



Roadmap: From MDMP to mySAP ERP 2005

Plan the migration to mySAP ERP 2005 - Unicode at your own pace

Today, a lot of SAP customers running MDMP (combination of code pages / languages within ERP systems) are planning to upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005.

Since mySAP ERP 2005 does no longer fully support MDMP, the Unicode conversion will be part of the upgrade project.

Customer Needs

Customers planning to upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005 finally need to convert their existing systems to Unicode, if MDMP has been used before. These projects always include two steps: The upgrade to the target release and the Unicode conversion of the ERP system.

Existing installations of SAP R/3 Enterprise or my SAP ERP 2004 can be converted to Unicode prior to the upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005, resulting in two separate procedures, whereas customers running SAP R/3 4.6 (or below) ideally will execute these steps in one project.

This roadmap will describe SAP's comprehensive offerings for both situations in detail, so that customers can plan their migration path accordingly and at their own pace.

The Challenge of MDMP -> mySAP ERP 2005 Unicode Conversions

The conversion of an ERP system running MDMP to Unicode consists of the following steps (for details please visit <http://service.sap.com/Unicode>):

- 1.) **Upgrade to an ERP release supporting Unicode**
(i.e. SAP R/3 Enterprise or higher)
- 2.) **Database Pre-Analysis**
(necessary, because MDMP systems contain data generated by different codepages - and tables without language key do not provide the codepage information needed for the Unicode conversion)
- 3.) **Unicode conversion**, including database unload / reload with system downtime

Customers operating SAP R/3 Enterprise or higher may perform step 2.) and 3.) - long - before upgrading to mySAP ERP 2005, so that the overall project can easily be split in two clearly separated parts, if needed. **Therefore these conversions are not considered as (time-) critical at all.**

Normally, systems with release level <= **4.6** must execute step 1.), 2.) and 3.) consecutively, because:

- Releases <= 4.6 do not offer the tools for MDMP – database pre-analysis (exception: 4.6c/d and R/3 Enterprise, see “One Step” – Conversion within next chapter)
- Since the productive usage of mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP is not fully supported, customers may face reduced functionality and therefore have to sign a corresponding Disclaimer (see corresponding chapter) for the potential productive period between 1.) (i.e. upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP!) and the conversion to Unicode.

For ERP systems with large databases and/or low downtime requirements, it may not be possible to run steps 1.) to 3.) consecutively (e.g. within one weekend). The next chapter will discuss SAP’s offerings to improve this situation and will describe other options for a smooth migration path.

SAP R/3 MDMP (Release <= 4.6) -> mySAP ERP 2005 Unicode: Optimized Conversions

I. “One Step” – Conversion

This procedure is available for SAP R/3 release 4.6c/d and R/3 Enterprise only (at the moment via a pilot project) and allows to perform the MDMP – database pre-analysis directly on the 4.6c/d – system, resulting in (down-)time reduction for the overall project (see SAP Note 830502).

II. Minimum Downtime Tools

It is possible to export large tables in parallel during the Unicode conversion (after splitting them into fragments). This tool (“table splitter”) is available via a pilot project and strongly reduces the downtime (See <http://service.sap.com/systemcopy>).

If even higher downtime requirements are faced, the “Incremental Migration (IMIG)” is possible (pilot project, but not feasible for the “One Step” - Conversion): 90 % of the database is converted in background, so that only the remaining part is relevant during the final conversion. Even large databases may be converted in hours instead of days.

SAP R/3 MDMP (Release <= 4.6) -> mySAP ERP 2005 Unicode: Separated Upgrade and Conversion

If the project still requires two separated steps, i.e. upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005 **and** later Unicode conversion, a short (!) period of running the productive mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP may be necessary.

To do so, one has to be aware of the following:

- Customers have to check, whether they will be using functionality that is not compatible with MDMP any longer and must strictly avoid this usage (otherwise data corruption will be possible); SAP Note 896144 has the details.
- A corresponding Disclaimer (see corresponding chapter) must be signed to underline the temporary operation of the productive MDMP system as well as the awareness of potential risks due to MDMP.
- The transitional period of running the productive mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP normally should be restricted to 10-12 weeks. Complex projects (e.g. with IMIG) may justify exceptions to this recommendation.

Benefit from SAP Skills and Experience: SAP Consulting and SAP Upgrade Services will provide full coverage of your Unicode Upgrade Project Demands

SAP provides dedicated **Upgrade Services** (see <http://service.sap.com/Upgradeservices>) for the evaluation, planning or execution of an upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005. Customers can tailor these services to their specific needs in line with the customer's upgrade experience and the complexity of the upgrade project. SAP recommends participating in the **SAP Safeguarding for Upgrade Program** that can be ordered as part of SAP Standard Support via the SAP Going Live Functional Upgrade Check at SAP Service Catalog.

SAP Consulting: Experienced resources with special Unicode expertise are ready to be on-site in order to cover the specific tasks during

the Unicode conversion (please contact your local SAP Consulting Office or globalization@sap.com).

Combined offering by SAP Consulting & SAP Upgrade Services: SAP is currently compiling a unique package bundling all necessary and combined steps to perform the upgrade to mySAP ERP 2005 including the MDMP – Unicode conversion (expected for Q1/2006).

Open questions?

If you still have questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact SAP Globalization Services at globalization@sap.com, the Solution Management will be happy to advise you on your questions and may also offer a (free) confcall, so that nothing will be left unclear.

Temporary Productive Usage of mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP - Signing of the Disclaimer

Since mySAP ERP 2005 partly provides functionality that is not compatible with MDMP any longer (see SAP Note 896144), SAP does not guarantee for data loss due to usage of this specific functionality within mySAP ERP 2005.

Customers therefore will have to sign the related Disclaimer to agree on this condition:



Disclaimer_MDMP.pdf

This does not mean that SAP will not support customers (e.g. OSS messages in case of bugs etc.) during the temporary productive usage of mySAP ERP 2005 with MDMP!

In the very unlikely case of failures due to usage of MDMP related functionality that has not been listed within SAP Note 896144, workarounds may be needed (early involvement of SAP Consulting or SAP Development is highly recommended - not free of charge).