



# "Walk the Line" between Shared and Divisional AP

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#### Introduction

 The Sherwin-Williams Company is a world leader in the manufacture, development, distribution and sale of coatings and related products to professional, industrial, commercial and retail customers









# **History of the Project**

- FACTS (Financial Analysis, Control & Tracking System) project
- Phase 2 includes AP module, 11.5.10
- Challenge of the AP team was to change over from independent divisions to a shared environment









# **History of the Project**

- 5 core AP team members plus 2 consultants
- 9 month project
- Approximate yearly AP spend of \$3 billion+ for US and CAN
- Approximately 2.5 million invoices yearly, 400,000 payments









- The "Ones"
  - 1. One Vendor Master
  - 2. One Set of Payment Terms
  - 3. One Operating Unit (One for US and One for Canada)
  - 4. One Check Run by Legal Entity
  - 5. One Closing Schedule









- Additional "Ones"
  - 1. One Vendor Master Maintenance Team
  - 2. One Check Processing Team
  - 3. One consolidated Cash forecast
  - 4. Centralized phone number on all checks.
  - 5. One PO Box for returned checks.









- Vendor spend analysis
- Consolidation of vendor's invoices within a legal entity into one payment
- Reduced debit balances
- Consolidated bank accounts
- Reduced cost of check stock, envelopes, postage.
- Consolidated bank reconciliation
- Simplified Minority Reporting
- Better control over duplicate payments









- Reduction of 50+ "pay entities" across multiple systems
- Over 75,000 vendor sites reduced by about half during conversion to Oracle
- Control remained for different check stock and logos based on legal entities









# Plan for Implementation

- Oracle system has just one operating unit per set of books
- Certain tax legal entities would have to be supported by separate bank accounts and check stock
- Some divisional autonomy would continue to be supported by a variety of organizational and system techniques









# Organizational Techniques

- Centralized Vendor Master Maintenance team
- 27 source system feeds needed strict naming standards and programming rules for data import
- Standardized weekly pay schedule









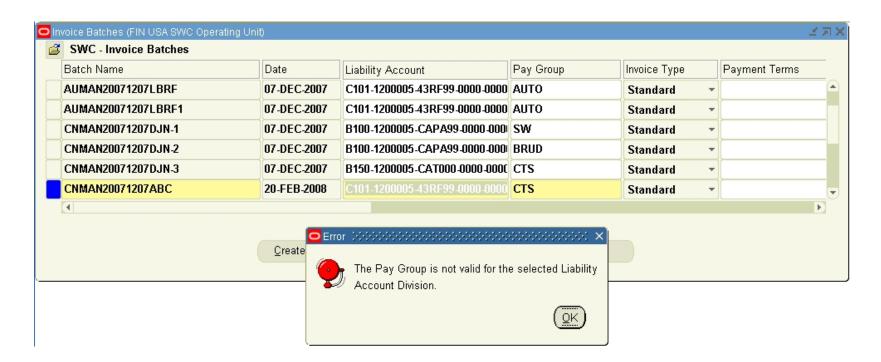
- Invoice batch naming standard and liability account validation
- Performed by Forms Personalizations and custom PL/SQL











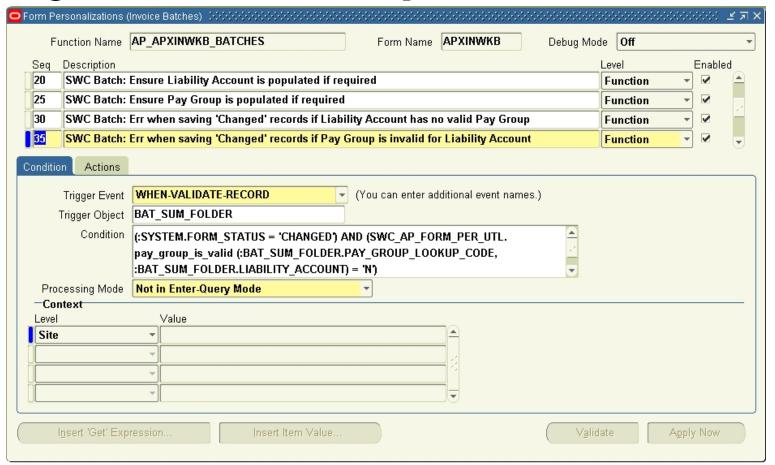
**Invoice Batch data validation** 











**Forms Personalization setups** 









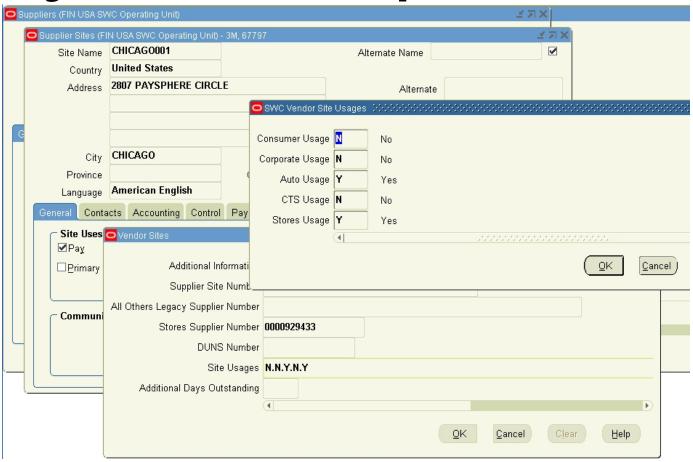
- Custom KFF to help manage which divisions use shared vendor sites
- Custom Vendor Inquiry form developed to ease transition from legacy vendor numbering











**Vendor Site DFF** 









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**Custom Vendor Inquiry form** 









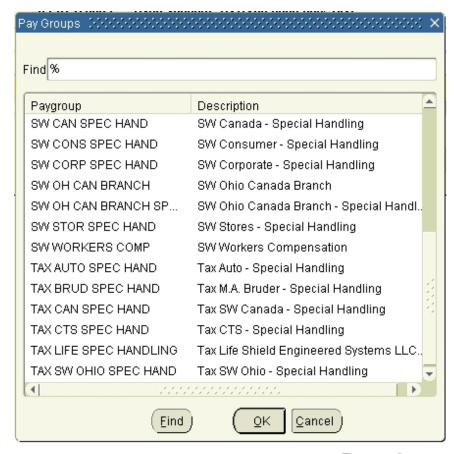
- Lengthy list of Pay Groups that were used for payment scheduling.
- Pay Group names triggered processing logic in the shared check printing group











**Pay Group list** 









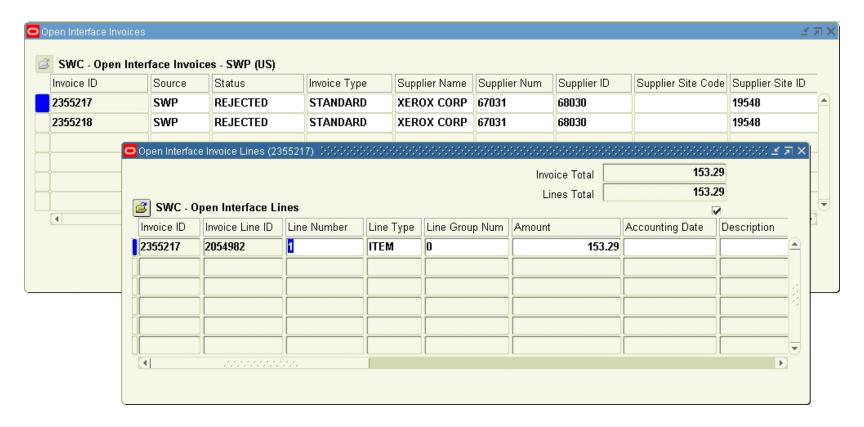
- Folders used to restrict data access based on divisional requirements
- Folders created with Query criteria included, some users could not modify the folder definitions











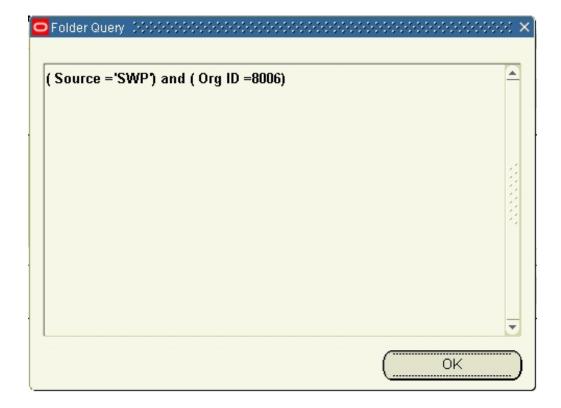
**Custom Folders on Invoice Open Interface form** 











Folder query definition









#### **Lessons Learned**

- FACTS team included Divisional personnel (from all levels) early on
- Strong, experienced AP Functional team members and AP business analysts
- Important decisions were discussed with all divisions represented and the team came to a consensus









#### Conclusion

- We hope you learned from our experiences
- Questions are welcome



