

R/3® System

Interaction between the powerful SAP® applications and the innovative Microsoft Windows NT operating system in a client/server architecture

Windows NT

The R/3 System under Microsoft Windows NT

Platform for R/3

Windows NT is Microsoft's client/server operating system. It is characterized by outstanding reliability, user-friendliness, and a modern, modular and hardware-independent system design.

SAP has supported Windows NT since 1994 as an R/3 System platform. It can be used as a homogeneous environment for all levels of an R/3 installation.

You can choose between different types of client/server installations. Depending on your requirements, R/3 lends itself to installation as either a centralized system or a client/server system with three or more levels. For small and medium-sized installations, a good and cost-effective choice is R/3 in a centralized installation with distributed presentation. In this scenario, a central server running under Windows NT is responsible for both the database

and the application part of the R/3 software. The presentation layer on desktop computers also runs under Windows.

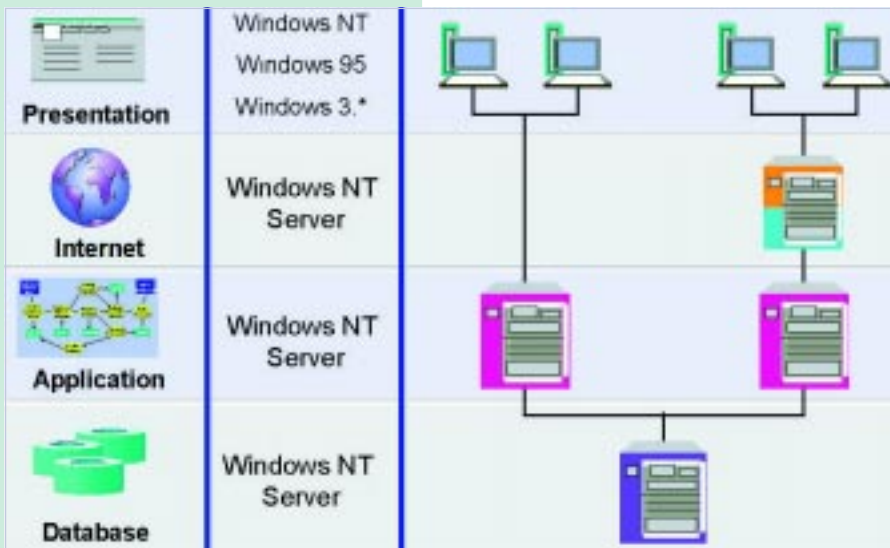
In medium-sized and large installations, which handle large data volumes, the management overhead must be minimized. A three-tier client/server solution is usually best in such cases, with a Windows NT server running the database. The R/3 applications run on several other Windows NT-based servers. This enables flexible system expansion to cope with growing loads while permitting optimum configuration of the dedicated application and database servers. Group-wide and global installations must meet even more demanding requirements, such as integration of existing structures or distribution of the system among multiple locations. To meet these needs, R/3 is usually installed as a cooperative client/server solution with distributed applications.

Why should you opt for R/3 on Windows NT?

Today Windows NT ranks among the most important platforms for the R/3 System.

The reasons for choosing a combination of R/3 and Windows NT include the following:

- Hardware independence:** Windows NT is characterized by a hardware-independent system design. SAP supports both Intel and Digital Alpha systems with R/3 running under Windows NT. Before we clear new hardware platforms for R/3 under Windows NT, they must pass a stringent certification procedure. Based on SAP's extremely demanding quality guidelines, this



procedure is designed to ensure not just technical suitability of hardware as a platform for R/3, but also that the vendor provides the requisite support and other services to customers. Over 18 hardware vendors now offer certified platforms for R/3 under Windows NT. Owing to the hardware-independent design of Windows NT, you can rely on always being able to flexibly install the best available hardware.

You can find the list of all certified platforms for R/3 on Windows NT at <http://www.r3onnt.com>

■ **Cost-effectiveness:**

Another argument in favor of Windows NT is its low administrative overhead. This is mainly due to the easy-to-use graphical interface. You can cut the work and effort involved even further by consistently deploying Windows operating systems throughout your R/3 System. The excellent price/performance of today's PC hardware also greatly helps. Microsoft offers attractive licensing conditions for Windows NT, and a wide range of trained specialists is available to support you.

■ **Security and flexibility:**

As of April 1998, over 5 000 R/3 installations have been implemented on the basis of Windows NT. And many of these installations have already gone live – in both small companies and multinational corporations. R/3 under Windows NT is an expandable platform that grows with your requirements. It lets you count on being able

to integrate the best possible hardware into your system when the time comes to expand. On the basis of close alliances with the leading companies in this sector, SAP will continue to ensure this in the future. Also of importance for the security of the R/3 System is Windows NT's cluster technology (code named Wolfpack). R/3 supports Microsoft's Cluster Server as the standard technology for high-availability solutions incorporating failover capabilities on Windows NT.

■ **Scalability:**

Scalability is a major factor to take into account when deciding which platform to choose for R/3. Windows NT lets you implement all types of R/3 installations, ranging from a single notebook all the way to distributed client/server systems. The PC industry also continues to make rapid advances and usher in increasingly powerful solutions, such as new processors. This translates directly into even greater scalability of R/3 under Windows NT. For example, the launch of Intel's Pentium Pro Processor led to a three-fold improvement of R/3's benchmark performance under Windows NT.

R/3 and Microsoft BackOffice

SAP and Microsoft are not only striving to optimally support and extend Windows NT as a platform for the R/3 System. They are also vigorously promoting the integration of R/3 and Microsoft BackOffice. This combination yields even simpler, more efficient solutions for you to take advantage of. The potential synergies are underscored by the fact that Microsoft has granted permission to SAP to use the Microsoft BackOffice logo for R/3.

Availability

R/3 offers the same business functionality under Windows NT as on other platforms. You can choose from among a range of supported database systems: Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, IBM DB2, and Informix Online. The SAP-certified hardware products include Intel-based systems from various vendors, as well as Alpha systems from Digital.

Technology and Service

The R/3 software is based on client/server architecture. It is designed as an open system that can be run on operating systems marketed by various vendors. However, SAP is not only a software provider: We also offer an extensive range of services and support centering around AcceleratedSAP (ASAP) – SAP's all-in-one solution for rapid implementation and ongoing optimization of R/3. The R/3 Service & Support program includes preventive system checks, data conversions, remote archiving and system upgrades. We provide expert organizational and technical consulting from the planning phase of your project right through to its execution, as well as in-depth training, and 24-hour support.

The quality management processes implemented for SAP development and SAP consulting in Germany comply with the international standard ISO 9001. SAP software is also the first packaged enterprise application software to receive "Ergonomics approved" certification for the international standards ISO 9241 and ISO 13407.

Interested? Then call or write us.