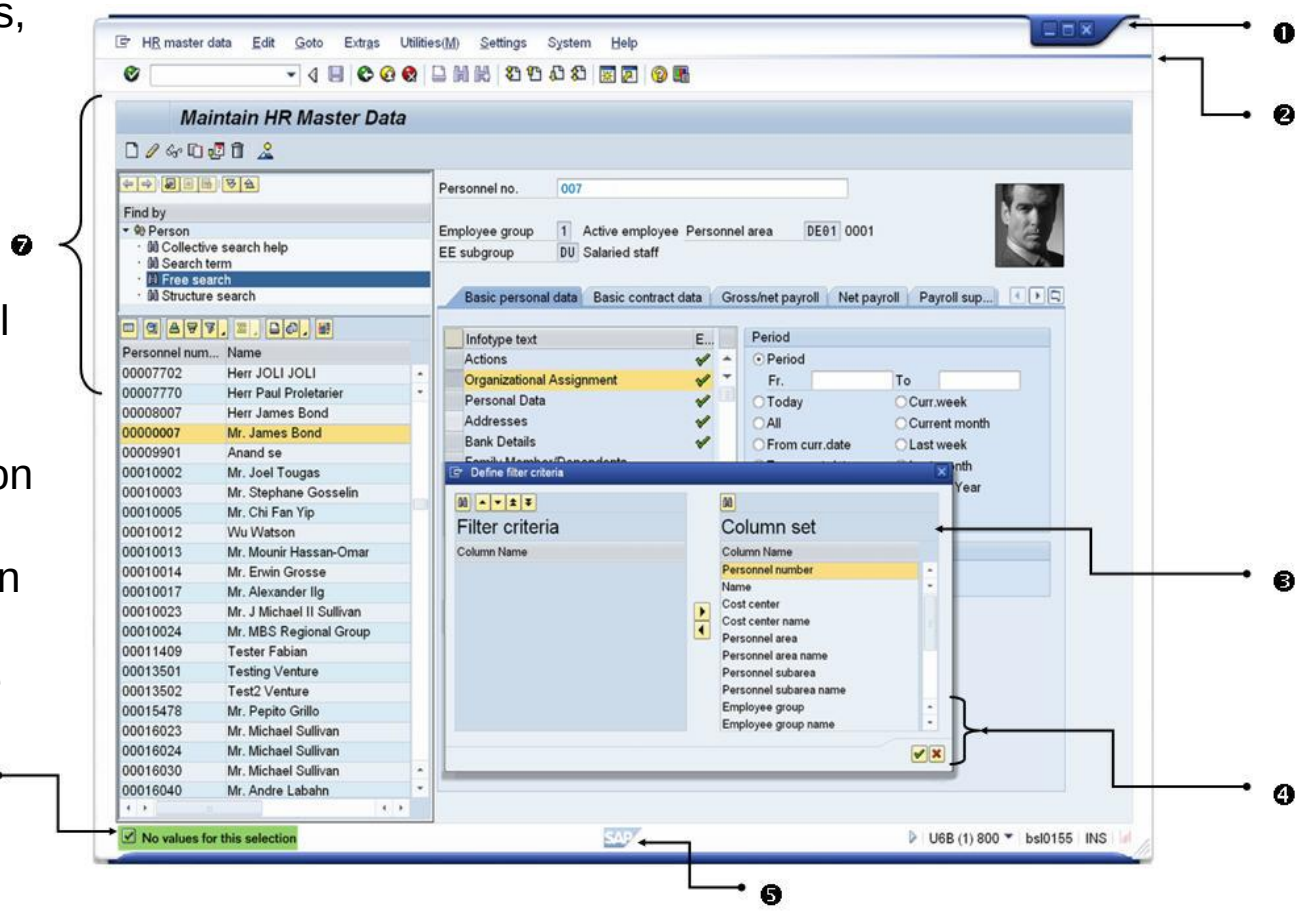
The SAP Signature Design harmonizes the user interfaces of SAP's diverse products. It imitates a porcelain surface held in place by a dark blue-brushed metal clasp and presents a fresh yet timeless design based on principles such as the right level of tension and contrast as well as attention to detail.





The Anatomy of the SAP Signature Design

1. New inner and outer frames, with embedded window control buttons
2. New server activity visualization
3. Visual elements like scrollbars, buttons etc. will grow with font size
4. Pop-up windows with new shadows and control button locations
5. A new SAP Logo appears in the status line
6. Messages in the status line are animated and have colored background
7. Hovering over buttons is visualized



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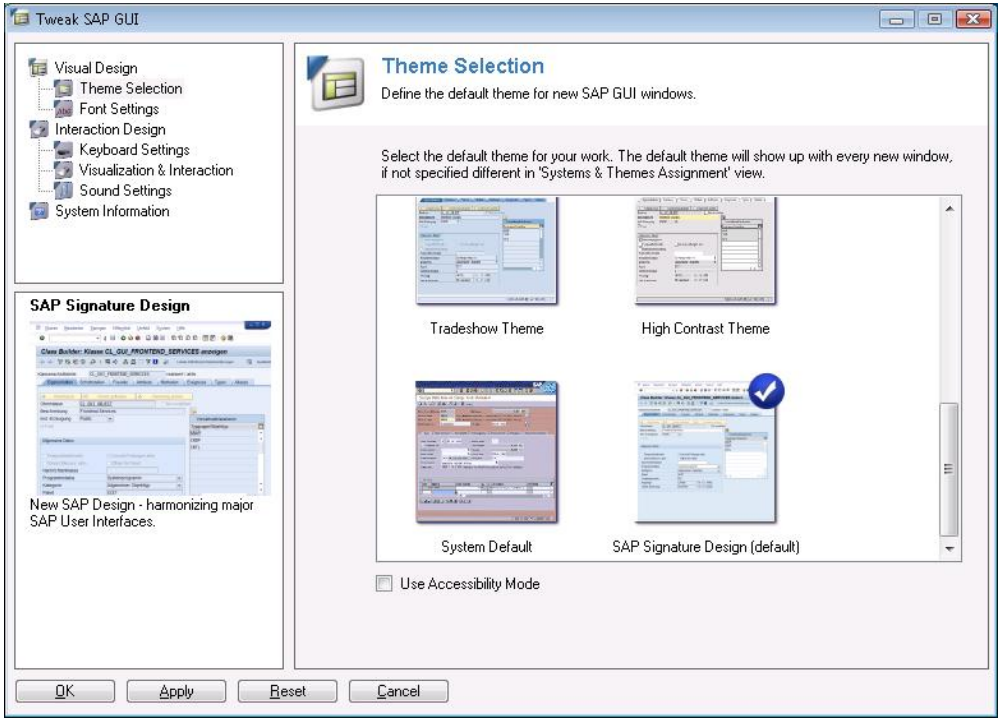
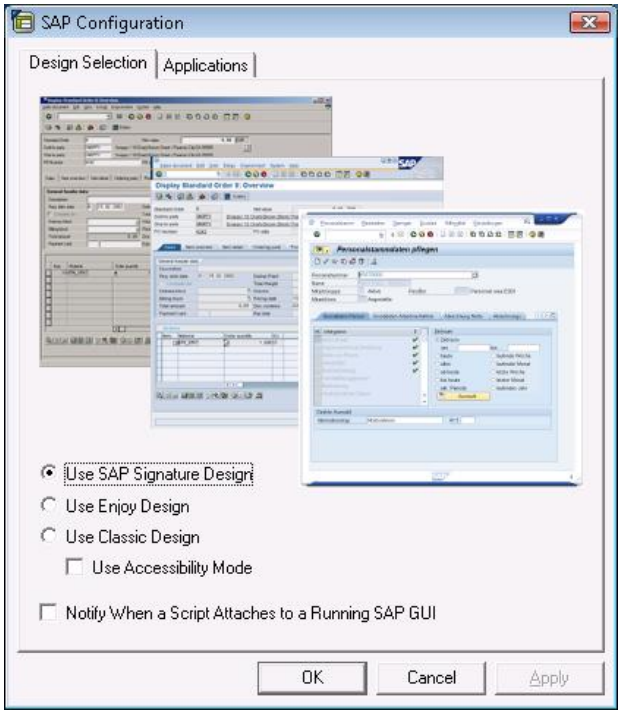
How to activate SAP Signature Design

All you need to be able to use SAP Signature Design is SAP GUI for Windows 7.10 patch level 11 or higher.

The activation is done via “Tweak SAP GUI” or “SAP Configuration” (available in Windows Control Panel).

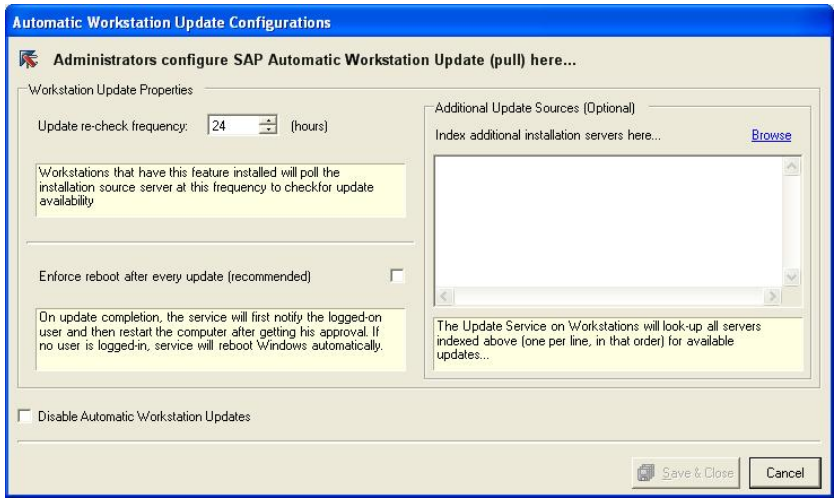




Deployment

SAP Front End Installer (SAP Setup)

- Controlling Remote Workstations (as of SAP GUI for Windows 7.10 Compilation 3 – patchlevel 11)
- New, friendly user interface (starting patchlevel 9)
- Automatic workstation update available (as of SAP GUI for Windows 7.10 Compilation 2)
- New command line parameters such as /ForceWindowsRestart



Admin Tool

- Automatic workstation update configuration via “Services” menu
- Single-file self-installing package creation

See SAP Front End Installation Guide for additional information.

Installation Blog: https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/weblogs?blog=/pub/u/251839950

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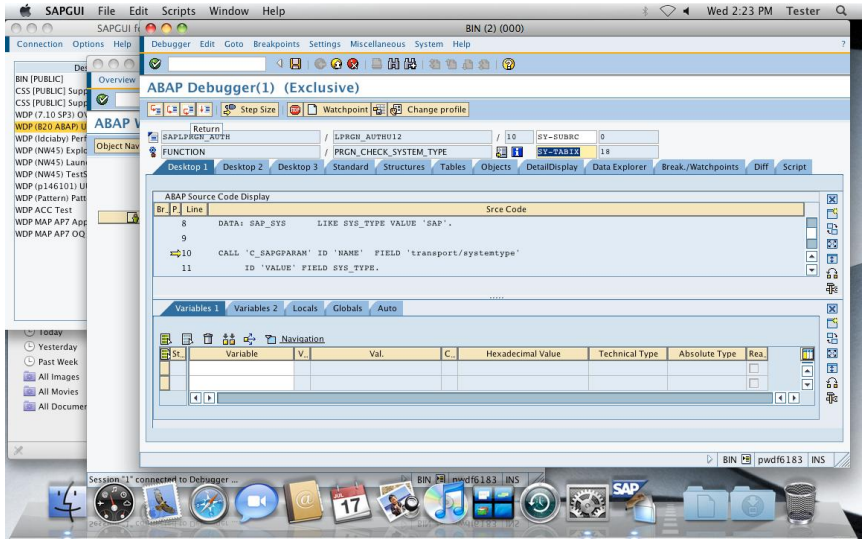
What's New in SAP GUI for Java 7.10

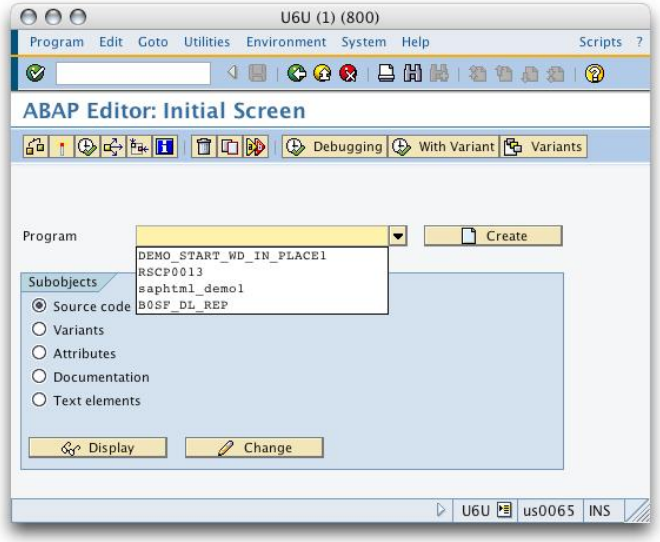
Platforms

- Support of JRE 6.0 where available
- Mac OS X 10.5
- AIX 6.1
- Fedora Core 7
- openSUSE 10.2 / 10.3
- Windows Vista



Features and improvements

- Input history (by far the most requested feature)
- Mayor improvements in ALV control
- Support for CUPS printer instances
- Revised preference panels
- Improved handling of message windows
- Dynpro Splitter



For details see the release notes

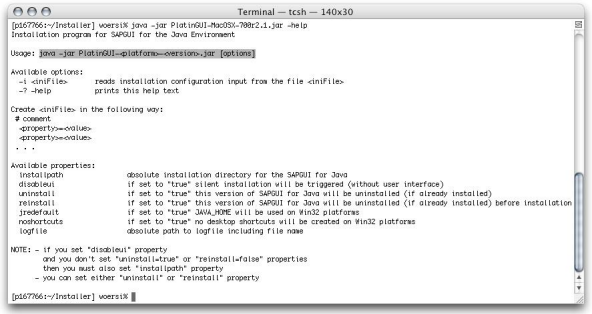
Deployment Options

Manual Installation

- Double-clickable installer
- Involves user interaction
- Performed by end user

Silent Installation

- Run from command-line without any user interaction
- Options and install path are defined in a text file
- Performed by administrator



Web Deployment

- Installer unpacked on Web server
- Installation triggered by the content of a web page
- Installer runs as a signed applet
- Prepared by administrator, run by end user

For details see chapter “Installation” inside the manual

Central Configuration Management

SAP GUI for Java needs configuration information

- List of all available SAP systems (message servers)
- SAP routers
- Needs to be available on all user workstations

Solution: Web-based Configuration

- Keep common configuration information central
- Simple text files on web server
- User needs to enter one URL only

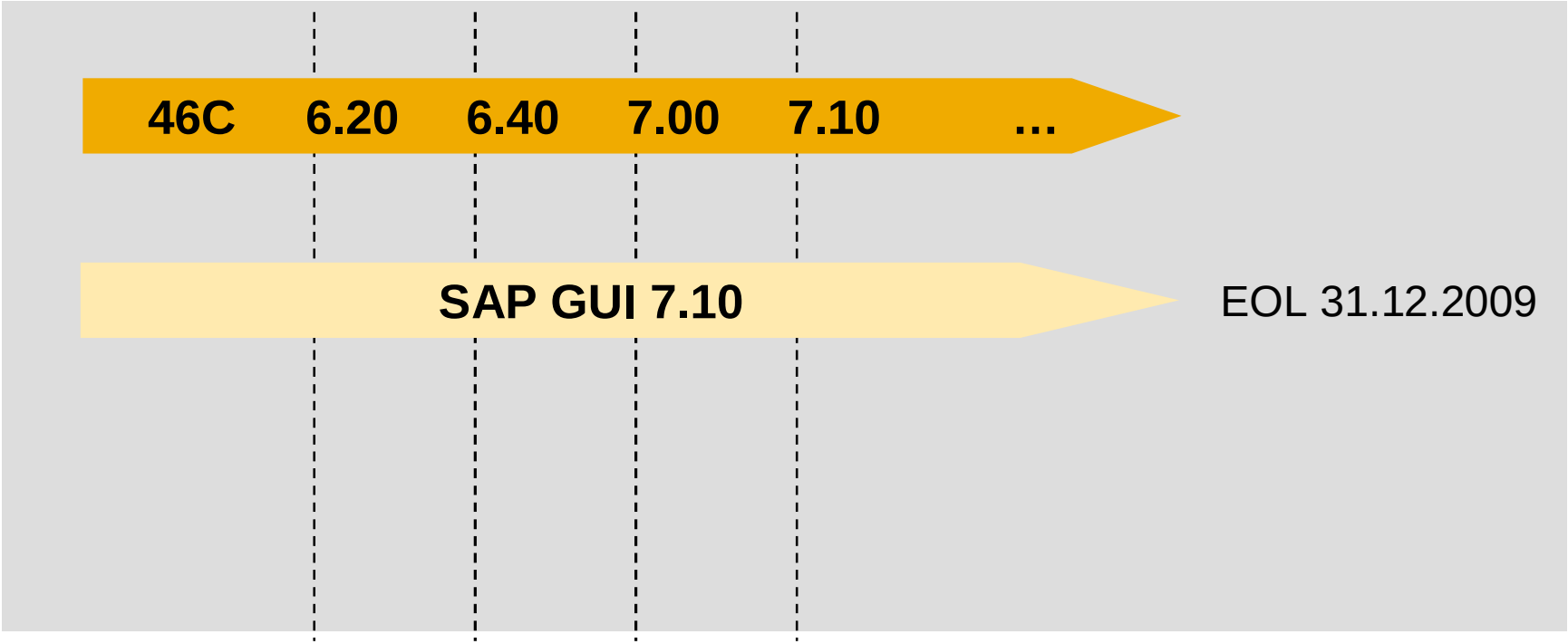
“Ready to go” installation

- Administrator creates templates for the configuration
  - URL to central configuration, settings (connection colors, preset options)
- Templates are deployed during installation
- Result: no hand operated configuration required after installation

For details see chapter “Administrator Configuration” in manual

Supported SAP Releases

Timeline for SAP GUI for Java



See http://service.sap.com/pam and http://sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/sap-gui for details

Supported Operating Systems

SAP GUI for Java 7.10 is supported on

- AIX 5.2, 5.3, 6.1 (32bit JVM)
- HP-UX 11.11 (PA-RISC), 11.23 (PA-RISC), 11.31 (PA-RISC)
- Linux RedHat EL4 (32bit JVM)
- Linux RedHat EL5 (32bit JVM)
- Linux Fedora Core 7 (32bit JVM)
- Linux SuSE SLES 10 (32bit JVM)
- Linux openSuSE 10.0-10.3, SLED 10 (32bit JVM)
- Mac OS X 10.4, 10.5 (PowerPC / Intel)
- Solaris 9, 10 (SPARC)
- Windows XP Professional (32bit JVM)
- Windows Vista (Business / Ultimate) (32bit JVM)

Detailed requirements regarding supported operating systems and Java Virtual Machines for SAP GUI for Java are documented in SAP note 959236.

See http://service.sap.com/pam for details

Limitations of The SAP GUI for Java

Limitations compared to SAP GUI for Windows

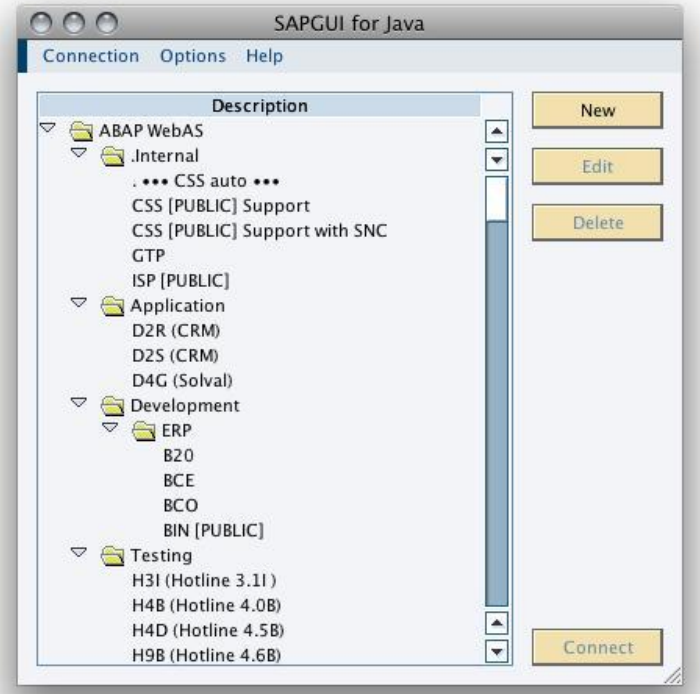
- Office integration into SAP transactions is not available
- Some GUI components like the BEx explorer are not available
- Some controls in SAP GUI for Windows used for special purposes are not available as JavaBean in SAP GUI for Java, for example
  - SAP SmartForms
  - advanced ABAP Editor Control
- Graphical screen painter is not available
- Translations of built-in texts like in logon window or options menu are not available for all languages SAP supports
- To see if a transaction is supported for use with SAP GUI for Java check in transaction SE93
- Anyway most of the transactions work perfectly

For detailed information see note 454939

Outlook

Currently the only supported version of the SAP GUI for Java is 7.10. The next coming version (7.20) will come with the following features:

- New SAP Signature Design
- Structured SAP-Logon entries
- Fixed columns in ALV control
- 64 bit support for some platforms
- Support for more Linux distributions



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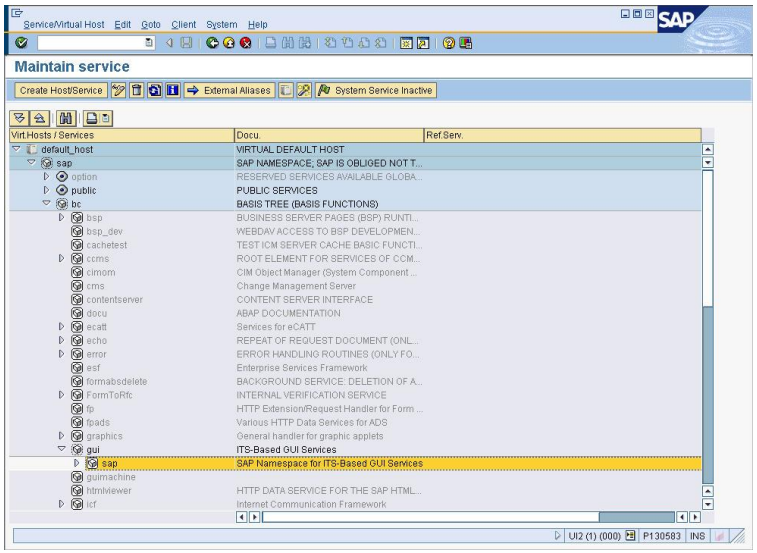
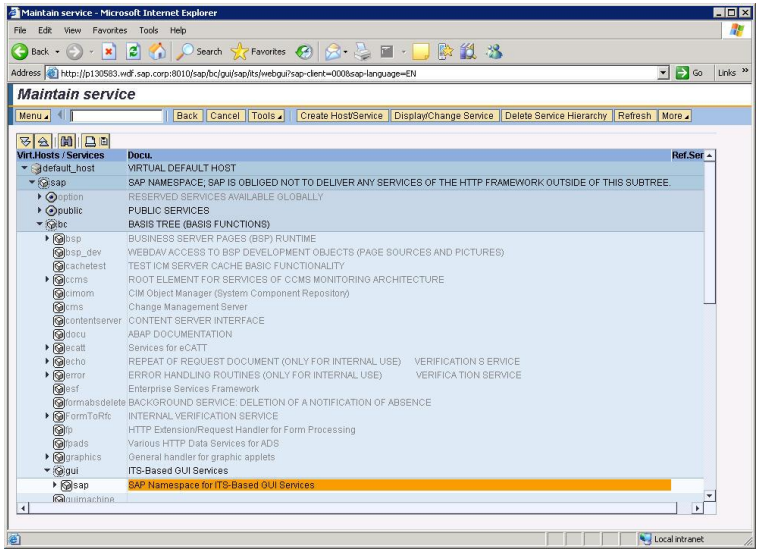
What is the SAP GUI for HTML?

The SAP GUI for HTML is an application running in the SAP Internet Transaction Server (ITS)

- It extends the reach of SAP systems into the web
- It generically maps SAP Dynpro-based screens to HTML
- It has almost zero footprint on the client PC
- Drives transactions within the SAP system
- Can be used with all SAP releases currently supported





SAP GUI for HTML: Client Platforms

Internet Explorer on Windows

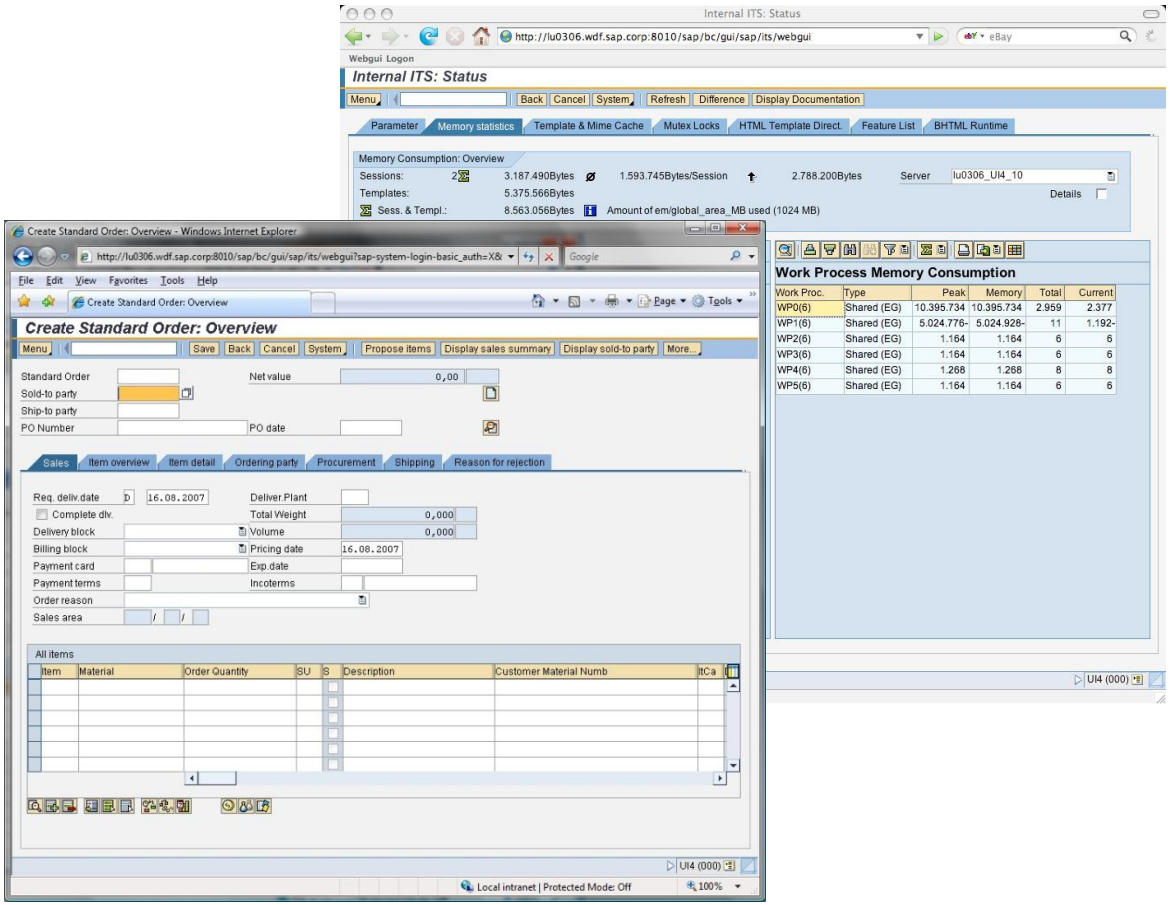
- Internet Explorer 6.0
- Internet Explorer 7.0

Mozilla Firefox 2.0 and 3.0

- Windows
- Linux
- Mac OS X

Required Java runtime

- For some operations SAP GUI for HTML needs a Java runtime on the client PC
- Currently we support Java versions from 1.4.2 to 6.0
- See note 980772 for details

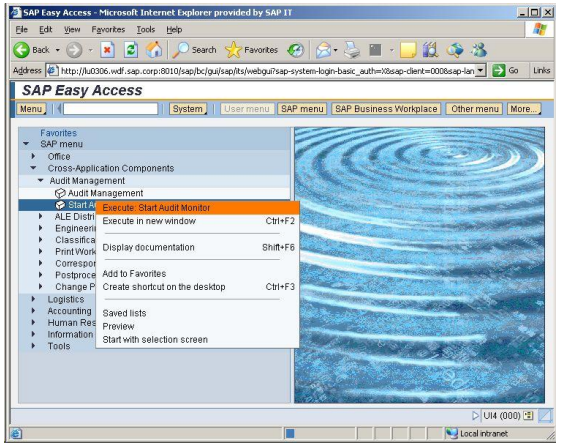


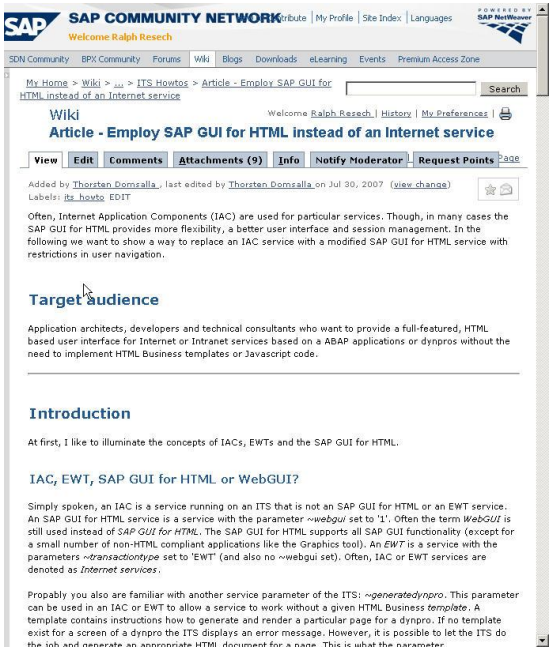
For details please check note 325616 or the Platform Availability Matrix: http://service.sap.com/pam

New in SAP GUI for HTML

Functional enhancements in latest support packages for SAP NetWeaver 7.0

- Search Help based on AJAX technology
- Colorization of ALV grid elements enhanced
- Toolbar can be switched from text to icon view
- Mouse wheel support enhanced
- Date picker in calendar control
- Improved resizing capabilities
- Customizing of title area (see ITS Wiki in SDN for details)
- Document viewer selection is now based on OS settings
- Full support of the context menu
- Clipboard import and export from ABAP
- Improved keyboard support (CTRL-F for search, CTRL-G for continue search, CTRL-P for printing)





Limitations of The SAP GUI for HTML

Because of the technical attributes of HTML or the Web Browser, the use of SAP GUI for HTML is somewhat restricted as compared to the use of a GUI, which works on operating system level.

- Drag and Drop does not work
- The controlling of an OLE automation server is not possible
- Keyboard navigation is limited as known from other web applications
- Office integration is view only
- It does not support multiple sessions. If you need multiple sessions you have to do multiple logins.
- To see if a transaction is supported for use with SAP GUI for HTML check in transaction SE93
- Anyway most of the transactions work perfectly

For detailed information see note 314568

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Choosing the right GUI

There are three different GUI for different purposes. Not every GUI is the right for every use case. This list shall give you some examples how to select the right one.

- User working only rarely in the SAP system
  - If your company has many users like this the use of SAP GUI for HTML is an option for you to save effort and money for client deployment
- User working most of the day in the SAP system
  - Power users are usually better off with an installed GUI like the SAP GUI for Windows or the SAP GUI for Java
- ABAP developers
  - For ABAP development you should use the SAP GUI for Windows
- Users using non Microsoft operating systems
  - For those users you can choose between SAP GUI for Java and HTML or consider to use the SAP GUI for Windows on a Terminal Server
- Integrating Dynpro transactions to the Portal
  - With the SAP GUI for HTML you are able to seamlessly integrate classic dynpro based applications into the Enterprise Portal

Choosing The Right GUI (2)

“One size fits all” approach usually does not work

- If you have several operating systems
- If your users have highly different levels of experience
- If some users need features not covered by all GUIs
- If you have difficulties rolling out client installations
- If you want to run applications introducing their own visual design like SRM
- …

A better approach is to divide your users into groups with similar demands or experience levels and define the right GUI for each group.

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Summary

- There is more than one way to access your SAP system
- To find out which way is the right one for you, you have to evaluate your demands and your infrastructure
- If you upgrade your SAP system take a minute to think about an upgrade of your GUI

Further Information

SAP Public Web:

SAP Developer Network (SDN): www.sdn.sap.com

Forums in SDN:

- SAP GUI (Windows und Java) Forum
- Internet Transaction Server (ITS) Forum

Wiki in SDN:

- Wiki – Internet Transaction Server

Business Process Expert (BPX) Community: www.bpx.sap.com

SAP GUI Family on sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/sap-gui

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