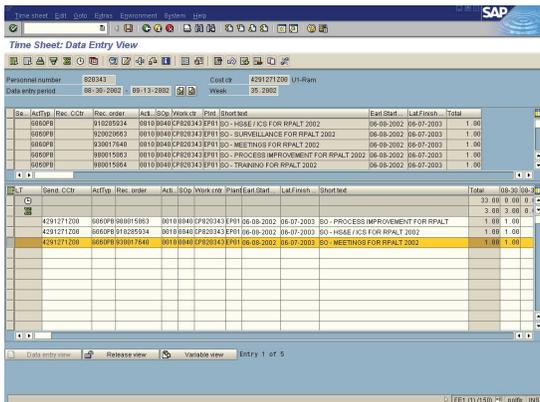




## Shell Exploration & Production Company (SEPCo) Leverages GuiXT for Plant Maintenance Operations

### Background

Shell Exploration & Production Company's (SEPCo) objective was to design and implement SAP screen changes to improve the process end users go through to enter time, confirm PM operations, enter notification history, and change TECO (Technically Closed) orders from the CATS (Cross-Application Time Sheet) screen. Shell upgraded their system from SAP 4.6c to ERP 2005.



### About SEPCo

Shell Exploration & Production Company (SEPCo) is a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch/Shell group of companies and is responsible for exploring, developing, and producing oil and natural gas in the United States. SEPCo's principal operations are located in the Gulf of Mexico, Texas and Wyoming. SEPCo also holds a majority equity ownership in Aera Energy, LLC, California's largest oil producer.

In response to rising long-term demand for energy, Shell is discovering new hydrocarbon resources that can be produced economically, efficiently and safely. Shell's strategy is more upstream, profitable downstream, exploration and production focused on increasing production and expanding resources. In 2008 their daily oil and gas production, including from oil sands, was 3.2 million barrels of oil equivalent.

### SEPCo's Utilization of GuiXT for PM/CATS Improvements

With GuiXT, Shell was able to improve data-entry and accuracy for its Plant Maintenance operations. They have gone to an upgrade and have successfully extended the same GuiXT presentation with very little changes.

The areas simplified for Shell were:

#### Display Operation Status in CATS Time Entry Screen

**Challenge:** Prior to GuiXT, the operator would have to double click on the order, click on the operation tab, select the operation and then click on the General button to see the status.

**Solution:** The user needs to know if the operation s/he is currently working on is finally confirmed (CNF). Using GuiXT, a new button was added to the CATS screen, which when selected gives the status of the current operation(s).

#### Navigation to Notification From CATS to Enter Failure History or Text

**Challenge:** Prior to modifying CATS, the user would have had to copy the order number, to the (IW32) change work order transaction and select on the notification, enter the history then go back to the CATS screen.

**Solution:** Documenting equipment history and failure data is critical in trying to reduce failures and production deferment. It is essential that this process is painless and seamless to the craft person entering the data. SEPCo utilized GuiXT to add a button to the CATS screen that will allow the user to pull up the notification associated with the order s/he is entering. The user would then enter the failure data, malfunction end dates, CLSD it, etc. When the notification is saved, the user is automatically taken back to the CATS time entry screen.

*"GuiXT allowed us to manipulate/combine SAP screens to improve the data entry process"*

**Paul Myhre**  
SAP PM Process Lead  
SEPCo





## Navigation to Order Change Screen from CATS Time Entry Screen

**Challenge:** SAP standard functionality only allows a user to view an order in the display mode from CATS. It does not allow to change it.

**Solution:** Users need the ability to access order/operations in change mode to remove their individual work center from the operation when the assigned work is not completed. This will indicate to the planner/scheduler that s/he needs to re-schedule it to someone else. Using GuiXT, the user can access a PM order in the change mode by double clicking on the PM order field in the time entry part of the CATS screen.

## Capture Work Variants Codes, Hours and Short Text in CATS Pop-up Screen

**Challenge:** A requirement of the STARS Work Management Process is to capture work variances associated with the operation.

**Solution:** Using the GuiXT tools, when the user double clicks on the Time Entry field in CATS, a final confirmation/variance screen pops up. The user can flag the operation as final confirmed. Using GuiXT, an additional box was added to give users the ability to add work variance codes, enter the associated variance hours and short text (60 characters). Upon saving the variance, the data populates a Z-table for use in variance reporting.

## GuiXT as the Solution

**Moved All Fields Associated with Planning Process to One Tab:** SEPCo utilizes the user defined fields to capture Integrated Activity Planning data at the order header (similar to the Blueprint Design). To improve on SAP's delivered process, using GuiXT, the order header tab description was changed from "Enhancement" to "IPP 90 Day Plan". Then, to minimize user key strokes, SEPCo used the GuiXT Input Assistant functionality to populate other PM order fields from the IPP 90 Day Plan tab. Allowing the user to populate other fields

from one place saves the user having to jump from tab to tab on the order header looking for the field they are required to populate. Additional fields that users populate from the same screen are the Planning Indicator located on the Control Tab and set a user status of "Ready to Schedule" on the order header user status screen.

**Eliminate a Nuisance Message When Changing Order Revision:** SEPCo's scheduling process utilizes the Order Revision Code to change the order Basic Start and Finish Dates. SAP has a nuisance message that pops up each time the revision is changed telling the user the dates will change. To eliminate the non-value message and user frustration, GuiXT was utilized to hit the Enter Button on the pop-up box (behind the scenes) resulting in the user not seeing the message box.

**Other Uses for GuiXT:** The MM team uses GuiXT to minimize the number of screens to create a requisition.

## Other Areas of GuiXT Usage:

- Capacity Planning Board: add a button to save changes without exiting the user out of the planning board.
- Put a refresh button on the Scheduling (ABAP) Report to update the changes the user makes in the data.
- Simplification of PS maintenance screens, i.e. create/maintain WBS elements.
- Add a button to upload a WBS element structure from a spreadsheet saving setup time and maintaining data consistency.
- Combine AP invoice processing screens into one screen.
- Simplify service entry and the use of single screen transaction.
- Set better defaults that we have not been able to change before.
- Displaying information on transactions to assist user in correct input (i.e. GR information).



## Benefits Realized:

- Improved operational efficiency by automating repetitive tasks
- Minimized the key strokes it took to complete various SAP transactions and functions
- Improved the data entry process and accuracy of data
- Increased employee efficiency because common data are reused and automatically populated