

Hovitaga OpenSQL Editor

Security and Authorization concept

Introduction

The most frequently asked questions about the purchase of an SAP add-on are about security. What are the risks of installing the add-on? Does my business-critical data become available for unauthorized access? What are the chances of downtime of productive systems due to the malfunctioning of the add-on?

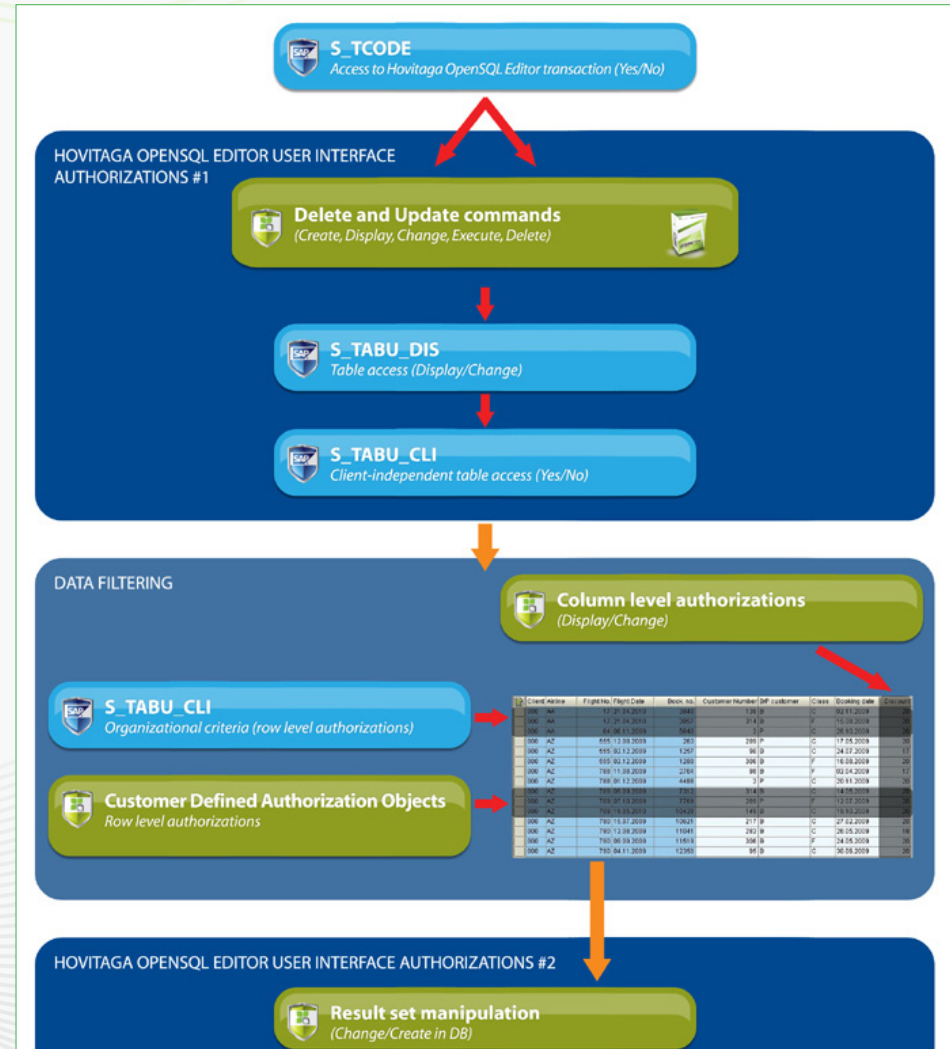
Based on our experience we have designed the OpenSQL Editor with these questions in mind. Our products use the standard SAP authorization framework to protect the system against unauthorized access.

Overview of the OpenSQL Editor

The OpenSQL Editor is a powerful tool that helps SAP consultants, ABAP developers and basis administrators to work with the database of an SAP system. It provides an intuitive way to build ad-hoc reports and statistics with simple OpenSQL commands. No further ABAP programming is required.

The OpenSQL Editor uses multiple authority objects provided by SAP and used by most of the customers worldwide. This means that if those authority objects are already configured in an SAP system, no additional effort is required. Additionally any number of authorization objects can be assigned to database tables, so every query will check if the user has the necessary authorizations to work with the required data.

All the row and column level authorization checks are integrated to the queries sent to the database server to avoid retrieving unnecessary data and to minimize network traffic.



Authorization concept

Record level authorizations

While the tools mostly used by consultants and developers (SE16 and SAP Query) only use table group level authorizations to filter query results, the OpenSQL Editor can be controlled in a much more sophisticated way. This means that besides defining which tables can be read, you can control which records can be read from a table. A generic standard SAP authority object (S_TABU_LIN) is used to filter the query results based on any organizational criteria defined in customizing. For example a scenario can be set up easily where certain users only see data for their company code (or country or any organizational level).

This row level authorization concept is part of every SAP system and can be maintained within customizing (SPRO). If it has been already set up, then the OpenSQL Editor will filter all queries accordingly.

Additionally any number of authority objects can be assigned to tables within a the OpenSQL Editor customizing transaction. A field mapping between the authority object and the table must be made that the OpenSQL Editor uses when filtering query results.

For example to filter entries in the VBAK table (Order headers) by sales organization simply assign authority object V_VBAK_VK0 to the table. To filter entries by plant in table MARC (Plant data), assign authority object M_MATE_WRK to table MARC. If these authority objects were already used in the SAP system, then the roles, profiles etc. do not need to be changed, no other user maintenance effort is required.

Field level authorizations

Additionally to the record level authorization concept the OpenSQL Editor can be controlled on field level also. For example, certain users could see the contents of the

salary field in a table, others could not, depending on the authorizations.

There is an authority object that controls what columns may a user access in a database table. This can be maintained with the standard SAP tools without any special customizing effort.

Table group level authorizations

The OpenSQL Editor also uses the SAP standard authority objects S_TABU_DIS to control access to table groups and S_TABU_CLI to control maintenance of client-independent tables.

Requirements and installation

The OpenSQL Editor is entirely written in ABAP, so it is transparent (not a black-box development) and deeply integrated into the SAP system. No interfaces needed, no platform-dependency, no separate IT team to maintain. It does not expose the SAP system to any access from outside.

Installation is a process of few minutes, since it only consists of importing one transport with the TMS (Transport Management System). The only additional effort is to set up the authorizations for the users. Due to the intuitive user interface and extensive documentation no consulting or implementation project is needed.

Hovitaga OpenSQL Editor runs on SAP 4.6C but some features require SAP Netweaver 7.00 (aka. 2004s) or above.

Support and maintenance

We provide two levels of support. Standard support makes our customers eligible to receive regular support packages that contain all corrections and improvements. Customers who choose the premium support will receive every enhancement or correction immediately without having to wait for the new support package to be released. The OpenSQL Editor can be purchased without any support also, if required.

Conclusion

Time is money. People involved in SAP development and implementation projects as well as business users spend a lot of time on inefficient and repetitive tasks that occur daily during their work. The OpenSQL Editor makes many of these tasks just a matter of minutes opposed to hours, sparing much time for its users. Let them spend it on your business instead.



To learn more about Hovitaga OpenSQL Editor, visit www.hovitaga.com or send a mail to info@hovitaga.com.
Detailed whitepapers and video demonstrations are available on our website.