Optimize SAP Licensing by Using Workflows

Description

Saving money on SAP licenses requires having the right license metric for specific users. Wouldnâ??t it be better if this is done in a proactive manner rather than reconciling authorizations at the end of a period ? Without minimizing the importance of the latter process, given below is an excellent process that can be followed by instituting a â??user creation workflow processâ??.   *â?? Sheshagiri Anegondi (Sheshu)*

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Say the word â??workflowâ?• and most people would probably think you mean a step-by-step process that involves logistics processes or financial modules. Wellâ?¦ this is mostly true, but what about a workflow process for SAP licensing? From our experience, using a workflow here could lead to very interesting and surprising cost saving situations.

Letâ??s see an example of a common user creation process in SAP:

[Event:] New employee is created in HR -> [Step] Create user account in ERP -> [Step] Email/SMS employee with the new password

And improve it to be:

*[Event:] New employee is created in HR -> [Step] Create user account in ERP -> **[Step] Allocate suitable SAP license type** -> [Step] Email/SMS employee with the new password*

The first process is the common process, although many times the steps are done manually and not automatically. Converting them to an automatic workflow makes the process much quicker and more efficient, but this is not the focus of this blog.

The second workflow includes the important step: **Allocate suitable SAP license type**. Whatâ??s so unique in this step? One could claim that allocating licenses to user accounts can be done after the user account has been created or even much later and it doesnâ??t need to bottleneck the process. Well, this has been proven wrong from an SAP licensing optimization point of view.

Setting the SAP License Immediately at User Creation

Xpandion discovered that when organizations set the suitable SAP license type during the account creation they gain a clearer licensing structure and go through less hassle to optimize licenses later. If someone puts some thought into setting the right license type at the moment of creation, the reclassification process will also be quicker later.

Letâ??s take it one step further: If you give the department manager the ability to set the most suitable license types because he needs to pay for them out of his own budget â?? you will discover that heâ??ll think twice before choosing a â??professionalâ?• license, which is the most expensive license type. Instead, he will check very carefully what this employee should be doing and in many cases will adjust the job according to the license type that he wants to pay for. Some may say that this is not the optimal situation, but from a licensing point of view, it is a clear way to save. By the way, trying to do the same thing later (i.e. change an employeeâ??s scope of work from â??professionalâ?• tasks to â??employeeâ?• tasks) will be faced with resistance.

Setting the License Type While Changing a Position

Workflow processes are also great for events when employees change positions. Instead of just letting employees change positions in the HR system, set a workflow:

[Event:] Employee change position in HR -> [Step] Allocate suitable license type

This will ensure that someone checks the employeeâ??s license in every event of changing a position. This is super important because many times people change their position to one that doesnâ??t require an SAP user account at all, or only requires self-service tasks, which eliminates the need to use expensive license types. Re-inspecting the current SAP license and checking if it is still relevant increases the chances of accurate licensing.

Free up the SAP License When an Employee Leaves

Why not free up some licenses when employees leave the organization? Same as above, you should trigger a simple workflow following the event of â??Employee Leaveâ?• and youâ??re done:

[Event:] Employee is terminated in HR system -> [Step] Lock/Delete user account in ERP -> [Step] Free up old license and return to pool

Weâ??ve seen here how setting the suitable SAP license type during account creation and implementing workflows for event changes can highly optimize SAP licensing. These simple steps can save thousands upon thousands of dollars due to the possibility of licensing reallocation.

https://rythium.com/optimize-sap-licensing-using-workflows/

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You might want to read more about our CEO Sheshagiri Anegondi (Sheshu). He is amongst the foremost Oracle License Experts globally.

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