

# ACL Direct Link™



*Direct Link™* for SAP® ERP helps solve your SAP ERP data access challenges by enabling direct and seamless access to your SAP ERP data. *Direct Link* is certified for integration with the SAP ERP application. Gain independence and flexibility by selecting and extracting the SAP ERP data you need, when you need it, while minimizing your reliance on busy IT resources.

*Direct Link* adds SAP ERP data selection and extraction capabilities to the data access, analysis, and reporting capabilities of *ACL* to provide a comprehensive solution to help you analyze your SAP data. The result is unprecedented independence and control, increased productivity and effectiveness, increased reliability and faster, more comprehensive data analysis to support your audit and analysis activities.

## Direct, Seamless Access

Gain independence from IT resources and conduct your audits more quickly and efficiently. With *Direct Link* you can access your SAP ERP data and retrieve records in a quick and secure manner. Table and field descriptions are displayed in the language selected when logging on to the SAP system. Select all the data you need and extract it when you need it to achieve increased productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness.

## Automatic Formatting

Save time and improve productivity by eliminating the need to define and prepare data after it is extracted. During the retrieval process, *Direct Link* formats SAP data for use within *ACL*. The data does not require any additional data conversion or formatting before you can analyze it.

## Data Integrity

The ability to directly access SAP data helps maintain the independence of your audits and frees you from IT resource constraints. *Direct Link* interactively creates read-only queries to extract SAP data for subsequent analysis using *ACL*. This ensures that production data cannot be altered and that data integrity is always maintained.

## Automation

Accelerate routine data analysis procedures by incorporating *Direct Link* SAP ERP data retrieval into *ACL* scripts. This comprehensive automation introduces a new level of efficiency and simplifies audit and analysis by packaging the entire process into a single script to save time and increase productivity. *Direct Link* queries and *ACL* Scripts are portable between SAP systems so you are able to re-use your work from one location to the next.

## System Security

*Direct Link* and *ACL* feature read-only data access – source data is neither modified nor deleted. Access to SAP tables is determined by the user's SAP authorizations. As a result, data integrity is never compromised and SAP security is respected. Since *Direct Link* uses SAP security to determine access rights, security setup and maintenance activities are minimized.

## Multi-table Queries

Easily and efficiently join up to seven tables prior to extraction. With *Direct Link* you can bring together a variety of tables into a single view for increased visibility into your business transactions. You can also select individual fields and apply filters to obtain only the data you need.

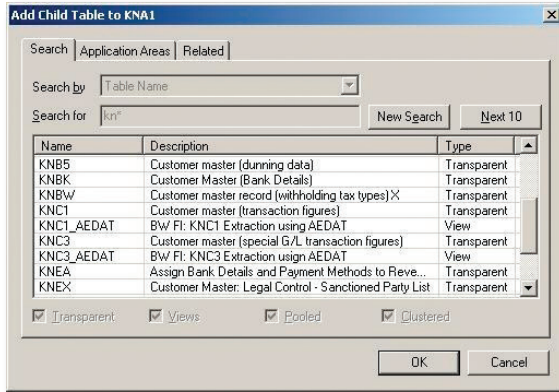
## Focused Queries

Reduce your extract size and minimize network traffic. Fine-tune the focus of your queries and reduce retrieval time by selecting only the fields you need. Filters further streamline queries so you can extract only the records of interest. *Direct Link* queries comprise *ABAP™* programs that contain Dynamic Open SQL statements.

“We have been using *Direct Link* for about a year and it allows us to access our SAP data quickly and efficiently. *Direct Link* provides the opportunity to access a vast population of data from the SAP tables, which effectively facilitates our audit testing procedures.”

**Bob Messmer**  
Audit Services Group Director  
Dow Corning Corporation





## Field-Level Table Searches

Quickly locate specific tables and fields by using powerful browsing and search tools. Direct Link, a robust interface to SAP ERP, includes a meta-data browser that allows you to search by table name and description or by SAP module. Drill down by application area or search through tables and fields by name or description.

## Flexible Query Extraction

Direct Link gives you the ability to execute queries on your SAP ERP system and extract the results. You can extract online or offline, depending on file size:

- Online extraction. For small data extracts, online extraction executes and downloads query results directly into ACL in a one-step process.
- Offline extraction. For larger data extracts, offline extraction can be done during non-peak processing hours, minimizing the impact to SAP system performance during high demand periods. Results are stored on the SAP system for retrieval at your convenience.

## SAP Table Types

Direct Link can access the following SAP table types: Cluster, Pooled, Transparent and Database View.

## Technical Specifications

- Non-Unicode SAP Systems:  
SAP R/3 Version 3.1H to 4.7 or SAP ECC Version 5.0 to 6.0

One or more PCs running ACL Desktop (Non-Unicode) Version 9.0.2 or higher

- Unicode SAP Systems:  
SAP ECC Version 5.0 to 6.0

One or more PCs running ACL Desktop (Unicode) Version 9.0 or higher

## Installation

Direct Link requires two installations: one for the SAP ERP system and one for the network or the workstation. A SAP Basis Administrator and Security Administrator must install the SAP ERP system component. Installation times vary between two and three hours. Complete step-by-step instructions are found in the User and Installation Guide and additional support is available.

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