

Cooper Standard automates SAP System Copies with Tool BlueSystemCopy

Speed up

Cooper Standard, which has operations worldwide, attains clearly demonstrable benefits in producing SAP system copies, by using the automation tool BlueSystemCopy from Empirius. Above all, there is a dramatic reduction in the time required, as well as a very substantial impact in minimizing manual tasks/activities.

Cooper Standard is a leading global automotive supplier, with its headquarters in Novi (Michigan), USA, and it maintains numerous subsidiary operations around the globe. Cooper Standard produces (integrated) solutions in the areas of body sealing, fuel and brake delivery systems, emissions-management technologies, as well as anti-vibration systems. Practically

all well-known automotive manufacturers are part of the client base of this renowned automotive specialist, which has more than 19,000 staff worldwide and achieved a turnover of over 2.4 billion US dollars in 2010.





Cooper Standard headquarters in Novi, Michigan: When a SAP Copy is needed, with BlueSystemCopy in one day it is available instead of several days.

At Cooper Standard, the IT infrastructure is based on several components and constitutes an important reinforcing element to the firm's business. To support relevant core business processes, SAP has been in operation for around three years - specifically SAP ERP ECC 6.0 and SAP Netweaver BI (Business Warehouse). These solutions are used company-wide, that is to say worldwide. Similarly, there are IT centers in operation at worldwide sites, all closely networked with one another. In total, there are around 5,000 SAP users. For the

most part, the SAP IT infrastructure is based on IBM pSeries systems (AIX and DB2 9.7). The storage systems come from Netapp.

An obligatory task right from the start

„In practical terms, it was right from the very first use of the SAP systems that there was a need to produce SAP system copies. Yet it was quickly obvious that the standard procedure involved a huge amount of manual operations. It was unacceptable to us that the process of making a copy

demanded one whole day or one and a half days“, reports Brendan Haines, SAP Basis Administrator, of Cooper Standard's IT team.

It was against this background that the Cooper Standard IT team examined the market's options for a suitable solution, evaluated various products for making an SAP system copy, and selected the BlueSystemCopy from Empirius. With this tool: a SAP system copy is carried out on a highly automated basis--it also only requires around four hours in all (instead of one or one and a half days); furthermore, manual operations are reduced to a minimum.



The sequence of operations for creating SAP system copies for Cooper Standard proceeds as one imagines that it should: simple, fast and highly effective.

Important Requirements are Fulfilled

In selecting a suitable automation solution, there were several factors in Cooper Standard’s list of requirements, the solution: had to provide broad-ranging functions for the copying of the system, had to ensure a high degree of ease of use, had to guarantee a sustained reduction in time needed for producing system copies; and lastly, had to support the existing SAP IT infrastructure.

This meant supporting the IBM pSeries, the operating-system platform (AIX 6.1), and the database management system DB2 (9.7). In addition, it meant supporting the Netapp storage systems, including their popular Snapshot technology. Haines observed, „It was critical to us that BlueSystemCopy integrated with NetApp. BlueSystemCopy is capable of using Snapshots to perform the refreshes, so it scored some points here.“ „In the end, this was fundamental in the decision that favored the Empirius solution. They were also willing to give us an on-site proof-of-concept which proved its ease-of-use and high performance.“



“ Using BlueSystemCopy, we can make SAP system copies in just a few hours, instead of days. In addition, manual handling has been reduced to a minimum, thanks to the high-performance automation tool from Empirius. ”

Brandan Haines, SAP Lead Basis,
IT Department, Cooper Standard.

Ease of use brings advantages

The implementation of BlueSystemCopy at Cooper Standard was completed rapidly and without problems. The implementation process for the Empirius automation solution lasted barely more than one day, including familiarization of personnel with the software and training. After this, several test copies were produced. The quality of the copies was also

checked. All this was done with an Empirius consultant involved. As Haines explained, „In fact, we had imagined that the implementation, product familiarization and first use would be more difficult. It really did strike us how simply, quickly and smoothly the process was completed.“ From his perspective, the GUI used with BlueSystemCopy was easy to understand, easy to manage, and easy to install/configure.



Each month the SAP Basis team produces four to five SAP system copies with BlueSystemCopy, on behalf of the various Core Competence Centers at Cooper Standard. In fact, this is done from a variety of IT sites worldwide, including Auburn, Indiana, in the USA and Schelklingen, Germany (near Blaubeuren). Thusly, the international use of BlueSystemCopy functions smoothly.

It is all operations connected to the SAP system copies, as well as to the Empirius solution, which are administered, managed and supervised by this global team. In addition, Cooper Standard uses a SharePoint, for internal tracking and monitoring.

„Easy life“ with BlueSystemCopy

These days, Cooper Standard would not want to do without the BlueSystemCopy automation tool. After all, it makes life vastly easier for the SAP Basis team. „It’s hard thinking of the times before we had it“, Haines notes. „After all, before BlueSystemCopy, we had to work through a 30-page manual instruction list. After that, we had about another four hours of work for

Cooper Standard

- ✓ Company: Cooper Standard is a leading global automotive supplier, employing more than 21,000 staff worldwide; turnover (2010): 2.4 billion US dollars; www.cooperstandard.com
- ✓ IT environment: Broad-ranging worldwide IT landscape; SAP ERP ECC 6.0, SAP BI/BW; around 5,000 users. SAP IT infrastructure solutions by IBM (Server, DB2 database); storage by Netapp.
- ✓ Goal: Accelerated and highly-automated production of SAP system copies, taking into account the existing IT infrastructure.
- ✓ Solution: Using the BlueSystemCopy auto-mation solution, supported by IBM p-Series, AIX, DB2, as well as storage systems from Netapp.

follow-up tasks. Today, it’s kick off the refresh with BlueSystemCopy, and when it’s done, about 15 minutes of follow-up tasks.“

The overall conclusion drawn by Haines is: „With BlueSystemCopy we can produce SAP system copies in just a few hours, instead of days. The manual operations are also reduced to a minimum. BlueSystemCopy greatly improved our ability to provide services to our internal IT customers.“

Yet for the SAP Basis team there is one further aspect to this optimization. In working with colleagues requesting copies, a commitment can be given that a system copy will be produced in a period of around four hours; before BlueSystemCopy, this was not the case. For instance, if at lunchtime the BasisTeam gets a call, eMailor ticket instructing it to make a system copy, that request can typically be fulfilled the same day. Another benefit: since BlueSystemCopy is mostly a „hands-off“ tool, the personnel resources can perform other tasks while it runs.