



# ABAP Objects: Introduction to Programming SAP Applications

By Horst Keller, Sascha Kruger

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The first book to comprehensively cover the new object-oriented generation of SAP's programming language ABAP. Officially-approved guide and reference to a core SAP topic

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## ABAP Objects: Introduction to Programming SAP Applications By Horst Keller, Sascha Kruger Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1294371 in Books
- Published on: 2002-06-24
- Original language: Spanish
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.40" h x 1.50" w x 7.40" l, 2.67 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 576 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### From the Back Cover

ABAP (Advanced Business Application Programming) is a powerful programming language created specifically for developing SAP applications. *ABAP Objects* is the new object-oriented generation of this language, designed to respond to the needs of SAP's future strategies and environments.

Written by two leading experts and approved by SAP's ABAP Language Group, *ABAP Objects* provides an in-depth and comprehensive introduction to SAP application programming for Release 4.6. The focus is on ABAP Objects, which is treated here not as an add-on, but as an integral part of the ABAP language. An indispensable guide for novice and experienced programmers alike, *ABAP Objects* includes coverage of these essential topics:

- The new ABAP Workbench and the most important features of the ABAP language.
- The fundamentals of ABAP programming, including the ABAP runtime environment.
- The core ABAP language elements.
- The two ABAP programming models - classical and object-oriented - and their relevant statements.
- Advanced concepts of OO programming with ABAP Objects.
- Programming the SAP user interface.
- Database access with OpenSQL.
- ABAP glossary and a complete list of system fields.

The book also includes two CDs carrying a fully operational SAP Basis System, and containing all the example programs from the book.

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#### About the Author

Dr Horst Keller is a member of SAP's ABAP Language Group and one of the authors of the ABAP Objects official documentation.

Sascha Krüger is a certified SAP consultant and project leader with leading German IT and telecomms consultancy SHS Informationssysteme AG ([www.shs.de](http://www.shs.de)).

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#### From SAP

ABAP, the programming language of SAP for business applications, is a language with a long-standing tradition. Having started off over 20 years ago as a reporting language in the mainframe world and having developed between 1985 and 1995 into a complete 4GL with SQL integration and language support for dialog and transaction programming, ABAP is now a modern object-oriented, statically typed yet flexible,

portable and universally applicable programming language offering particular support for control- and web-based applications.

However, ABAP is more than just a language. It is embedded within a complete development environment with all the editors, tools and repositories needed for large and complex software development projects. A large number of services contained in SAP's application server middleware infrastructure can also be addressed readily and independently of a particular platform.

I am delighted that the two authors, Horst Keller and Sascha Krüger, have taken it upon themselves to portray the object-oriented basic structure of modern ABAP alongside the full scope of the programming concepts developed over time in ABAP. Within a single book they offer the reader the distinct advantage of being able to find descriptions of both the new concepts of object-oriented development with ABAP Objects and the older technologies of earlier releases — a knowledge of which remains essential due to the volume of ABAP code still in existence.

I hope that this book will bring all readers further joy and success in programming in ABAP.

Walldorf, August 2000

Andreas Blumenthal

Development Manager ABAP Language

SAP AG

From SHS Informationssysteme AG

Dear Reader

As a member of the board of SHS Informationssysteme AG it is a particular pleasure for me that our employee Sascha Krüger has found time in his busy schedule to publish the present book on ABAP Objects together with Dr Horst Keller. Practical and customer-driven implementation based on a thorough theoretical grounding in technological developments as well as dedication is the sole basis for any successful project.

In the past SAP has played a significant part in the development of standard ERP software and will, in particular through mySAP.com, continue to do so in the future. From the position of our company, SAP's development in CRM (Customer Relationship Management) with new technological and strategic market orientation is of particular interest in this respect. Following the ERP boom of the past two decades, these customer-oriented systems are now in widespread use throughout companies — above all in the telecommunications industry with its enormous growth in new customers.

Anyone wishing to be successful in this kind of market must come to terms with the SAP Basis technology in order to integrate CRM systems in their existing IT landscape. As many leading companies implement the SAP System, this requires innovative concepts. Not least through the use of EAI (Enterprise Application Integration) tools, object-orientation is being increasingly established as the standard in integration. With ABAP Objects, SAP is intensifying its support of object-oriented (outbound) development and thereby allowing the seamless integration of different object models such as DCOM and CORBA.

The present book by Dr Horst Keller and Sascha Krüger is an introduction to the new world of ABAP Objects and will give you an understanding of how to start with or change to a new programming model. Our wish for both authors is that this book will soon become the standard for the new type of object-oriented development under SAP and will become an indispensable resource in practical applications.

Munich, August 2000

Dr Stefan Möller

SHS Informationssysteme AG

Member of the Board

From the Authors

In recent years the ABAP programming language has undergone an enormous development, the latest stage of which has been the gradual introduction of ABAP Objects between Releases 4.0 and 4.6. Of the books concerned with ABAP currently available on the market, only a few really get to grips with the new language concept. Those that refer to ABAP Objects do so only in terms of a supplement to existing material. This situation therefore led us to write the present book on ABAP Objects. As, however, ABAP Objects cannot be considered in isolation from ABAP as a whole, it developed into a comprehensive description of the ABAP programming language based on the current Release 4.6.

If you compare the current scope of the language with that of Release 3.0, for which the last official ABAP book KRE96 was written, you will find many other new additions apart from the introduction of ABAP Objects. These include the integration of the ABAP type concept into the ABAP Dictionary, the introduction of new internal tables, the possibility of using GUI controls and not least the redesigned ABAP Workbench, to name but a few. All these new concepts have finally transformed ABAP from a language focused on generating lists and processing transactions to a universally applicable programming language. This development required us to present ABAP from a universal standpoint, with less emphasis on the earlier programming paradigms of reporting and dialog programming. In this context, it has been helpful that the book has been written jointly by an SAP employee and an external consultant. The insider view from a member of the ABAP Language Group, with precise ideas as to how ABAP should be used, has blended well with the view of an external user with a knowledge of ABAP gained from training seminars, previous

publications and daily experience. We have used the synergy effect resulting from these different viewpoints to provide you with a thorough and yet practical guide to ABAP Objects.

Certainly, we could not have successfully concluded this project without the direct and indirect contribution of many people in drawing up and checking the manuscript. We are grateful to the following colleagues from the "ABAP and GUI" department of SAP who despite their many duties found time to proof-read the sections on their specialized subjects: Thomas Bareiß, Adrian Görler, Mathias Hanbuch, Rolf Hammer, Peter Januschke, Ulrich Koch, Andreas Neubacher, Helmut Prestel, Andreas Simon Schmitt, Werner Schuster, Christoph Stöck, and Ralf Wendelgass. In particular we thank Mrs Kerstin Gebhard from the ABAP Training Development department who read large parts of the manuscript and was always on hand to provide constructive criticism. We would like to thank the students Wolfgang Kiess and Torben Simon for creating the ABAP system field overview and proof-reading some of the chapters. Jürgen Heymann kindly provided us with the object-orientation literature references. We would also like to thank anyone else we have not mentioned but who has suggested improvements along the line.

We have Michael Demuth's initiative to thank for the fact that the accompanying CDs contain an SAP Basis system including the example programs from this book. Andrea Fritsch entered the examples into the system and created the template. Jürgen Krüger supported us with the downloadable files for the transport request for the example programs. For the program for generating training data we used an ABAP training template from Thilo Buchholz. Lastly, we would like to thank also Tomas Wehren and his team from Galileo Press, in particular Iris Warkus, for their cooperation.

For the English edition we would especially like to thank Gabriele Buchner, Michèle Coghlan, and Julie Plummer from Product Management (Development Platforms) for their indispensable commitment during our technical editing of the translated text.

Horst Keller would also like to thank the Development Manager of the ABAP Language Group, Andreas Blumenthal, for all his support with the project in providing all the necessary resources and many useful hints. Above all he is indebted to his wife Ute for her patience and encouragement over the many evenings and weekends he spent working on the book.

Sascha Krüger would like to thank Stefan Möller, board member of SHS Informationssysteme AG, and the manager of the Cologne office, Frank Pensel, for their support. He would also like to thank his SHS project team for their excellent cooperation which allowed him to spare the time for writing this book. Particular thanks go to his wife Katja who continued to support his authoring commitments throughout, despite the restrictions it placed on their private life.

Horst Keller

Walldorf, August 2000

Sascha Krüger

Cologne, August 2000

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

**Leroy Torres:**

The reserve untitled ABAP Objects: Introduction to Programming SAP Applications is the book that recommended to you you just read. You can see the quality of the e-book content that will be shown to a person. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of research when write the book, therefore the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of ABAP Objects: Introduction to Programming SAP Applications from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

**Jody Watson:**

Why? Because this ABAP Objects: Introduction to Programming SAP Applications is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap that but latter it will distress you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

**Jessica Kelly:**

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