

## Business Role Management (BRM)

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BRM it is a very useful tool in GRC which help to create and maintain SAP® Roles of the company in a single repository. This module it is not only focused in managing changes in SAP® Roles but also help to:

- Maintain the Naming convention (NM) of your roles.
- Detect all the change logs for all changes done in the SAP® Roles.
- Contains all the documents (technical and functionals) of the changes requested in the same repository.
- Maintain the relationship between Master and Derived roles.
- Register a repository for the roles used in Access Control requests and select their respective approvers.
- Design a Workflow to approve the changes in roles.

There are two points which are very useful for the daily work with BRM:

- BRM helps to complete part of the role name as part of the Role Naming Convention feature. For example, if in the NM (Naming Convention) is having the second character of the role as an indicator for understanding if it is a display/task/job role, when you create a role and select the type of role, the second character of the name will update it automatically.
- BRM also allows to maintain different workflows depending on the type of the role: master role, derived, job,...

### How BRM works?

The first screen you see in BRM, is the repository of all roles created and maintained. For each role you can see some attributes like application type, landscape, type, process, last update, etc. Furthermore, it is possible to create and update roles from BRM, but also there is an option to import it from the backend systems, with the possibility to do it role by role or massive.

As it was explained before, to create/modify a role there is a workflow, which can be created with different standard stages. Each of the stages usually have two tabs, one main tab which is different pending on the stage, and another which is the same in all stages. This second tab is called "Additional details", which has the main information of the status of the role, the documents attached for the different approvals, the log of changes and more information.

### The main stages you can see in BRM are:

**Define role:** the unique tab of this stage is having all the information related with the description of the role including: role name and description, profile assigned, landscape, functional area, company... but one of the most important is the "Owners/Approver" section. Here it is possible to select one or more approvers for the role, but there are two kind of approvers: Assignment approver (the approver in Access Control requests) and Role Content Approver (the user who will review the request for the creation/modification of a SAP® role).

BRM allows to have default “Role content approvers” depending on the a combination of fields from BRM application as “Landscape”, “Business Process”, “Business Subprocess”,...

**Request approval:** this is a very simple stage, there are only two parts, one that initiate the workflow and ask for approval and on the other side, there is a table with all the previous approvals requested in previous dates with the details of them. Within the option that allows to initiate the Workflow, it is important to give a small description, that will help the approver to perform a better decision.

**Maintain authorizations:** this stage connects BRM with the SAP system, using the option of “Maintain Authorizations Data”, which will open the role you want to update in the PFCG transaction of the default environment. Once the role is updated in the PFCG transaction, it is recommended to synchronize the data in BRM repository. Furthermore, if you updating a Mater Role you can execute one feature that propagate the change to the rest of derived roles.

In this stage, you can also have information such the actions assigned to the role, permissions, organization level, function, or data of the last change done.

**Generate role:** as the name of the stage indicates, here is the possibility to generate the changes saved in BRM into the environment you want. Furthermore, if the affected change is involving a Master Role, you can generate the master and all derived roles assigned to it using this tool.

You can select more than one environment, and it is recommended to generate always in the previous environments (as an example if you are generating the role inside the

production system, it is recommended to include also the Quality and Development environment, to ensure that the change will be the same in all environments within the same timeline.

**Analyze Access Risk:** the main idea of this stage is to do a Risk Analysis of the role, in order to check if generates new SoD Risk, Critical actions or Critical Permission. This is very important when you want to prevent unnecessary risks within your SAP® system.

**Derived Role:** this stage usually is available in the Master role workflows, and it is very useful to create the derived roles that are linked with the Master Role. This application only requires the role name, role description, and organizational values to create the derived role.

BRM has available an option to have a mapping of organizational values, which can be helpful to populate the organizational values of a role automatically.

#### How the BRM workflow works?

For the workflow, you can use the stages you want, however the stages of “Define Role”, “Maintain Authorizations” and “Generate role” are mandatory.

Once the workflow is designed, it is important to think that one of the great functionalities of BRM is the “Generate Role” feature. This means that the workflows that needs to be built in BRM should include different phases for Development, Testing and Deployment of a SAP® Role. Depending on the organization you can define long workflow stages to comply with the previous statement of design circle workflows to ensure that all the stages apply for the different environments

As a conclusion, BRM is a tool that will help us not only to document as much as possible every SAP Roles but also to comply with Change Management process. On the other side, BRM will help to reduce the effort in Role Management (Automate Naming Convention, Mass Derivation, Mass Role Generation) activities and also will help to register all the evidences to comply with Audit procedures.

