WBSCM Update

Providing nutritious food through a seamless, efficient, Web Based Supply Chain

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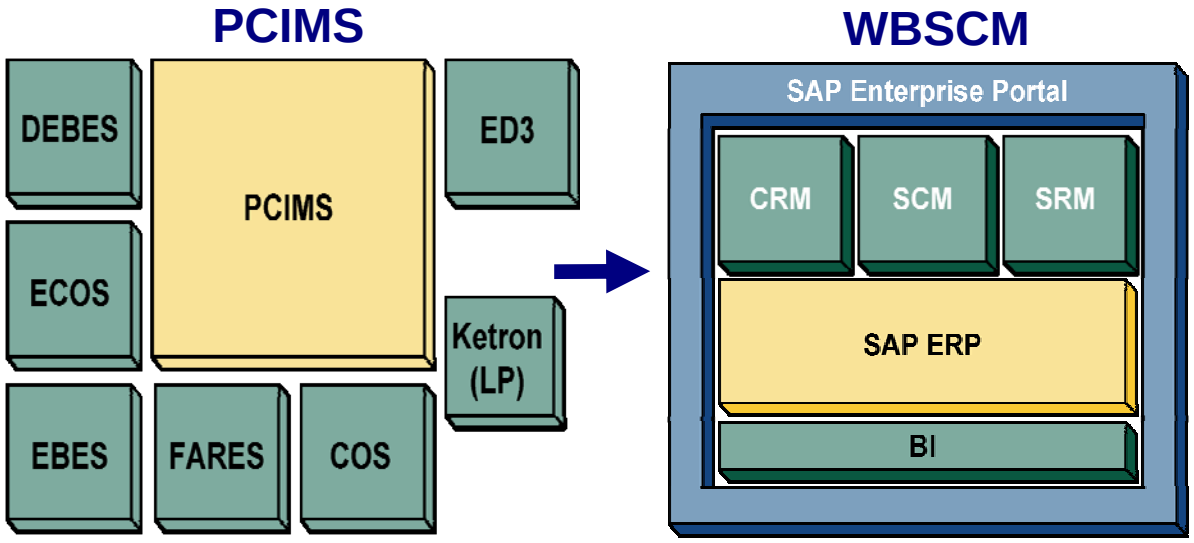
What's Inside:

Design Goal

From the onset of the WBSCM program in November 2006 to now, the WBSCM Team (USDA and SRA Team collectively) continues to work toward a shared vision of building a world-class integrated, scalable, flexible, modern Web Based Supply Chain Management System. This system will increase collaboration, efficiency, and improve service to customers, suppliers and business partners. It will provide innovative forecasting and planning and situational awareness at all points of the supply chain, and the ability to respond to changes quickly.

With the WBSCM vision in mind, the shared goal is to provide **one system** with a **common database** and **design** and common processes across all agencies**.** The design goal supports the transition from multiple database systems (PCIMS and its satellite systems) to one system with a common database and design (the SAP WBSCM Solution) across all agencies accessible via a web portal (see Figure 1 below). The shared design goal also takes into account leveraging as much SAP COTS ERP system out-of-the-box (OOB) functionality as possible, since COTS ERP-based solutions incorporate commercial best practices in their fundamental designs.



Design Goal: One system with a **common database** and **design**

Figure 1. Transition from PCIMS to WBSCM

Transition: PCIMS to WBSCM

The transition from PCIMS and satellite systems to a common platform and design of one system (the SAP WBSCM solution) with common processes across all agencies does not only involve the physical software transition (retiring PCIMS and satellite systems and deploying the SAP WBSCM solution), it involves transitions in how the USDA will use the system in the daily work environment. With this common foundation in place, the WBSCM system will be easier to use. For example, in emergency situations, it will allow more people flexibility to react and provide a quicker response to a time-critical event by having documentation visibility and traceability at all points of the supply chain through SAP's integrated Document Flow process. Each operational activity (transaction) creates a document. These documents are linked automatically via Document Flow and integrated in the common WBSCM database as depicted in Figure 2 below. Documentation integration and traceability provides data integration and end-to-end business data visibility at all points of the supply chain.

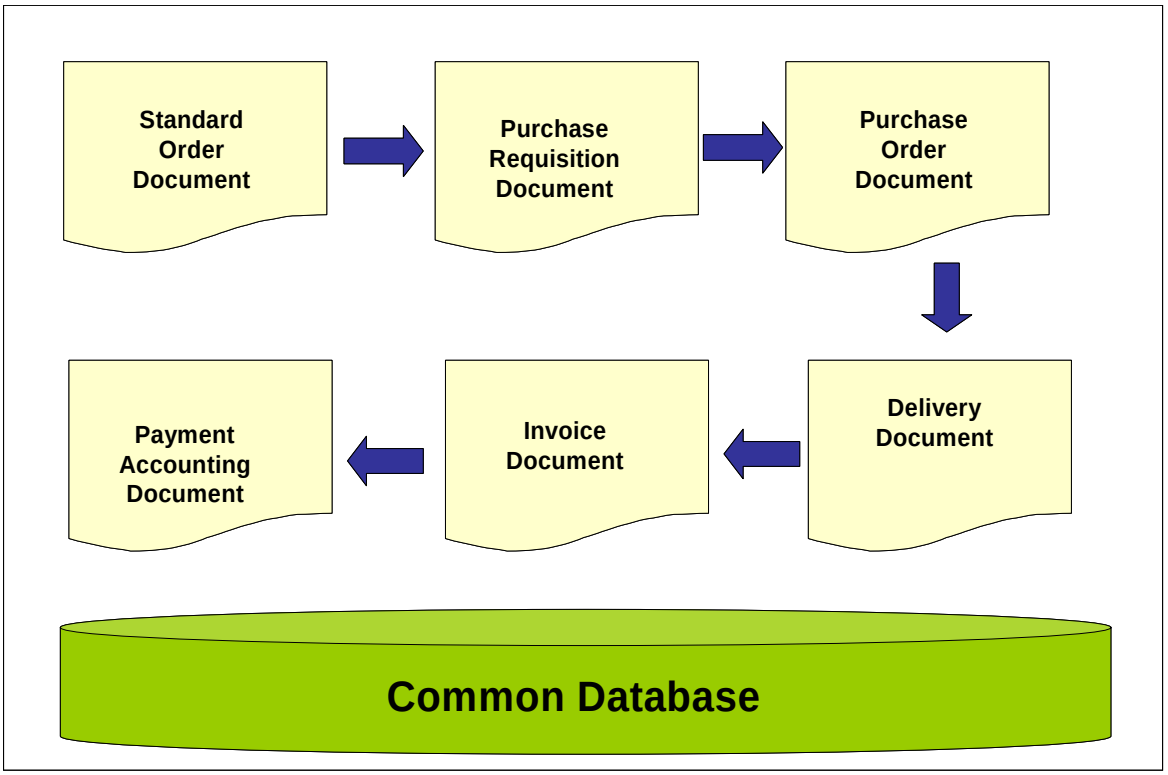


Figure 2. SAP Document Flow

Where are we in the transition process?

Currently, USDA Team members are participating in the design sessions and identifying common processes in the design scenarios which establish the common design foundation necessary for the build phase. Each of the SRA Team Leads across Planning, Procurement, Fulfillment, and Finance have identified a USDA point of contact (POC) to represent cross-agency design requirements with a focus on a common design.

Since most of the work performed so far has been reflected only in paper format (MS Word design documents, PowerPoint slides, etc.), it may be difficult to understand and visualize how this progress translates into what the WBSCM system will look like and how it will actually help us achieve the common goal.

Over the next few months during the ***design*** and ***build*** phases, the SRA Team will setup the SAP WBSCM environment to show the WBSCM system common functionality and screens. This will give the USDA Team an opportunity to see how their contributions are shaping the new WBSCM system.

Examples of some of the common functionalities that do not currently exist in PCIMS, but will be visible in the SAP implementation of WBSCM include the following:

- Single entry point for all WBSCM users with role specific authorization through the Portal
- Documents are linked and integrated in common database via Document Flow
- Master data are created once, maintained in one place, and shared across all applications
- Operational data are posted in real-time and in one common database
- Inventory valuation is updated real-time upon receipt of goods in the system

USDA's Evolving Role

The entire WBSCM Team has shown commitment and dedication to the success of the WBSCM program by playing very active and critical roles. These roles began in November of 2006 and will continue to evolve as we move from the Design phase to the Build phase and beyond. What is important to note, is that each USDA meeting participant on the WBSCM program will shape the final solution and will ultimately shape how daily business transactions are executed.

Highlights of some critical USDA contributions to date include:

- Validating the current PCIMS environment
- Defining and Validating business requirements
- Providing valuable data examples, standards, and reports
- Validating common processes in design scenarios
- Facilitating cross-agency participation and discussions

The USDA team role will continue to evolve and remain critical to ensure continued success and progress as the WBSCM project moves into the Build phase, Test Phase, and Deployment (Go-Live) phase.

Education Activities

We recognize that making the transition from PCIMS to WBSCM successful for all the USDA participants involves more than participating in working sessions with the functional and technical teams. Understanding the common system functionality of the SAP WBSCM solution will be made possible through education and training activities.

The SRA Team will continue to work with the USDA Team members to identify various types of training and education activities to facilitate a successful transition to WBSCM.

Contact Us

Please email all WBSCM questions or suggestions to us directly:

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