## Crack Hard to Solve Issues with Debugging for Non-Programmers

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## **SAP**insider

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## **In This Session**

- What is a debugger?
- How can it help you?
- Simple scenario for use
- How to use without a programmer

## Rohana Gunawardena

- Rohana Gunawardena heads the SAP practice division at Exium Inc.
- Rohana has been working with SAP since 1992
- Rohana is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.



## What We'll Cover

- Introduction
- Step-by-Step Guide
- Debugger Overview
- Where is the Config?
- Breakpoints
- Wrap-up





### Introduction

- Have you ever come across a mysterious SAP error message that you spent many hours setting up test scenarios and replicating only to find out the message and the actual cause of the error were two different things?
- I wanted to share with you a tool that will get you to the root cause of the error message quickly and reveal the configuration table which causes the error.





- When trouble shooting configuration often the SAP system does not behave the way documentation says it should
- Error messages say something but its inconsistent with your expectation
- You can spend several days looking at issues like this, researching SAP Notes, Googling, asking colleagues, etc. and not get anywhere
- SAP behavior follows the code not the documentation
  - In the end you need to look at the code to see what SAP is really doing



- It is a tool that lest you see the SAP code as the transaction is running
- See exactly how SAP processes the code
- See exactly which tables SAP looks at for configuration



## Step-by-Step Guide



### **Scenario**

• Let's look at an error message in SAP

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- Double click on the error message to get the message code FS215
  - Message ID & message number



 Enter /H in the OK code field to start debugging mode

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- Proceed with transaction, e.g. press
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• ABAP Debugger will open up

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 I have expanded my screen yours may look different

### • Select breakpoint at message option

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### • Enter the message code you identified earlier

- FS215 last three digits are always the number, the ID can be 2 or more characters
  - e.g. 107\_CUST002 is also a valid error message ID & number

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• Press continue (F8) in the debugger tool bar

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- Debugger will proceed to where the error message is issued in the code
- Here you can see the key configuration table is T007A
- Depending on your situation the key table maybe in a slightly different position or you may see code which is not meaningful to you
  - You may need technical help





## Debugger Overview

### **Debugger Windows**

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### **Code Window**

- Shows processing in the code
- In the header area shows main program, include and section of code
  - Form, function, method, etc.
- Even if you don't read code seeing the reference to table TOO7A will help you investigate the issue

ABAP Debugger(1) (Exclusive)(ehp8ides\_EH8\_02)

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	391		DATA: e_msgty LIKE t100c-msgts.	"N1389649			
	392		*				
	393	Ę	CASE xsako-mwskz.				
	394	ģ	WHEN '+ '.				
	395	Ę	IF t007a-mwart NE 'A'.				
	396		* begin of note 1389649				
	397		CALL FUNCTION 'READ_CUSTOMIZED_MESSAGE'				
	398		EXPORTING				
	399		i_arbgb = 'FS'				
	400		i_dtype = 'E'				
	401		i_msgnr = '215'				
	402		IMPORTING				
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	405	Ę	IF e_msgty = 'E'.				
	406		* end of note 1389649				
⇒	407		MESSAGE e215(fs) WITH i_hkont i_bukrs i_mwskz				
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	409		* begin of note 1389649				
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	411		MESSAGE ID 'FS'				
	412		TYPE e_msgty				
	413		NUMBER '215'				
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### **Call Stack**

- Shows the sequence of transaction codes, programs, functions, forms, etc. followed to get to the current code
- For most functional people will not make sense
- OK to ignore this screen



### Variables

- Allows you to see the value of variables in the code, e.g. T007A-MWART = V
- Useful to get additional information
- Double click on variable in code window to make it appear in the variables window
  - Also can manually type in a variable name



### **Desktops**

### • There are 4 desktops 1, 2, 3 & Standard

ABAP Debugger(1) (Exclusive	)(ehp8ides_EH8_02)
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### **Security**

Authorizations by Complex Selection Criteria
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□ DEVCLASS <fld> Package □ OBJNAME <fld> Object name □ OBJTYPE <fld> Object Type</fld></fld></fld>
DEBUG
P_GROUP <fld> ABAP Program Authorization Group</fld>

- You will need security authorization for debug access
- Policy on access will vary by company and by system (Dev, QA, Prod)



### **Features**

- There are many debugger features
  - You don't need to know them all to get value from the debugger
- In this session want to keep things simple and just focus on what you need to get started
- Don't want to scare you off with too much detail



# Where is the Config?





### **Display Raw Data**

- Once you have a table name like TOO7A what do you do?
- Can look at raw data using SE16, SE16H, SE16N or SE17

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### **Find IMG Location**

### • Enter table name in SM30 and press customizing

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 Note the table name you find in the debugger may not be the view name used in SM30, use the Find Maintenance Dialog button to see the correct name to use.
 The maintenance dialog for T007A is incomplete or not defined

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## **Breakpoints**



## What are Breakpoints?

- A breakpoint is a specific place in the SAP code you ask the system to stop and open the debugger
- If you are working on a specific enhancement spot or other custom code and you know where it is you can set a breakpoint to look at the code and variable values
- Seeing variable values at run time can be very helpful



### **Set Breakpoint**

- Transaction SE38
- Click in right hand grey column to set break point at line
- Note must be executable code, not comments, etc.





Sample code is a custom validation/substitution rule routine

### **Run Transaction**

- Run the transaction, in this case FB01
- When the transaction gets to the breakpoint there is a message and a new window with the debugger will appear
- Even if it does not open it can be meaningful
  - e.g. now know substitution prerequisite is not met

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### Debugger

- Debugger will open at the breakpoint
- You can look at variable values

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### **Debugger Step**

- Press the single step button (F5) to process code one-line at a time to see values selected
- Here can see select statement is completed and display value from table ZZPRCTR

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## Wrap Up

### Where to Find More Information - SAP Help



### <u>https://help.sap.com/doc/saphelp\_nw75/7.5.5/en-</u> US/a4/19aa9c58c2473bb4e3ae3c2a00b7b8/frameset.htm

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✓ ABAP Test and Analysis Tools	AP Debugger®					
ABAP Test and Analysis Tools The ABA	P Debugger is an integrated test tool within the ABAP Workbench with which you can stop running program und					
Extended Program Check then exe then for the for	then execute them line-by-line or section-by-section. With this tool, you can display contents of data objects and check					
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> ABAP Unit Debug	Note that the (old) Classic ABAP Debugger has been declared as obsolete. We recommend using the Standard ABAP Debugger. Therefore it is not possible any more to set the Classic ABAP Debugger as default Debugger using the Workbench settings. If you still like to use the Classic ABAP Debugger, then click the info button on the debugging settings screep for more information. To access these settings follow the many path. It littings Settings & ABAP					
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> Runtime Analysis						
> Performance Analysis						
Dynpro Trace						
✓ ABAP Debugger						
Standard ABAP Debugger						
Classic ABAP Debugger						

#### <u>https://wiki.scn.sap.com/wiki/display/HOME/IDES</u> \* https://launchpad.support.sap.com/#/notes/799639

• SAP system with sample transactions and configuration

IDES – Internet Demonstration and Evaluation System

Website and note explains how to get an IDES system

	SAP Community	Welcome, Guest	Login Registe	er Search the Community	e Q
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IDES					
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IDES					
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\* Requires login credentials to the SAP Service Marketplace



### Where to Find **More Information - IDES**

•





- Gaurav Agarwal, "Tips for Debugging ABAP for Functional Teams" (SAPinsider).
  - <u>https://sapinsider.org/tips-for-debugging-abap-for-functional-teams/</u>



- Rohana Gunawardena, "Discover Hidden Parameter IDs to Simplify Your FI Settings" (Financials Expert, October 2003).
  - <u>https://www.sapinsideronline.com/articles/discover-hidden-parameter-ids-to-simplify-your-fi-settings/</u>
- Rohana Gunawardena, "Update Was Terminated: What Every FI/CO User Should Know About This Error Message" (Financials Expert, February 2002).
  - <u>https://sapinsider.org/Update-Was-Terminated-What-Every-FI-CO-User-Should-Know-About-This-Error-Message/</u>

### Where to Find More Information – SAP Press



Learn to Debug ABAP Programs



- Nachiket Chavan, Learn to Debug ABAP Programs: Debugging for Functional Consultant (Amazon Kindle).
  - Debugging in more detail



- Ken Greenwood, SAMS Teach Yourself ABAP/4 in 21 Days (SAMS 1998).
  - Learn ABAP basics

## Key Points to Take Home

- SAP behavior is based on the code not documentation or SAP Notes
  - Need to look at the code to see what is occurring
- Often SAP error messages are unclear
  - Need to look at code to find the root cause
- Debugging can be used by functional analysts
  - A small sub-set of skills can be very powerful
- For more complex scenarios you will need technical help
  - Not all scenarios follow the simple examples I have provided



## Key Points to Take Home

- As long as you don't have change variable access in production you can't break anything
  - Debugging seems dangerous, but in reality you can not break anything
- Do need appropriate security roles to access debugger
  - Usually provided to functional analysts
- This presentation touches the tip of the iceberg
  - There is a lot more to debugging and coding, but you don't need to know it all to get value



## **Thank you! Any Questions?**

- Rohana Gunawardena
- Exium Inc.
- Rohana@Exium.com

Please remember to complete your session evaluation.

# SAPinsider

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