SAP Business Data Toolset

ADD A CUSTOM FIELD IN LESS THAN 30 MINS FOR ANY BDT DRIVEN OBJECT

WITHOUT ANY BDT KNOWLEDGE

Prerequisites

To be able to follow this How-To guide you need no knowledge of the Business Data Toolset at all, but you need to know how to create and maintain the fundamental ABAP development objects like function groups, function modules, table appends, data elements and so on.

What is the Business Data Toolset? It's a framework to extend SAP standard master data maintenance dialogues (there are only a few transactional data dialogues driven by BDT). It's used by SAP, SAPs development partners and SAPs customers to enhance SAPs standard transactions with new fields and checks. Not every SAP maintenance dialogue is driven by BDT technology.

Before you start to add a custom field to a standard SAP application, you must check that your SAP application is actually driven by the Business Data Toolset (BDT) and find the transaction (actually an area menu) to configure the BDT. There are several ways to do this, if you don't know the appropriate transaction for your application.

Here is a list of some applications driven by BDT with their configuration transaction. If you know of some area menus not listed here, I would be happy if you drop me a line at bdt@apadev.co.uk to include it in the next version of this guide.

BDT config transaction	Application
BUPT	Business Partner
INSO	FS-CD Insurance Object
CACSBDT	ICM commission contract
CACSBDTI	ICM commission case
CACSBDTB	ICM commission contract bundle
CACSBDTD	ICM commission document
CAMA	FI-CA master agreement
CAVT	Provider contract
CAWM	FS-CD contract account
CBWABDT	Waste Management
CFM_CR	Credit Risk Analyzer
CMS_CUS_LIQ_BDT	Liquidation UI
FMFA_BDT	Funds Management master data
FMCA_PSOB	PS-CD contract objects
FOAR00	Financial Assets Management: Real Estate / Applicant
FOI0	Real Estate: General contract
FOWB00	IS-RE economic feasibility (German)
FOTI00	Tenant Information
GRANT_BDT	Grants Management master data
PPAC	Prepaid account FI-CA
KLFZ	Risk management: Facilities
RCC00	Risk Objects
RECAMENUDEV	RE Extension
RECAMENUBDT	RE-Extension: BDT Customizing Menu
UG01	Financials Master Data

If you can't find your application in question in the list above, you can check this:

All BDT configuration transactions are implemented as area menus. Call transaction SE93 and enter transaction BUSP (a utility transaction that is part of every BDT area menu) and do a “where-used” list on area menus. This way you can generate a list with all BDT configuration transactions in your system.

If you still cannot identify the BDT configuration this way, you can search for the maintenance transaction of your SAP object within those area menus: E.g. you don’t know the BDT configuration transaction for the FS-CD insurance object, but you know the maintenance transaction for insurance objects is INSOCHANGE. Go to transaction SE93 and enter INSOCHANGE and do a where used analysis within area menus. Check if you can find an area menu that is also in the list created within the search for transaction BUSP. This is your BDT configuration transaction. If you cannot find any area menu that fits the criteria mentioned above, your SAP object is probably not driven by BDT.

If you have the area menu for your SAP application, then let’s begin to add a custom field in less than 30 minutes…

Create a new BDT application and function group (5mins)

Call the aforementioned BDT area menu. Choose Control -> Applications to create a new BDT application. From now on I will illustrate each step by using an example of the SAP Business Partner using BDT area menu BUPT. The structure of your BDT area menu should be the same.

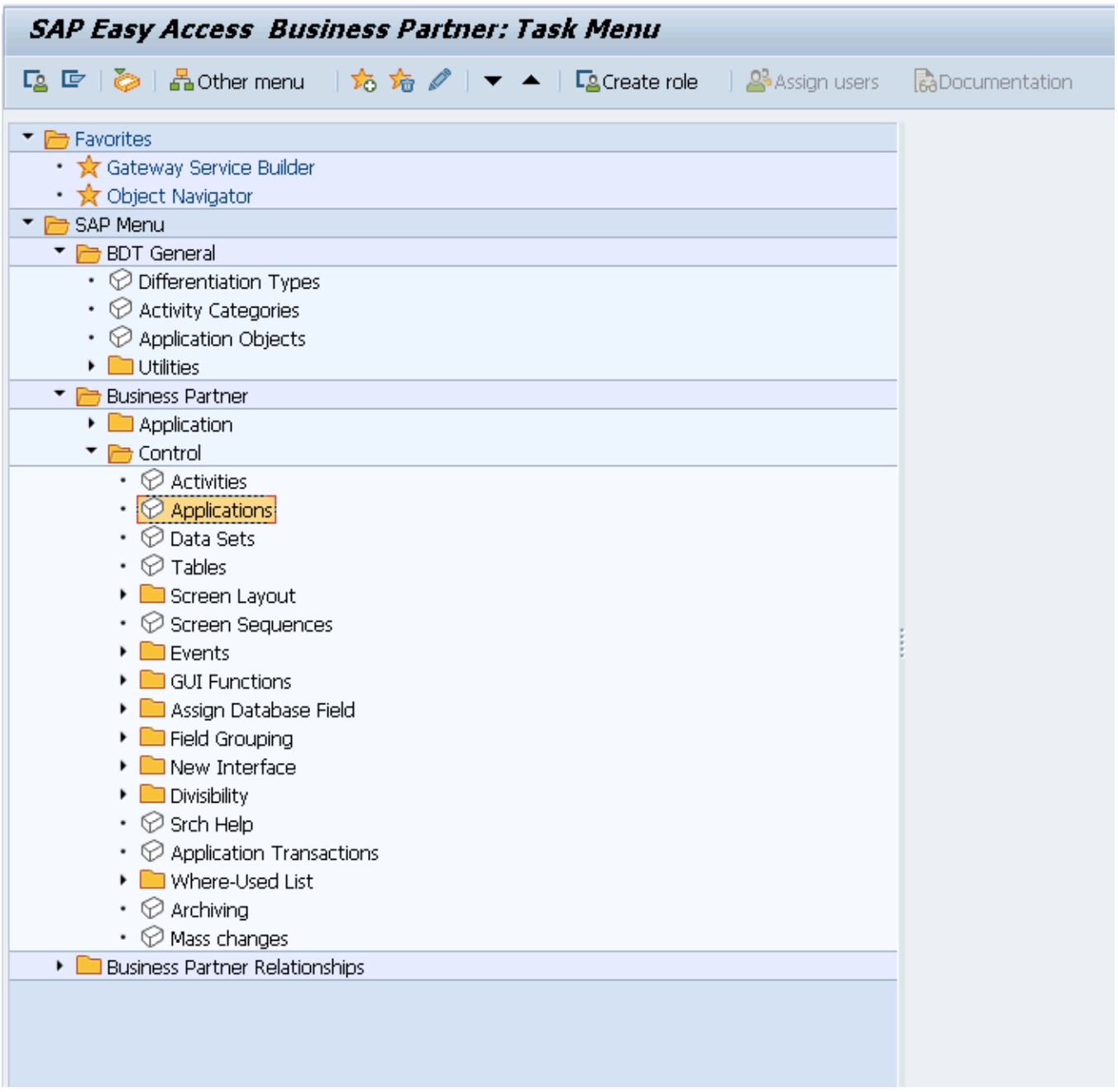

Figure 1: Application entry in the BDT area menu for Business Partner

The BDT application will be the key for all your further BDT configurations. Choose a four-character application key that is in your customer name space (starting with Z or Y). You can activate or deactivate an application, which makes it easy to switch applications without changing any coding. Set your new application to “active”. I will refer to your application key from now on as <appl>.

Figure 2: Creating a new BDT application

Next create a new function group within your customer name space. The BDT naming convention is to include the application and the BDT object in the name. So if your customer name space is Z, your function group should be called Z_<appl>_<obj> with <obj> being the BDT object. In the BDT area menu you will find a section called "BDT General". This holds an entry "Application Objects". Here you'll find the 4-letter code for your object, from now on referred to as <obj>. Note: not complying with the naming convention of the function group has no effect on the functionality; it's just formalism to enhance readability.

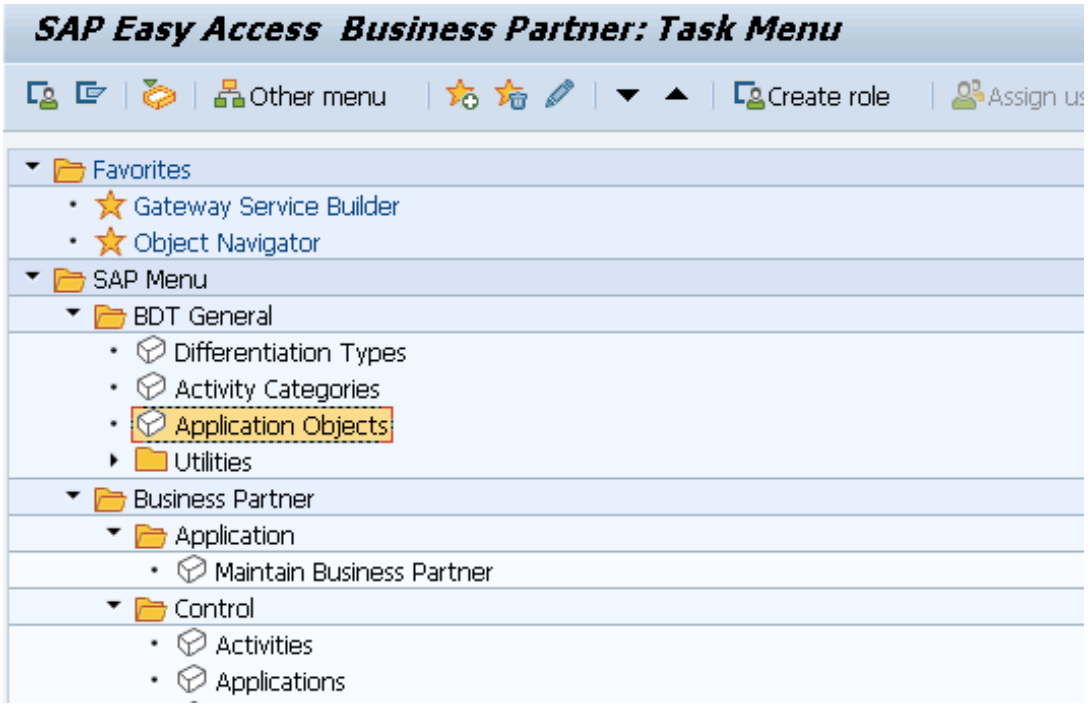

Figure 3: Application Object entry in the BDT area menu

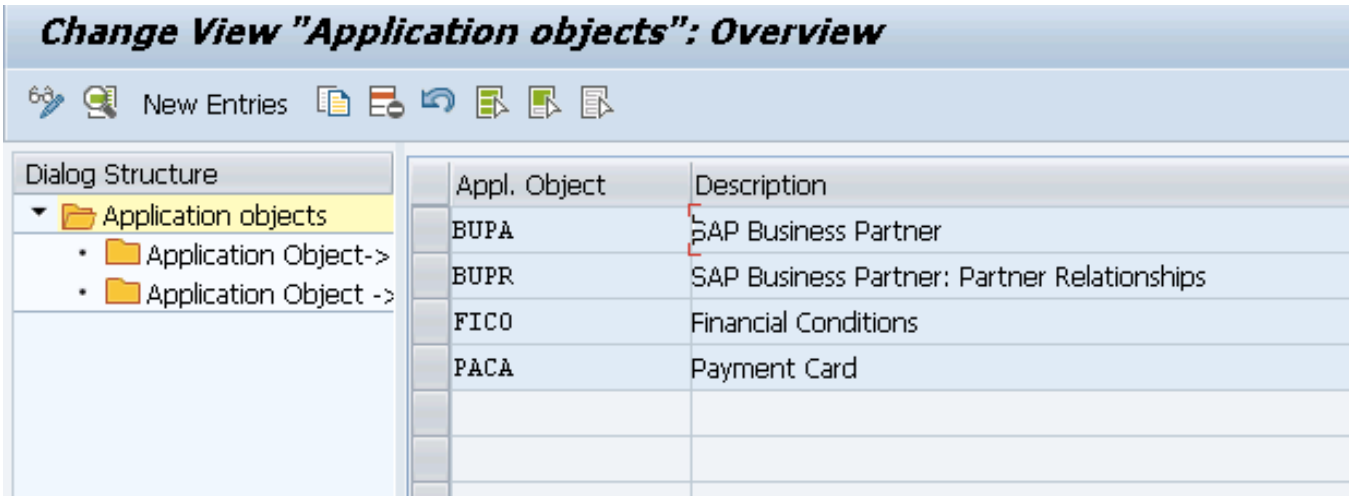

Figure 4: Display the Business Partner Application Object

The function group you just created will hold all development objects of your BDT application. Do not spread your BDT development objects over several function groups. Rule: One BDT application = one function group.

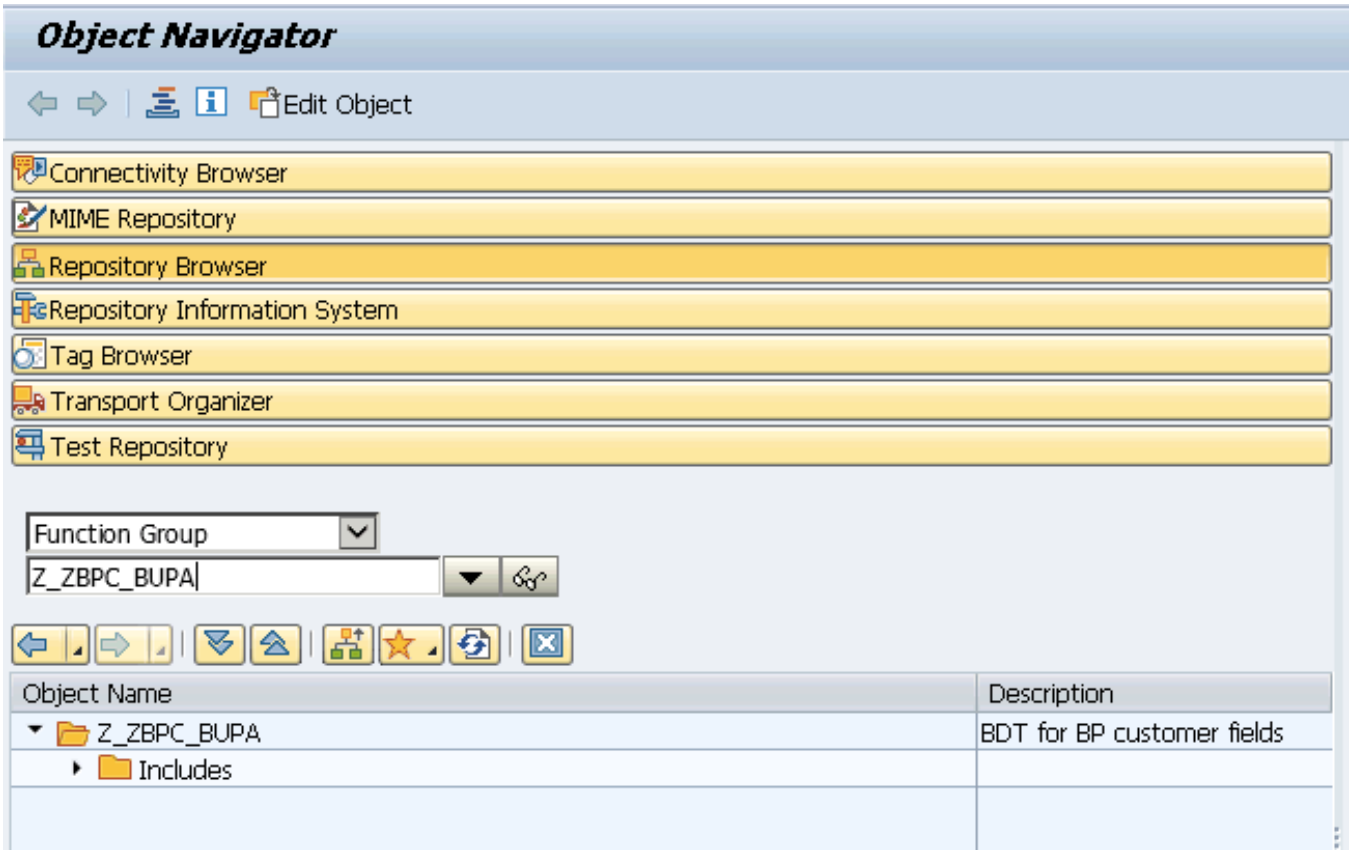

Figure 5: Create a new function group

Create the new field on the database (5mins)

If you're adding a new field to an existing SAP BDT driven object, like e.g. the business partner, you have to add the field to one of the existing SAP database tables, e.g. table BUT000 in case of the business partner (if your field belongs to the general data of the business partner). In this case, when you add fields to an existing BDT object, your BDT application is called the participating application and the SAP BDT application that owns the table is called the table owning application.

There are two ways of adding fields to SAP tables: table appends and customer includes. Table appends can be added to any transparent table via the SE11 -> GOTO -> append structure.

Customer includes are includes in the SAP table structure that are like place holders. They are delivered empty by SAP. By double clicking on the include name in the table display in SE11 you can create the include and populate it with your field. Save and activate the include. You have now a new empty field on the database in this table. The business partner table BUT000 e.g. has the following customer include: CI_EEW_BUT000. I activated it and added the custom field I will add to the BP dialogue: VIP flag[1].

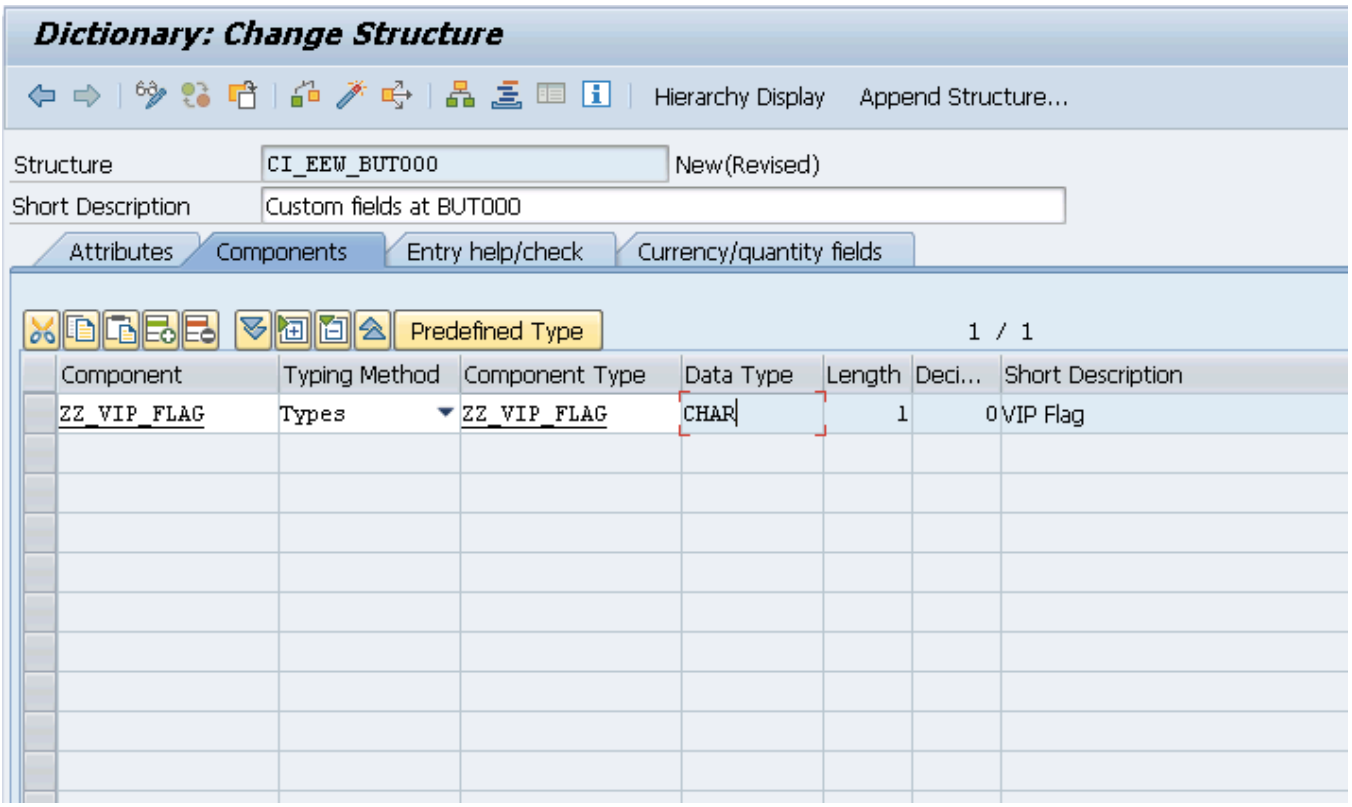

Figure 6: Adding the new field to a customer include

[1] If you're familiar with the SAP business partner, you'll know that there is already a SAP standard field for VIP functionality – excuse my lack of originality.

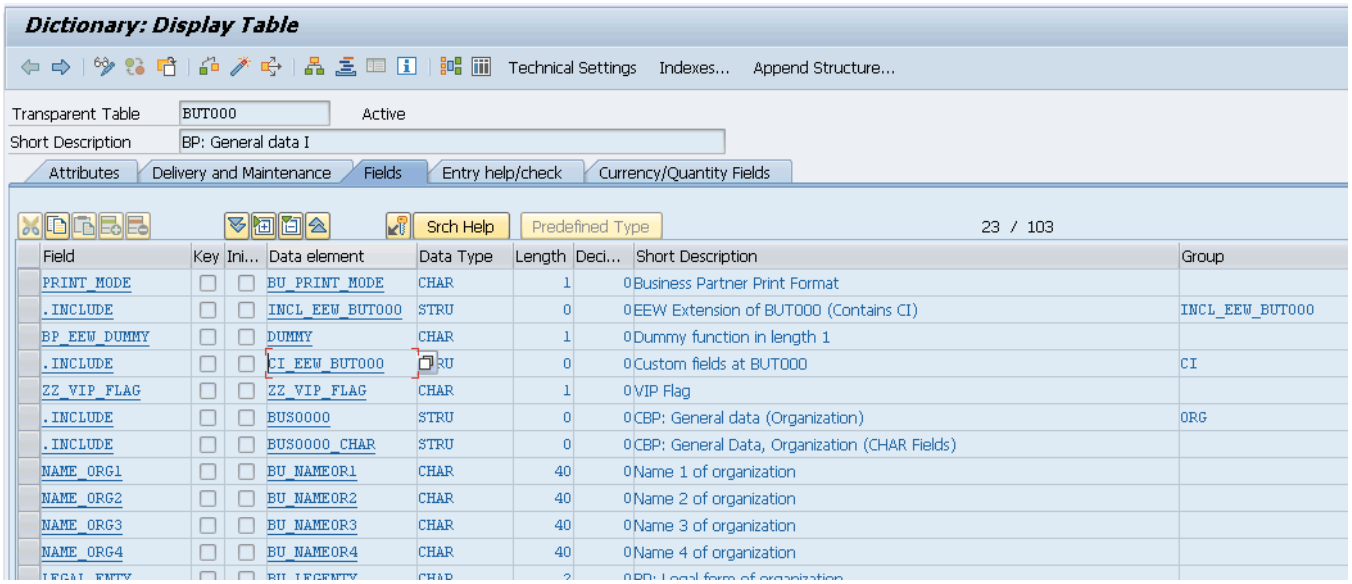

Figure 7: The new field is now included in the table BUT000 via the customer include

Create a new sub screen to hold your new field (5mins)

Go to your new function group and create a new sub screen. Place your new field with a DDIC reference on that sub screen. Do not place any logic in the PBO and PAI modules of your sub screen. Just call function module BUS_PBO in PBO and BUS_PAI in PAI module.

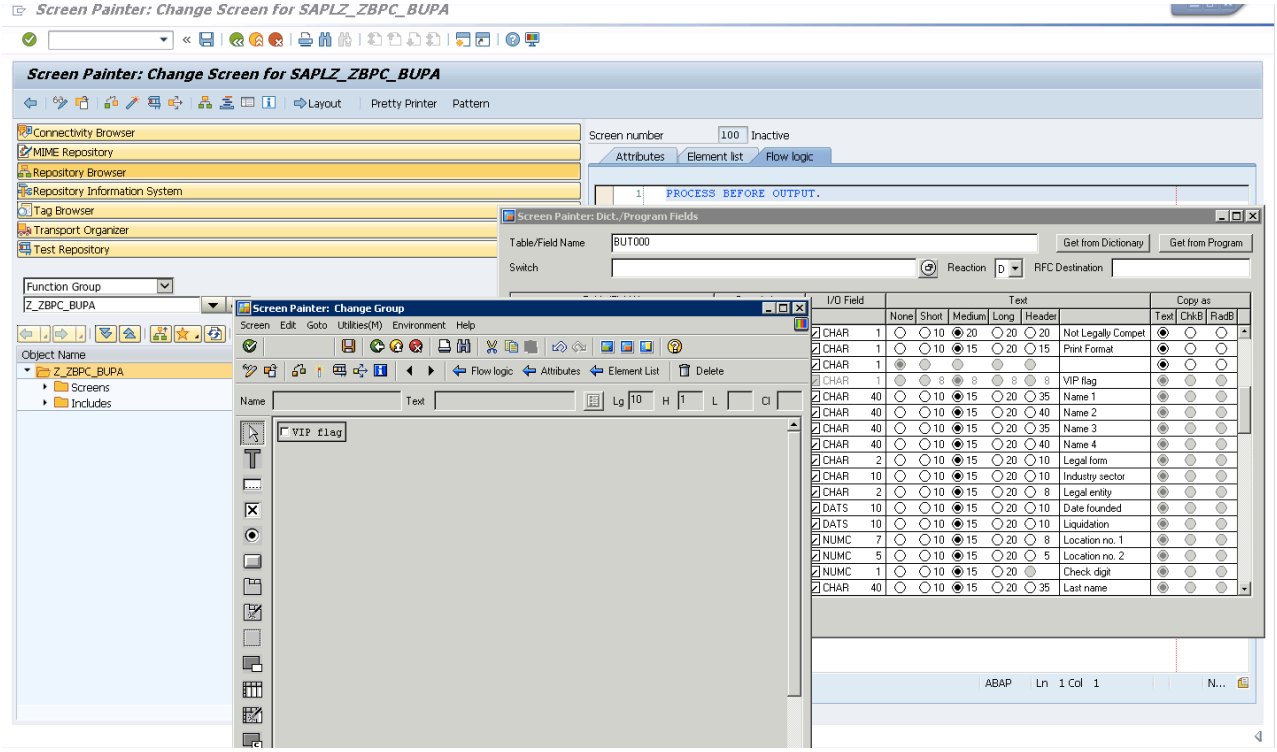

Figure 8: Adding the new field to your sub screen

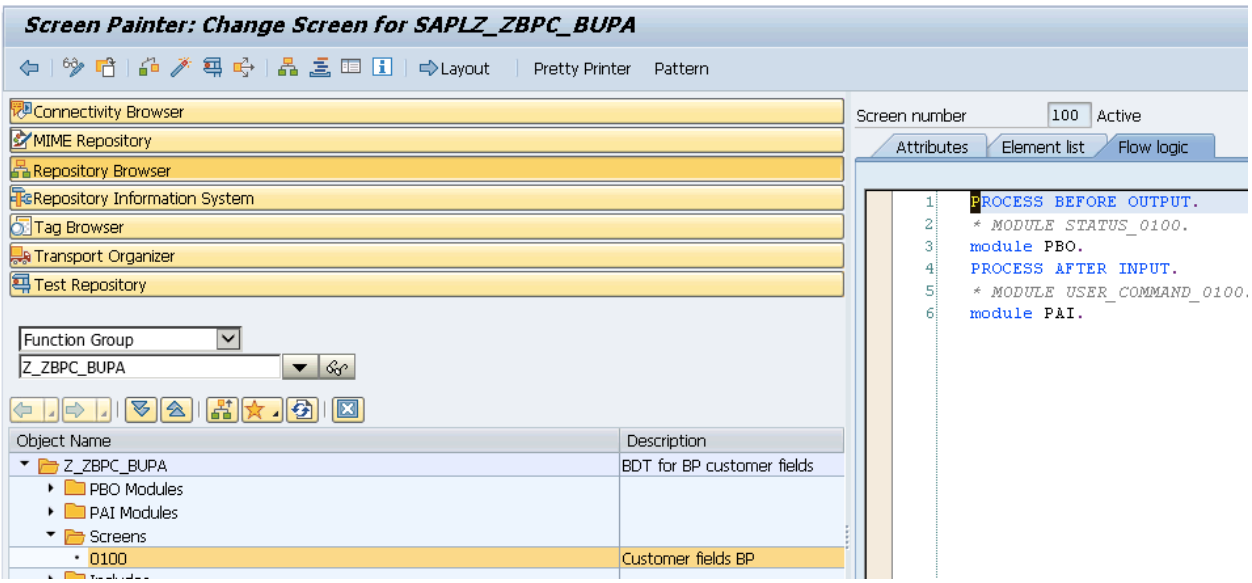

Figure 9: Adding PBO and PAI modules to the sub screen

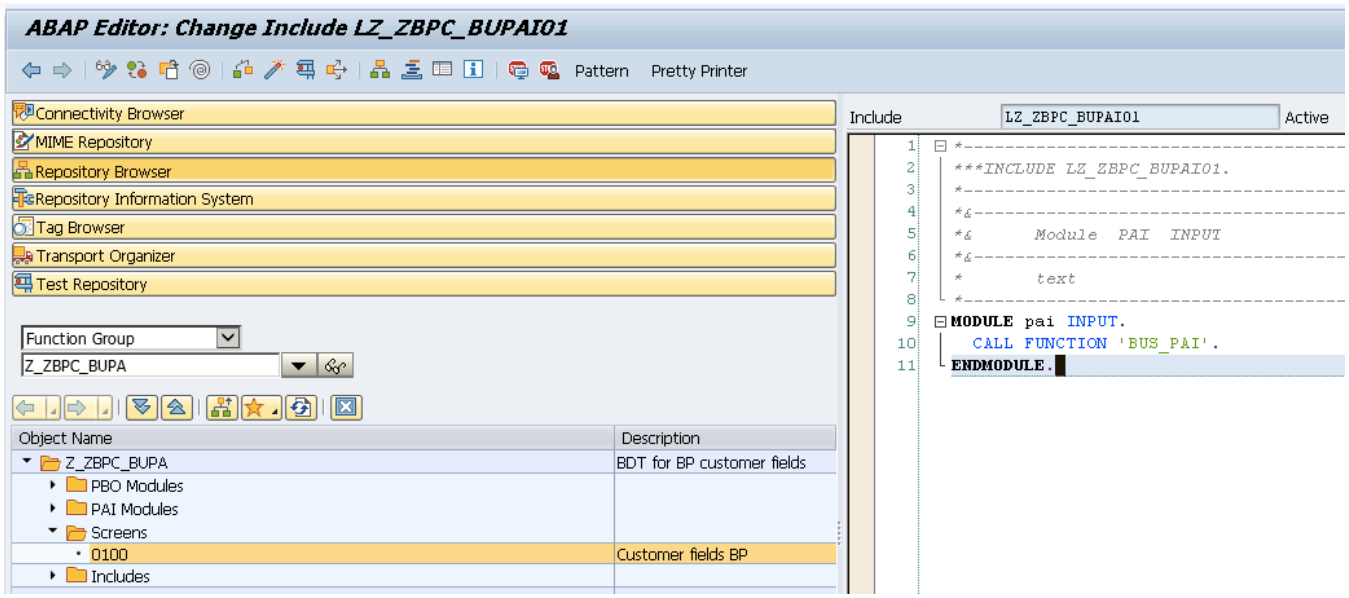

Figure 10: Calling function module BUS_PAI in PAI module

Set up the screen layout (5mins)

The BDT screen layout defines how and where fields appear on SAP screens. The screen layout elements are hierarchically ordered: A field is assigned to a field group, which is assigned to a view. Views are assigned to sections, which are assigned to screens. Screens are assigned to screen sequences.

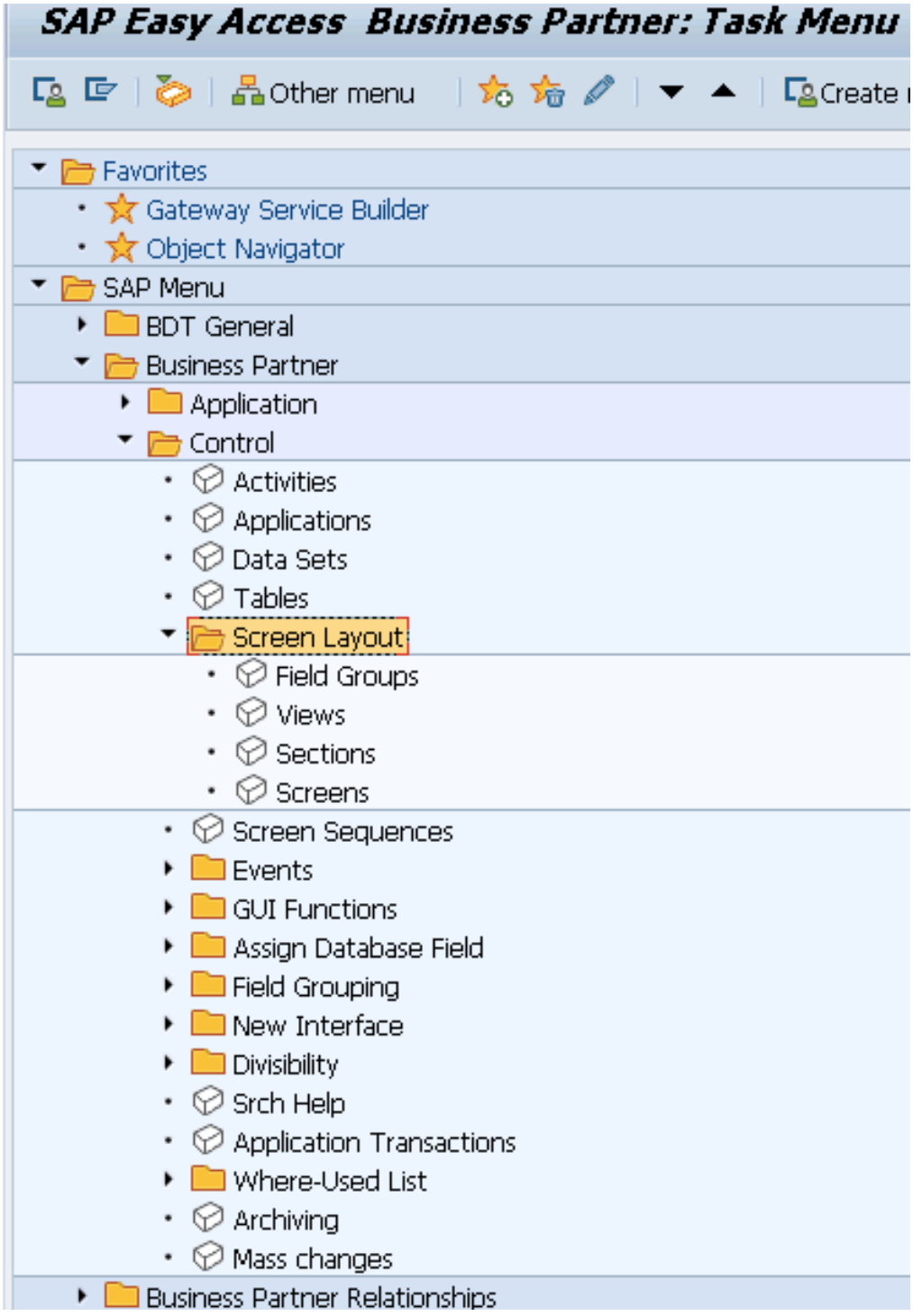

Figure 11: Path to the screen layout settings

Field group

Go to your BDT area menu and create a new field group in Control -> Screen Layout -> Field Groups. The customer name space for field groups is 600-749. Assign your field to your field group.

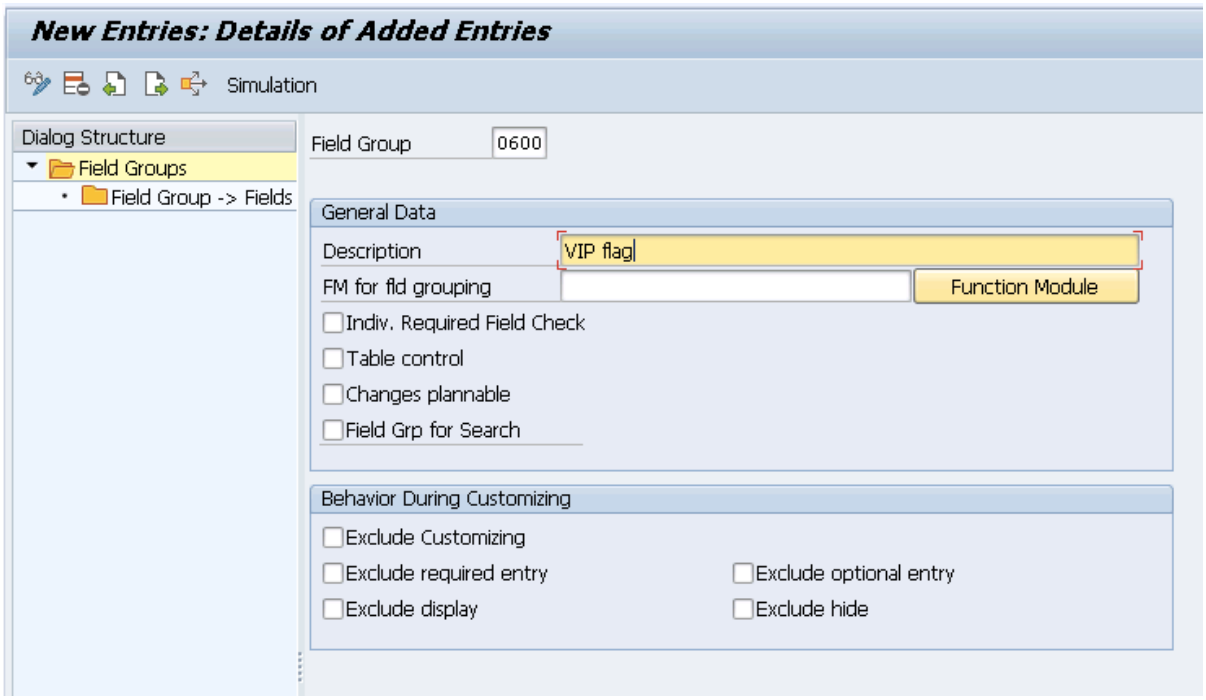

Figure 12: Creating a new field group

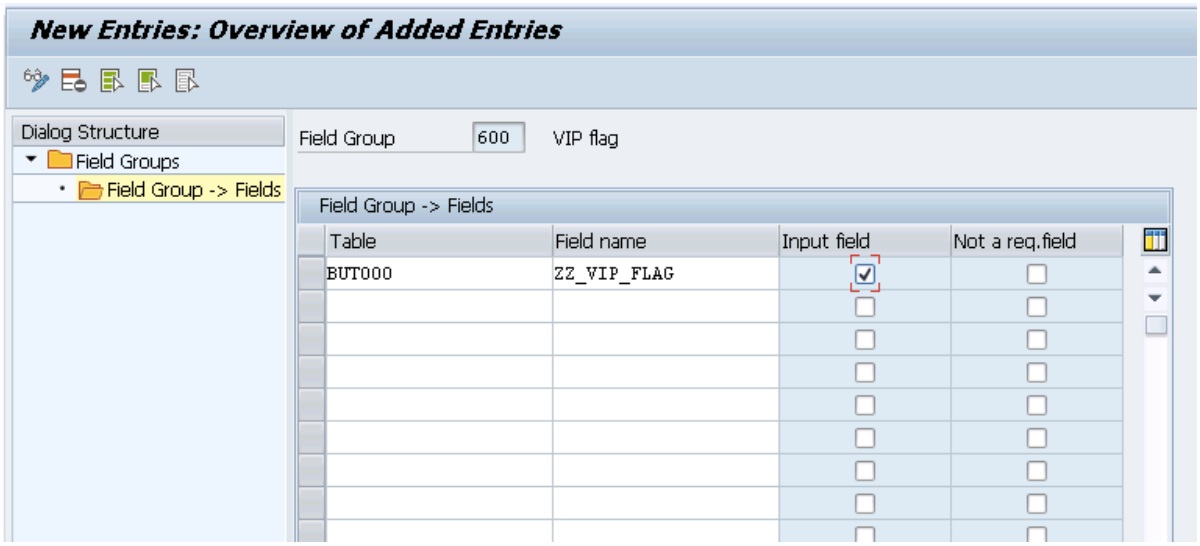

Figure 13: Assigning the field to the field group

Be aware that there will be warning messages telling you “field does not exist on the assigned subscreen”. You can ignore those messages by hitting the return key.

View

In the next step we create a new view. The naming convention is <appl>n with n being a number.

In the general data section add a description and your BDT application. If the application object supports divisibility, like the Business Partner does, you will need to enter a differentiation type. Choose the differentiation type your object uses. Within the Business Partner it’s 5 for Role Category Dependent Data. If your object doesn’t support divisibility then choose 0 for General Data. You can furthermore add the view to a data set. Data sets are designed to bundle attributes together. In case of divisibility you assign each object part (role in case of the Business Partner) a set of data sets. For my example I choose to add the new field to the Identification data set.

In the frame sub screen you have to enter your sub screens number and the program name of your function group (which is usually SAPL<functiongroupname>).

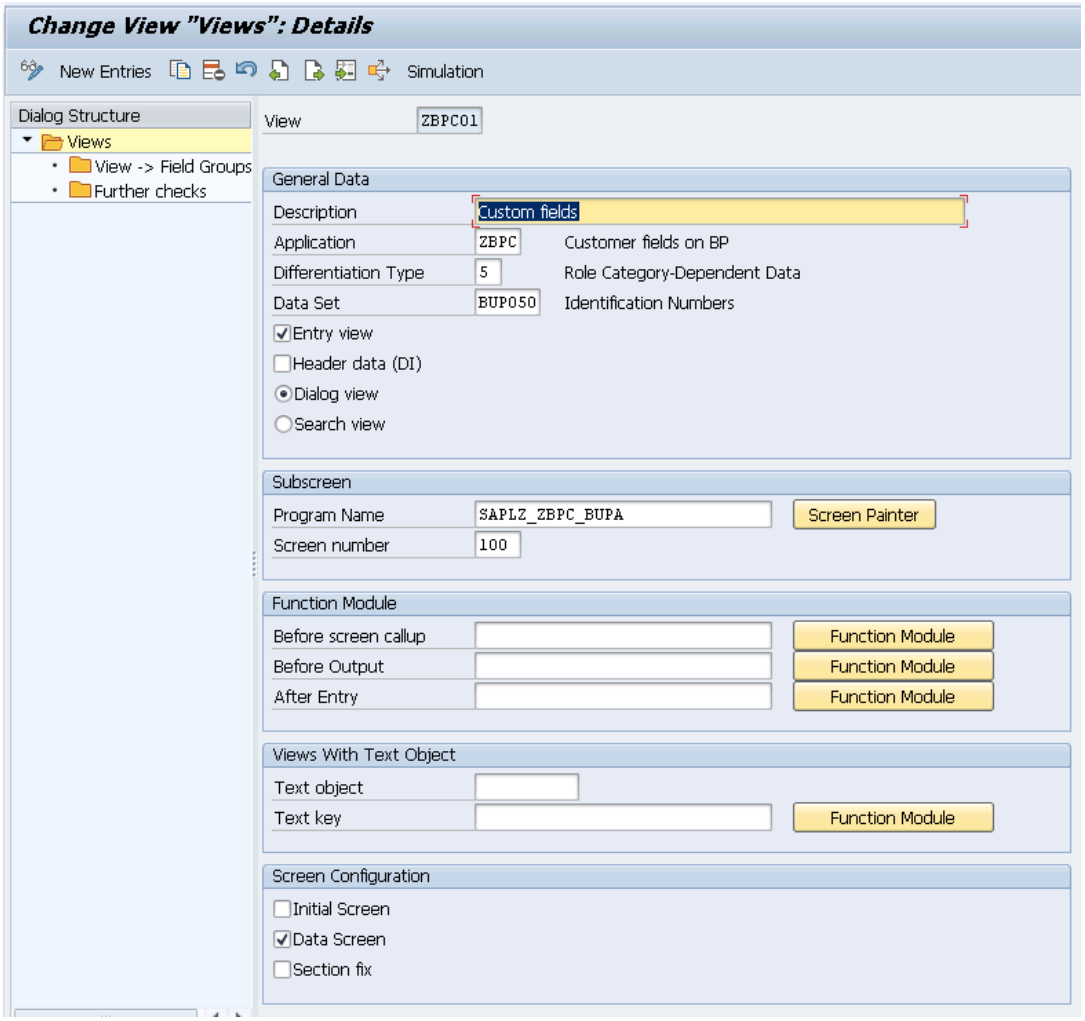

Figure 14: Creating a new view

Assign your field group to that view.

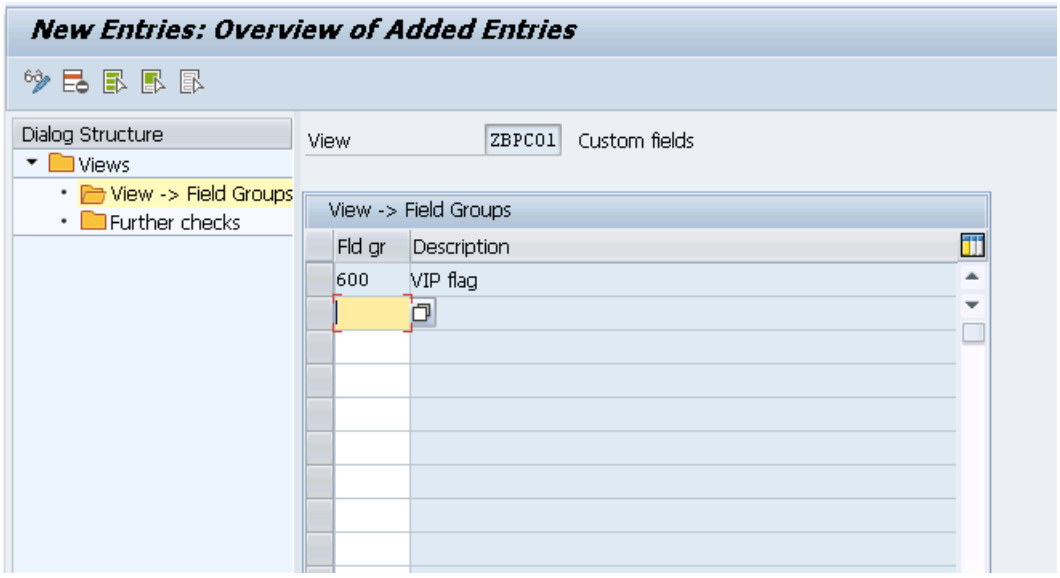

Figure 15: Assign the field group to the view

Depending on where you want your new field to appear, you assign the view to a section of SAP or create your own section.

If you created a new section you must assign it to a screen. Choose an existing SAP screen for simple display of your field or create your own screen if you want it to appear e.g. on a new tab on a SAP tab strip control.

Section

In my example I chose to create a new section that I'm going to add to an existing SAP screen.

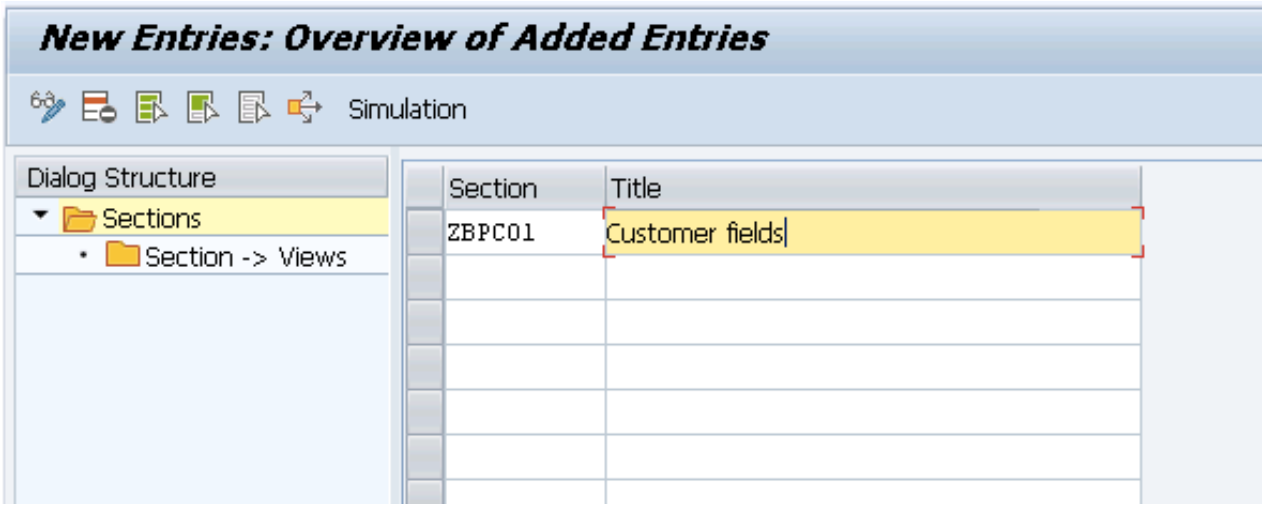

Figure 16: Creating a new section

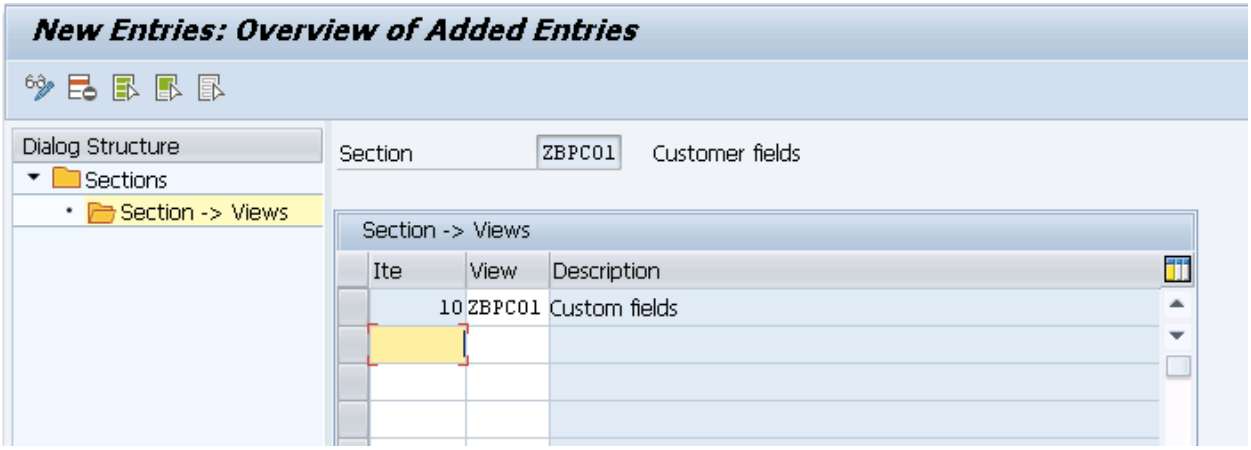

Figure 17: Assigning the view to the new section

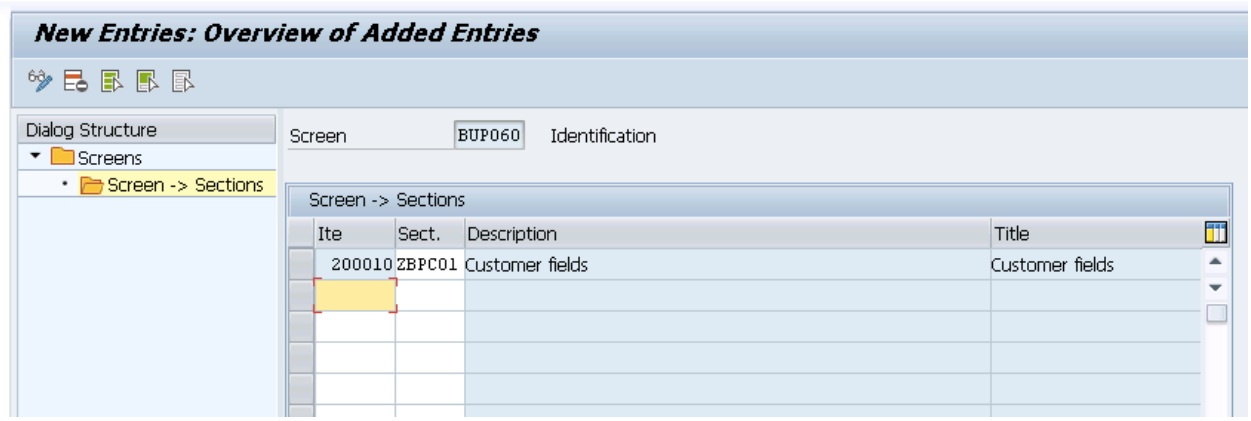

Figure 18: Assigning the new section to an existing SAP screen

I'm assigning my new section to the SAP screen BUP060 that represents the Identification tab on the Business Partner dialogue.

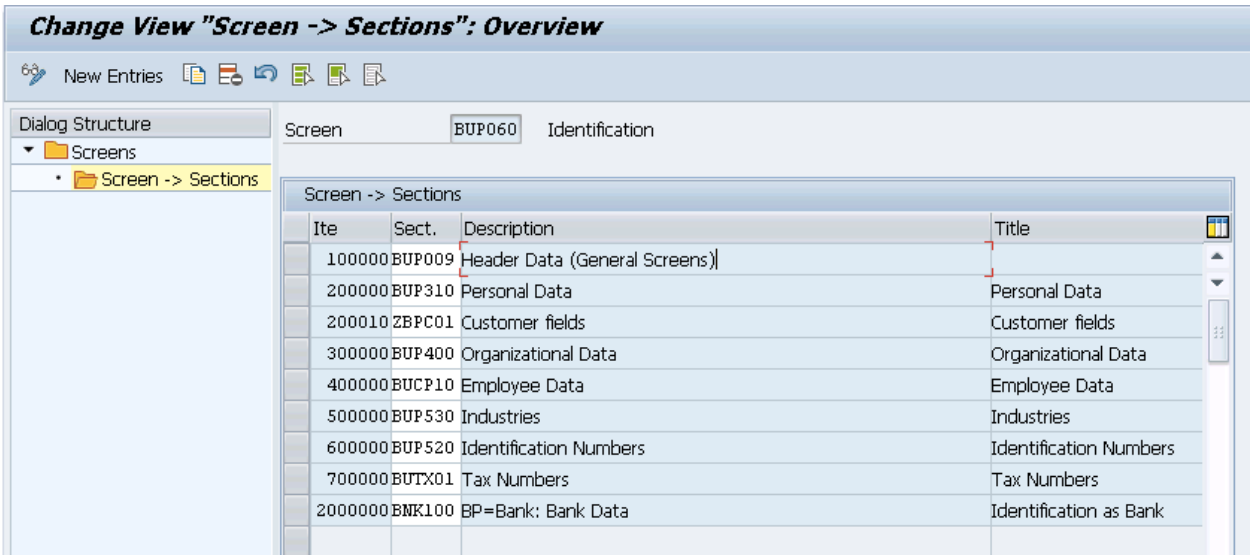

Figure 19: The new section appears between the SAP sections

Note the naming convention for the item numbers: the last two digits are the customer name space. If you want your section to appear after SAPs section 200000 you can name it 2000xy with xy[2] being a number of your choice. By choosing 200010 we will have the new section appear between the Personal Data and Organizational Data.

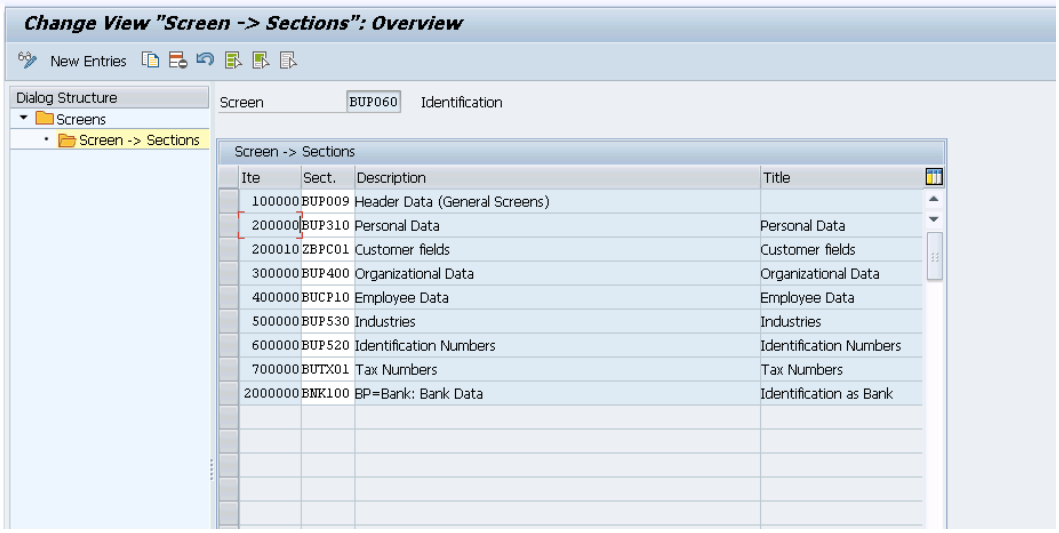

Figure 20: The new section appears on the SAP screen

If your BDT object supports divisibility, you'll have to assign your new BDT application to one of the objects parts. Within the Business Partner those object parts are roles and are also called BP views. In my BP example I chose to assign the BDT application to the General Role (000000):

[2] X is actually supposed to be for the customers central development (like repository name space Z) and Y is supposed to be for customers branch development (like Y repository name space)

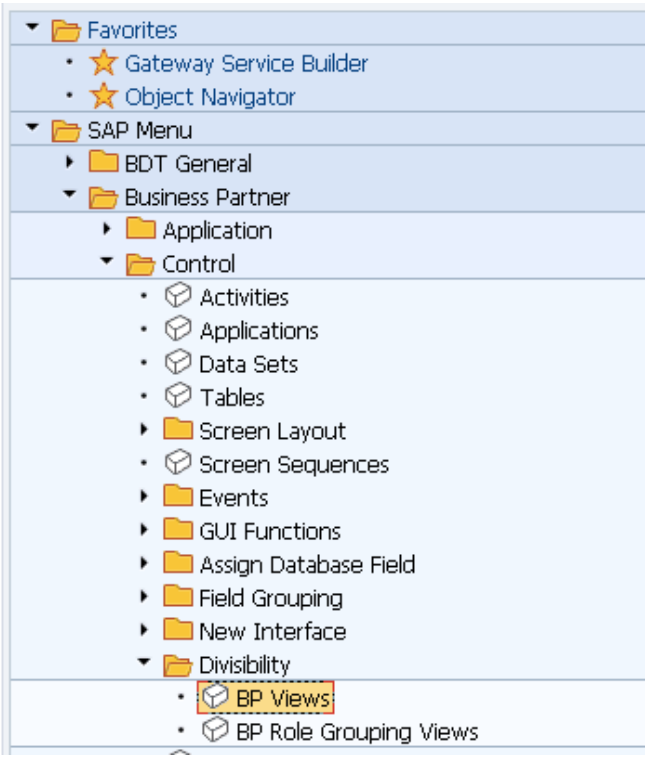

Figure 21: BDT Entry for setting the divisibility choices

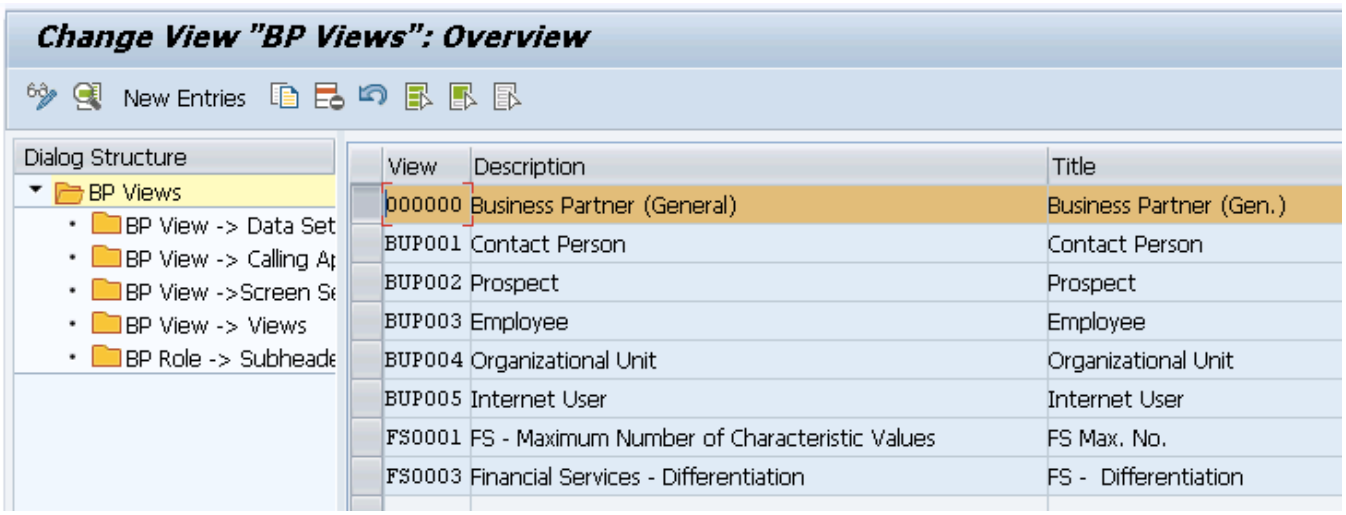

Figure 22: Choosing role 000000 (general)

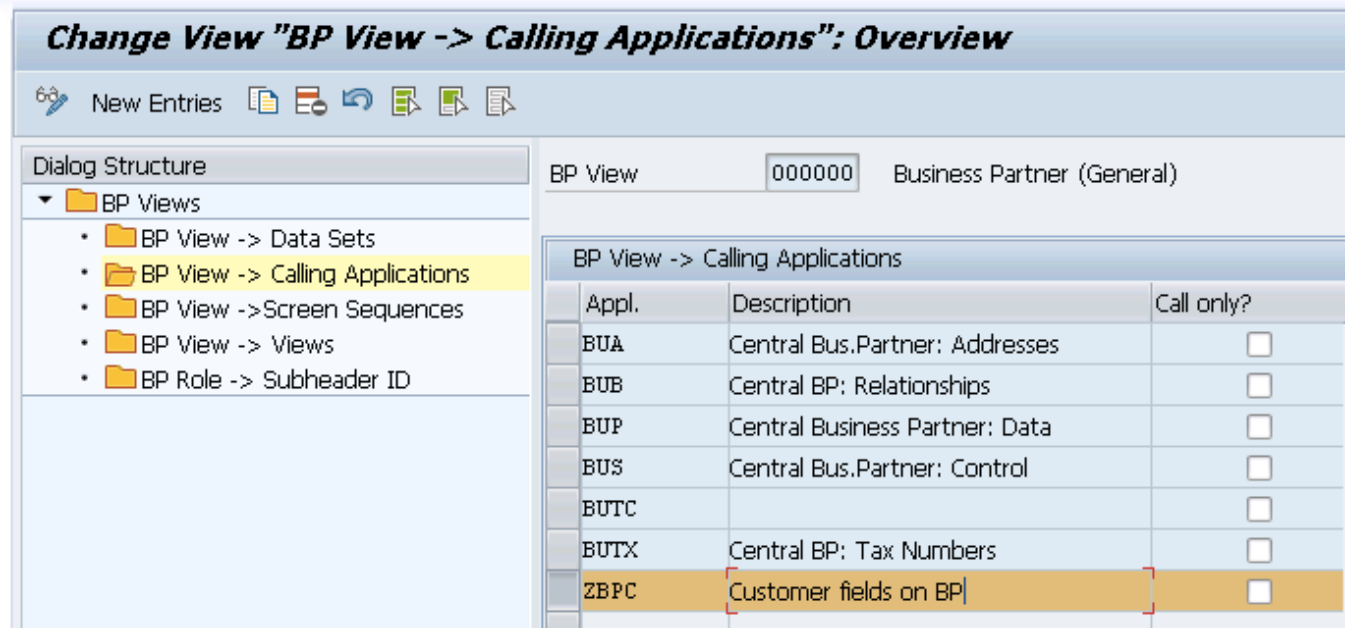

Figure 23: Assigning our new BDT application to be called within role 000000

Now it's time to check that everything is set up correctly. Start your maintenance transaction, e.g. BP for Business Partner, and you should see the new field:

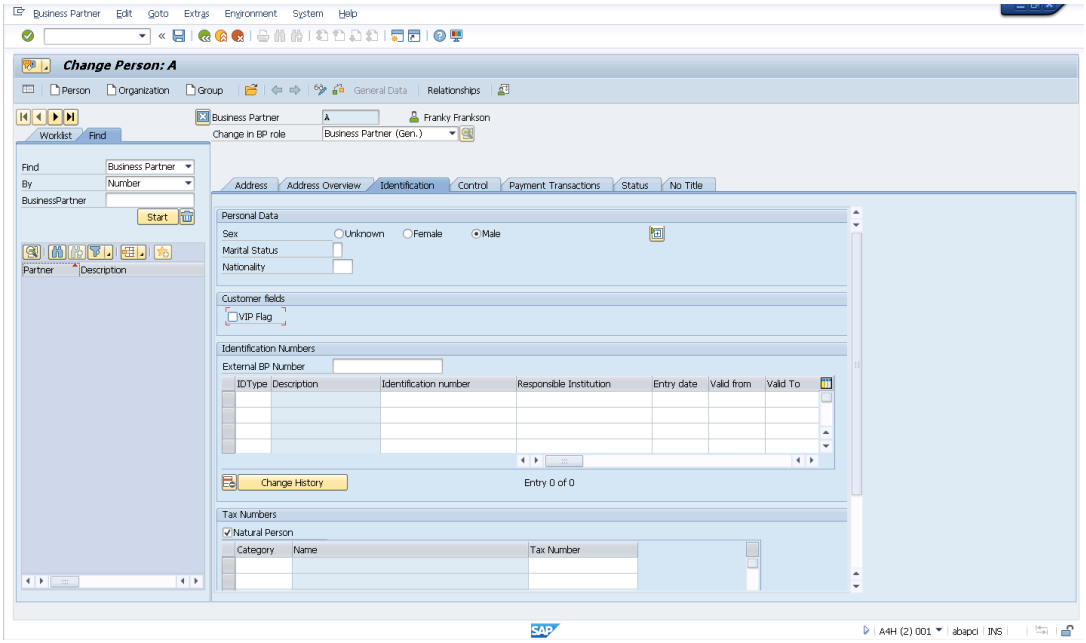

Figure 24: The new field shows up on the screen

If you cannot see the new field, check all previous steps again. If you still can't see it, try to generate the BDT sub screen containers:

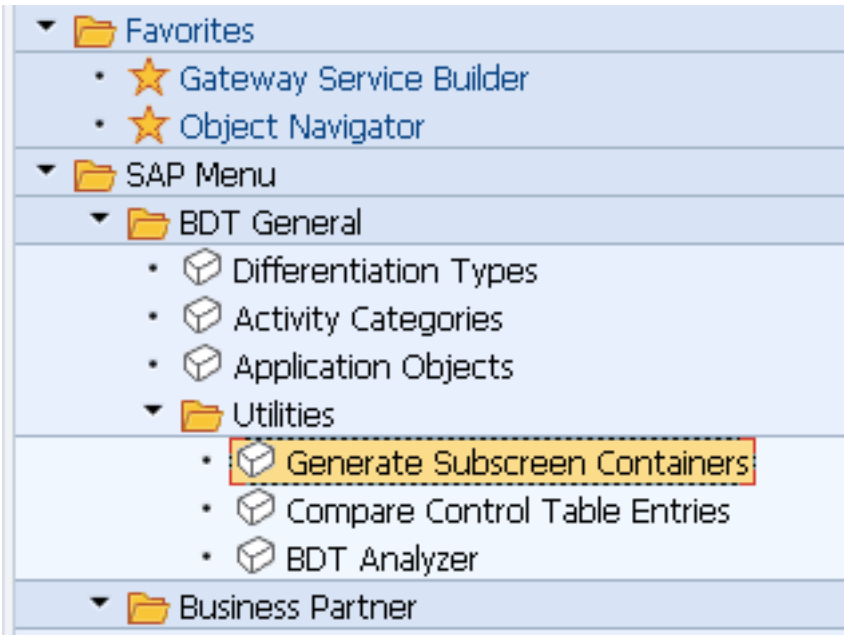

Figure 25: Path to find the Generate Subscreen Container transaction

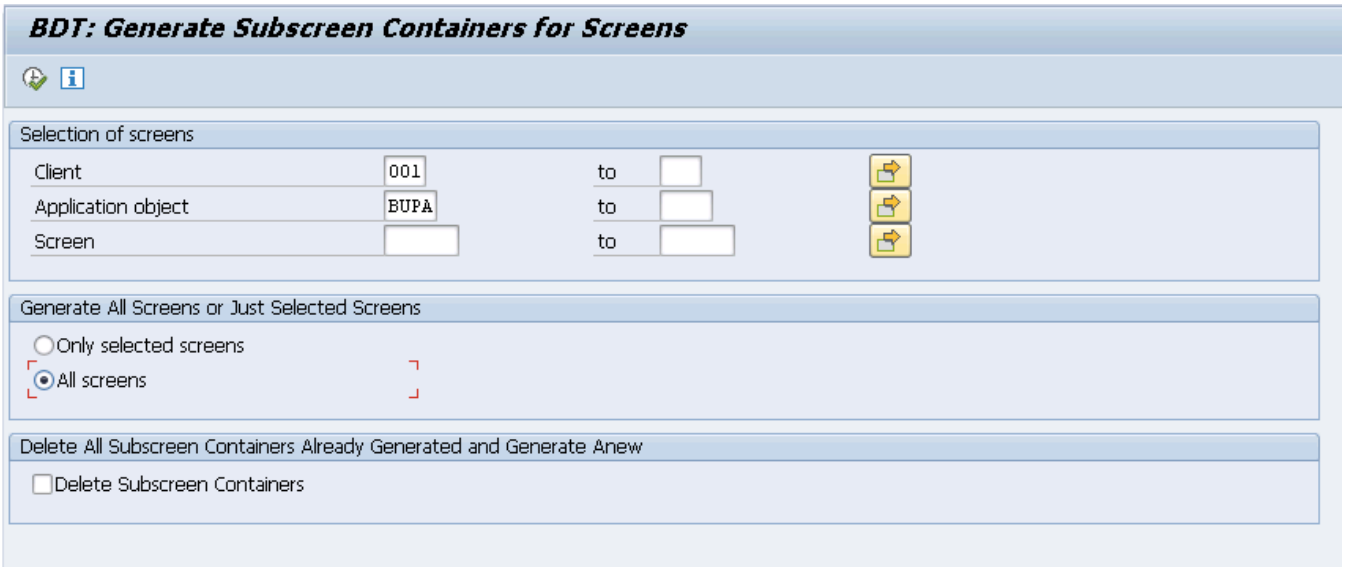

Figure 26: Parameters to generate the sub screen containers

Select your application object and the scope to "all screens". After that you should see the field.

When the field is displayed there won't be any functionality for saving the values you entered or displaying the data from the database. Therefore we have to implement the BDT logic for the new field in the next step.

Set up the BDT logic for your new application (10mins)

The table owning application keeps the old and updated values of the application in its function group memory during run time. To add your field value you must get the content of that memory and later at saving time you must pass back your new field value to the table owning application.

The owning application supplies a set of function modules for this purpose. You can find them in your BDT area menu under Control -> Tables. You'll need the Read and the Collect function modules for the table you added your field to:

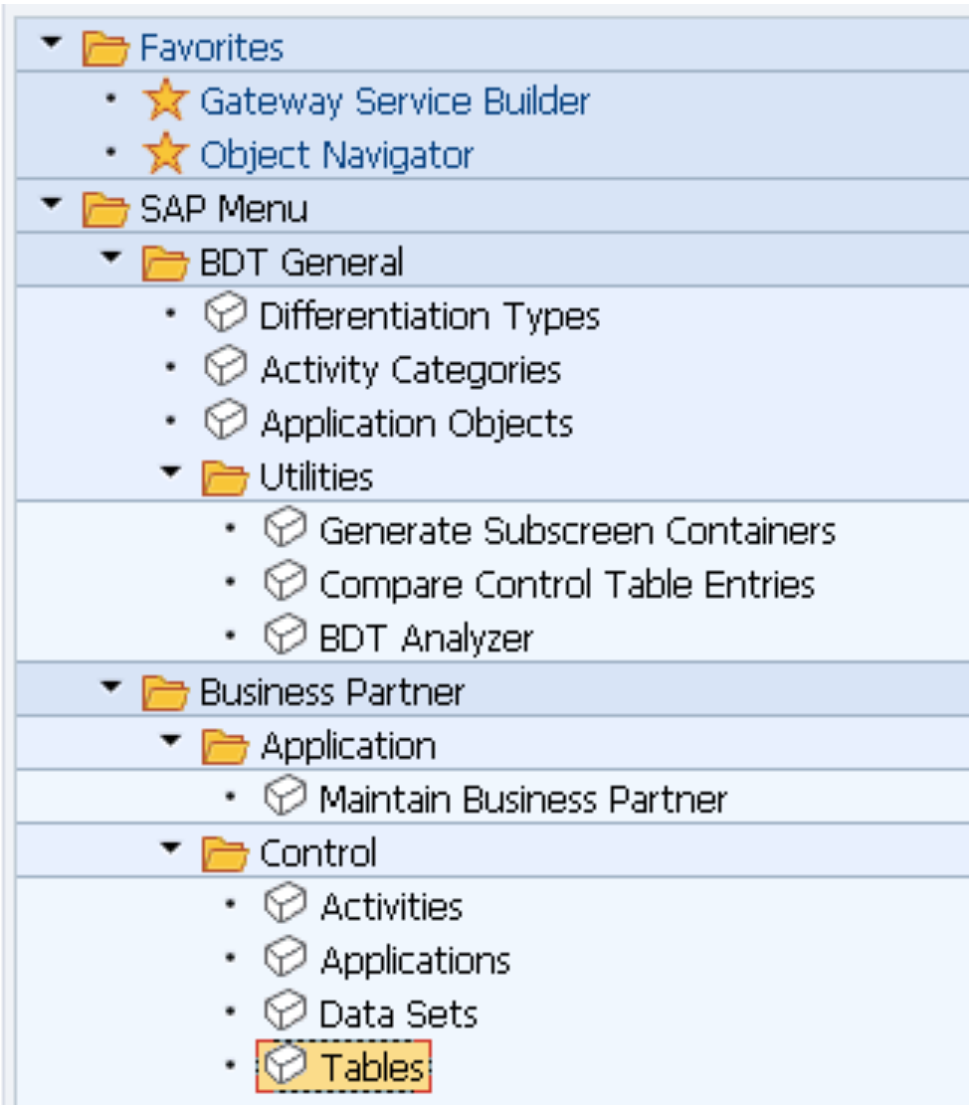

Figure 27: Path in the BDT area menu to the Tables entry

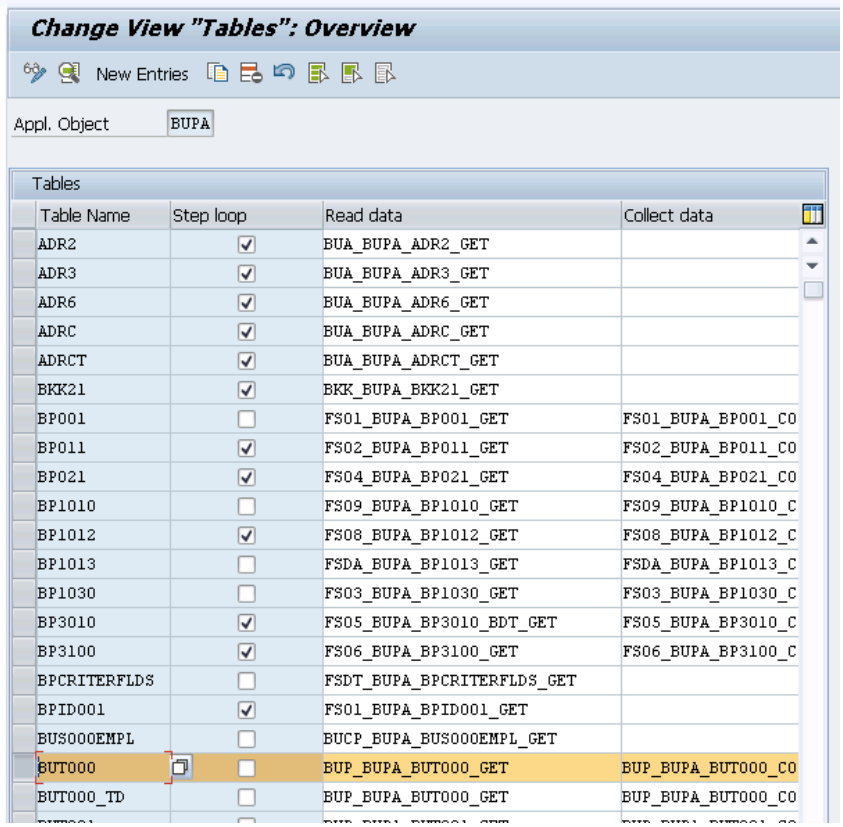

Figure 28: Choose the table you're adding the field to

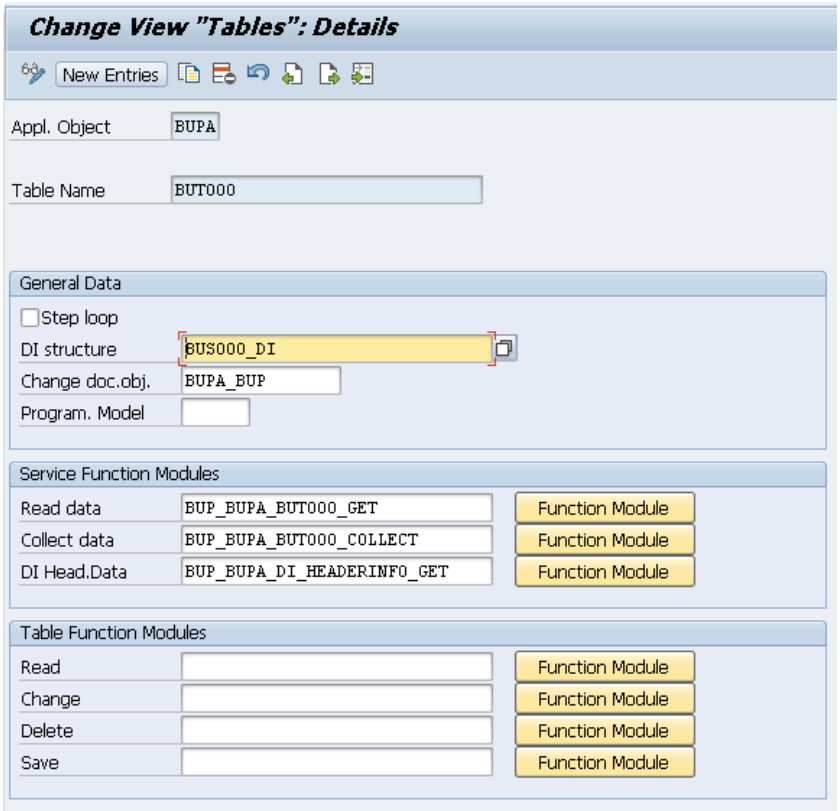

Figure 29: Service function modules of the Business Partner for table BUT000

In your BDT area menu there is a BDT event section: Control -> Events -> BDT Events.

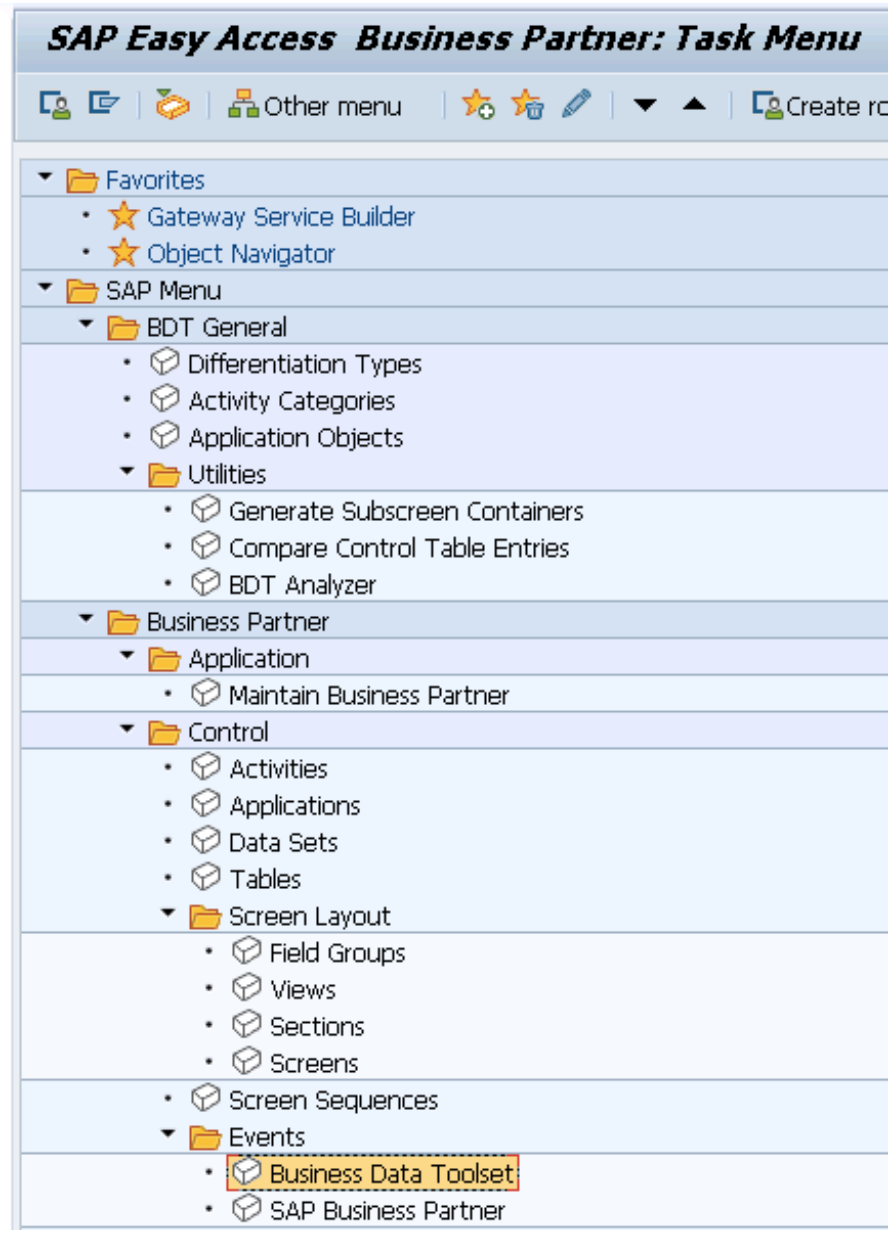

Figure 30: BDT events in the area menu

You must implement the events ISDST, XCHNG, DLVE1 and DSAVB.
See flowcharts below that show the sequence of all BDT events in dialogue mode[3].

[3] The sequence of the BDT events in Direct Input differs slightly from this, but is not part of this How-To

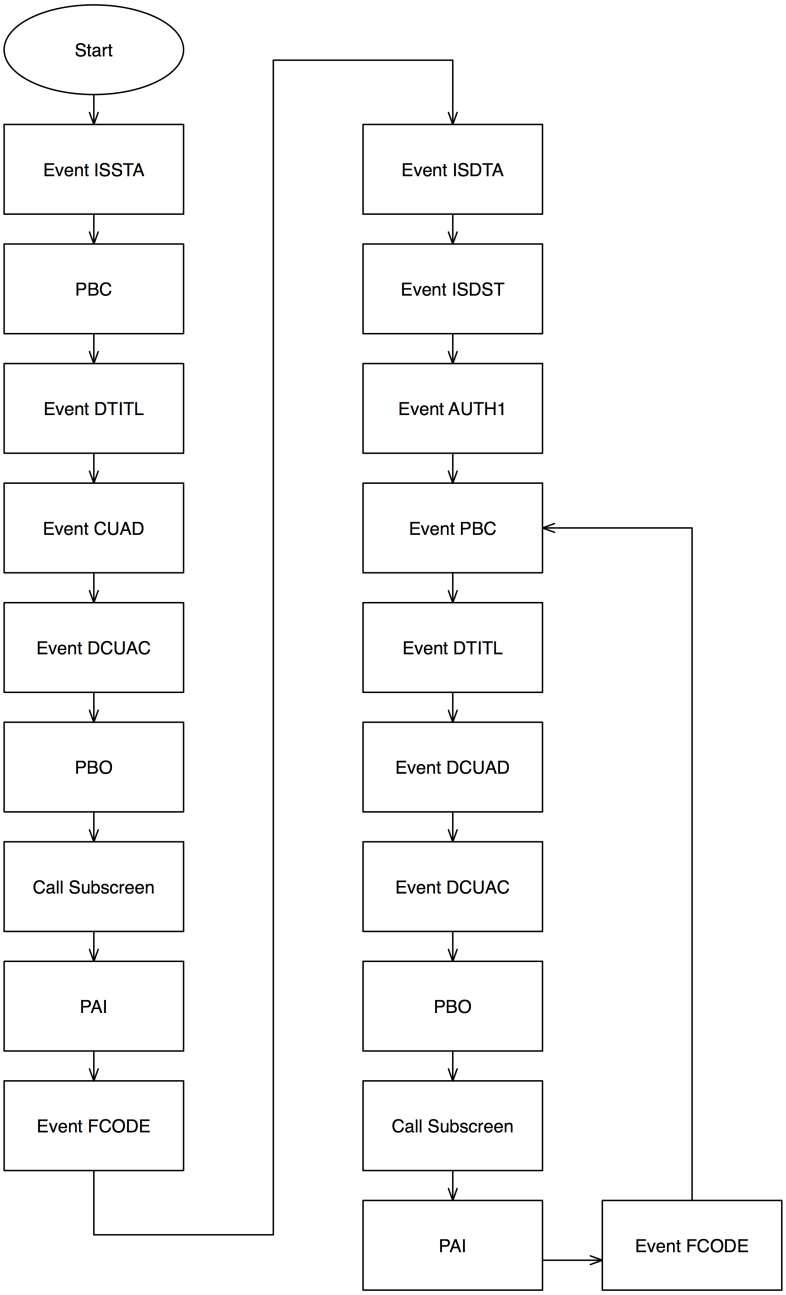

Figure 31: BDT event flow during data entry

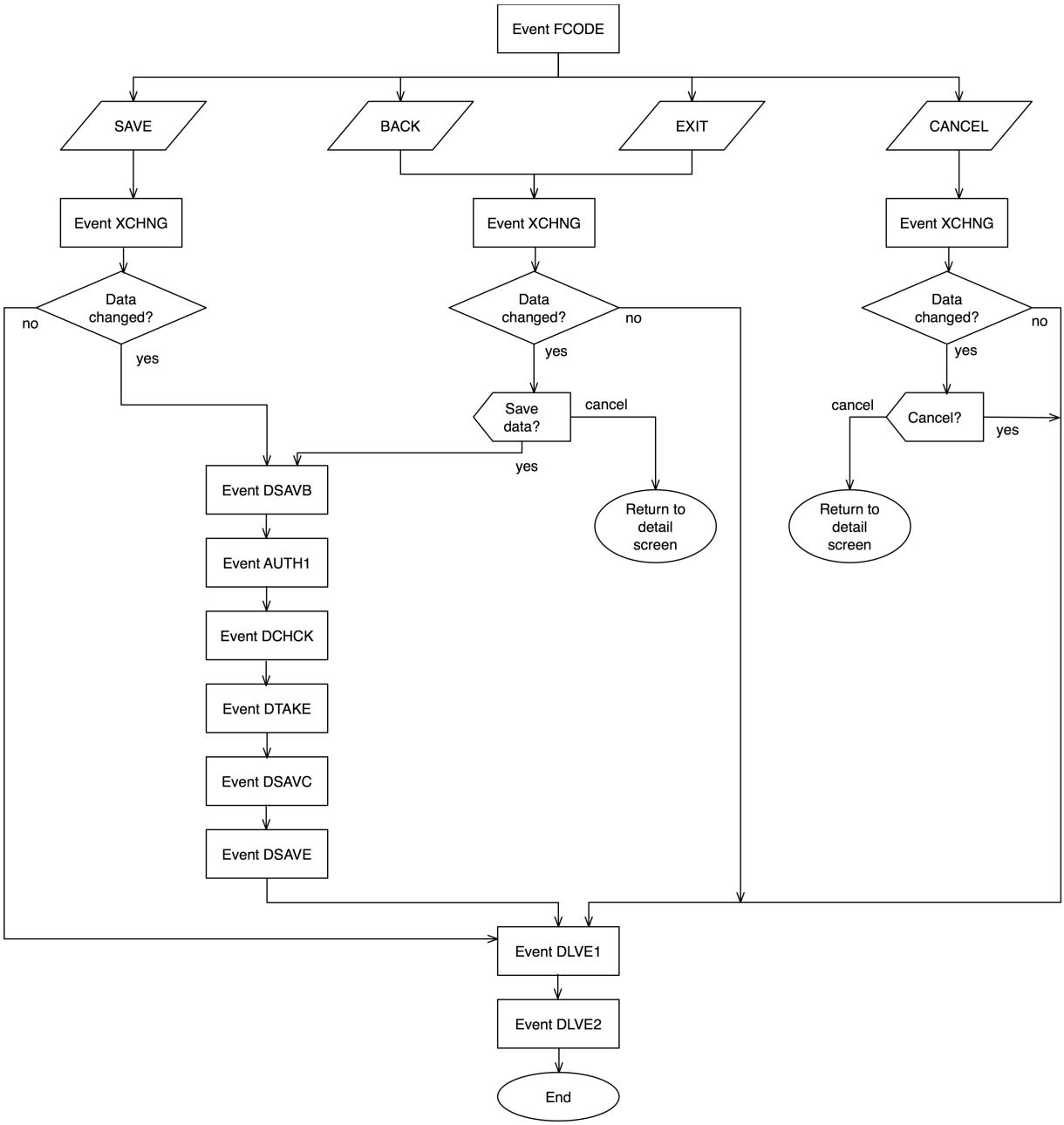

Figure 32: BDT at saving/leaving the dialogue

Global Memory

Create the global memory for the table you're enhancing to keep old and new values of your object in your function group's top include:

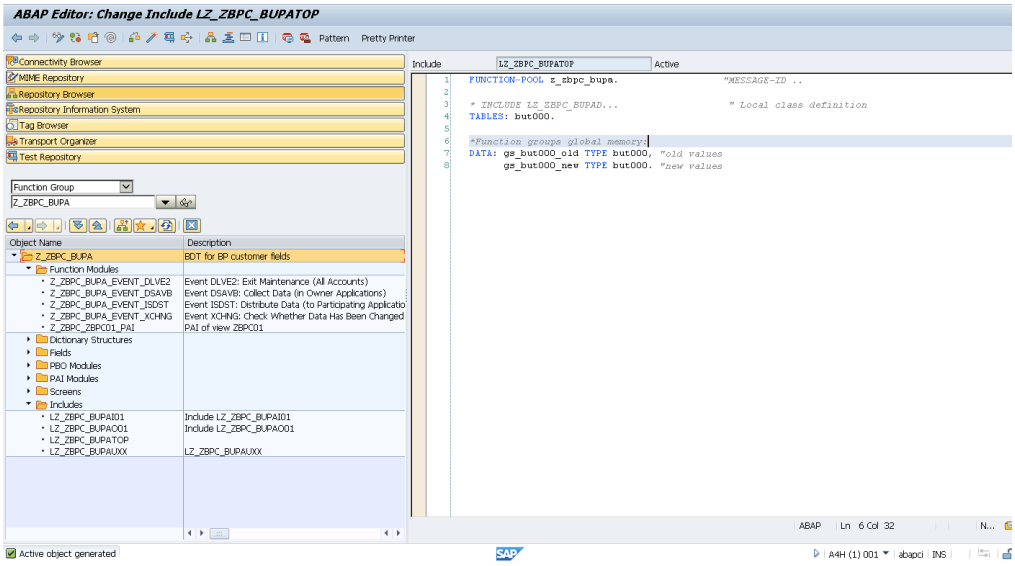

Figure 33: Creating the global memory for the old and new object values

Event ISDST (Getting the data from the owning application)

Create a function module for the event ISDST. Naming convention: Z_<appl>_<obj>_EVENT_ISDST. In event ISDST you have to get the current memory of the owning application. You use the Read function module you determined before. Store the data in your own function group's global memory. This function module has no parameters.

This is what ISDST looks like for my BP example:

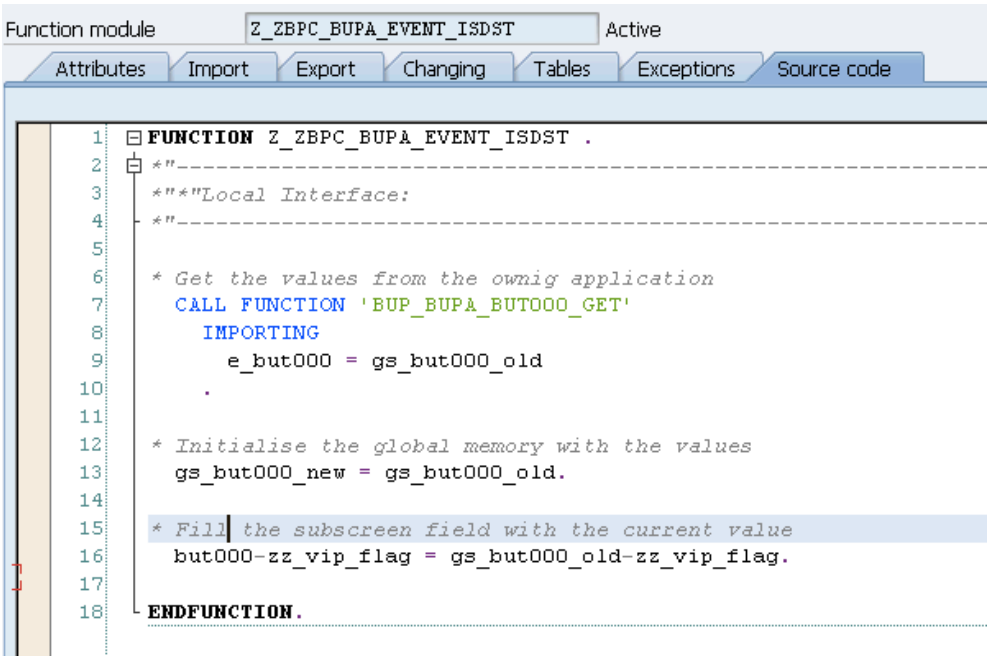

Figure 34: Function module for event ISDST of the Business Partner

Event XCHNG (checking if your field value has changed)

In event XCHNG you have to check if the user changed the value of your custom field:

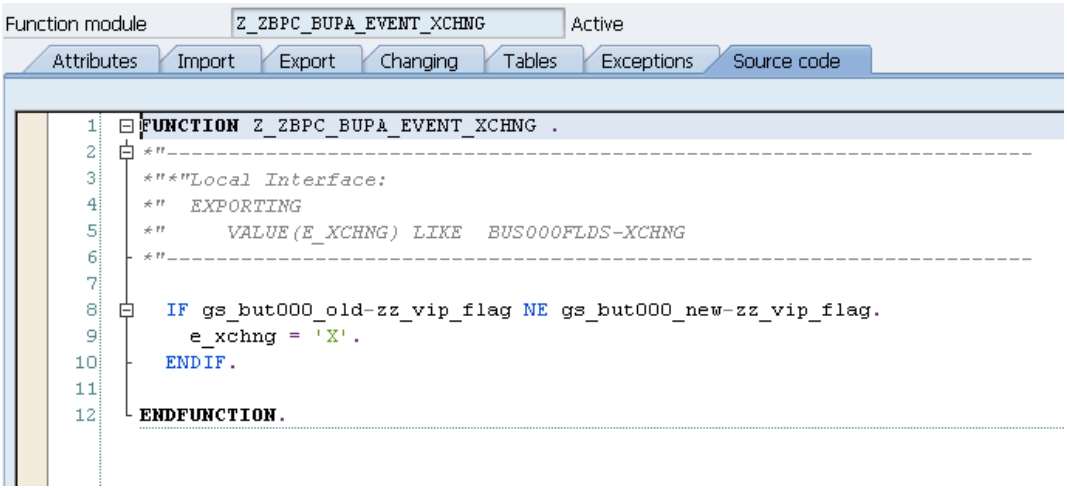

Figure 35: Function module for BDT event XCHNG

The function module for event XCHNG has one exporting parameter. Find an SAP function module in the event configuration or set it up as shown in my example above.

Event DLVE1 (reset your function groups memory)

In event DLVE1 you have to reset your function groups global memory. This function module has no parameters.

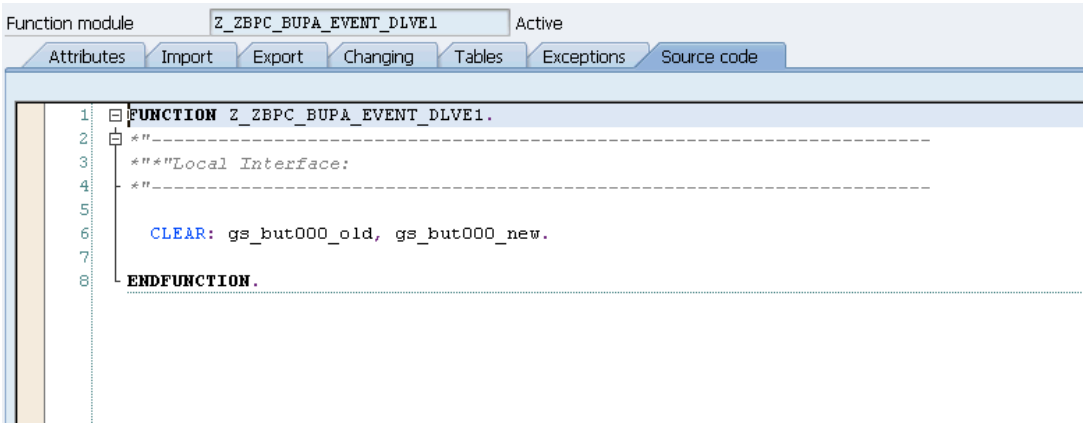

Figure 36: Function module for BDT event DLVE1

Event DSAVB (Transferring your field value to the owning application)

In event DSAVB you have to give the owning application your custom field values. Calling the Collect function module we determined before does this. This is again another function module without parameters.

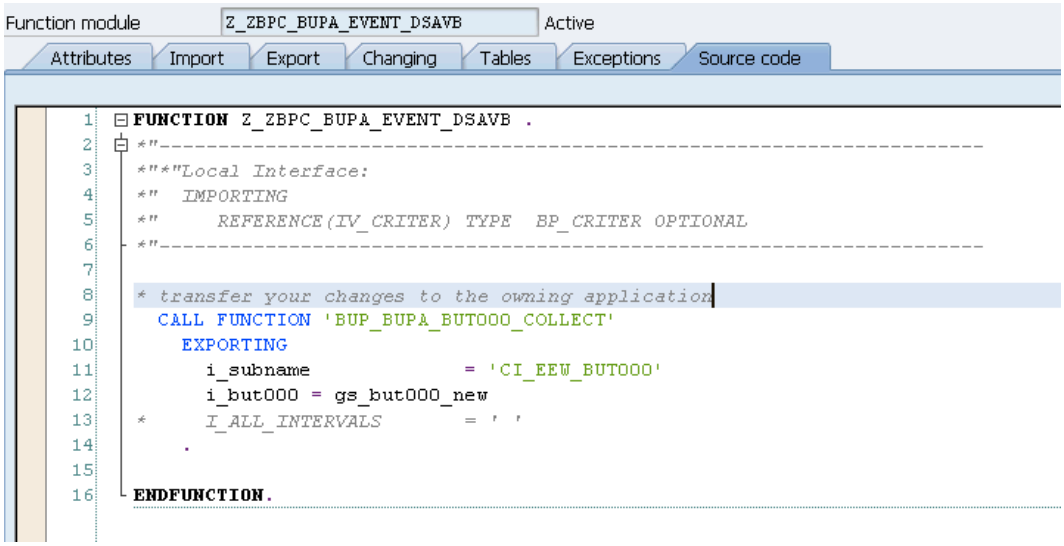

Figure 37: Function module for BDT event DSAVB

After creating those event function modules, you must put them in the event configuration shown above (Figure 30: BDT events in the area menu).

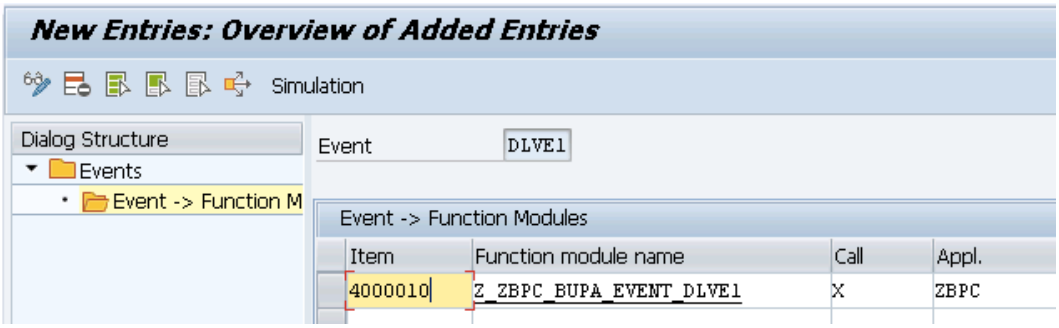

Figure 38: Configuring the function module for event DLVE1

PAI function module for the view

There is one last thing to implement: It's the Process After Input function module for the view we created. Do not put this functionality in the PAI module of the sub screen. Create a new function module without parameters and use this naming convention: Z_<appl>_<obj>_<view> with <view> being the view name.

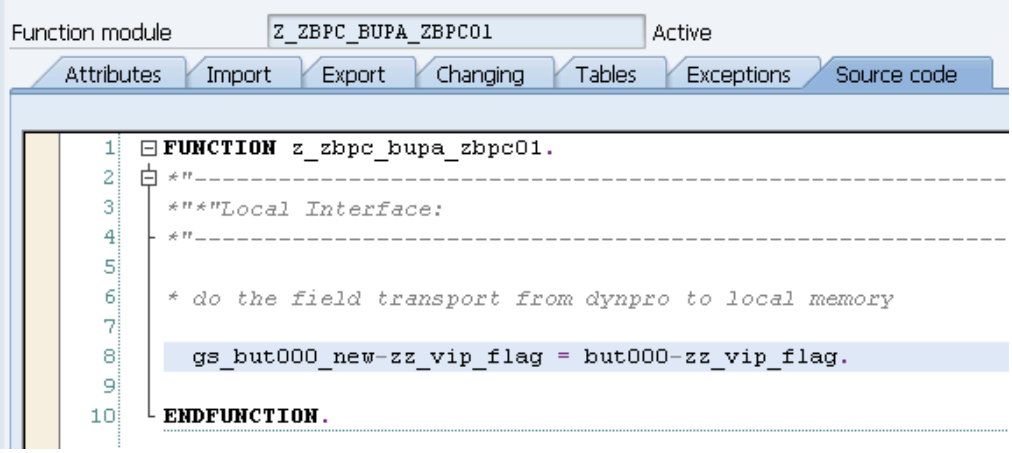

Figure 39: Implementing the PAI function module for the view

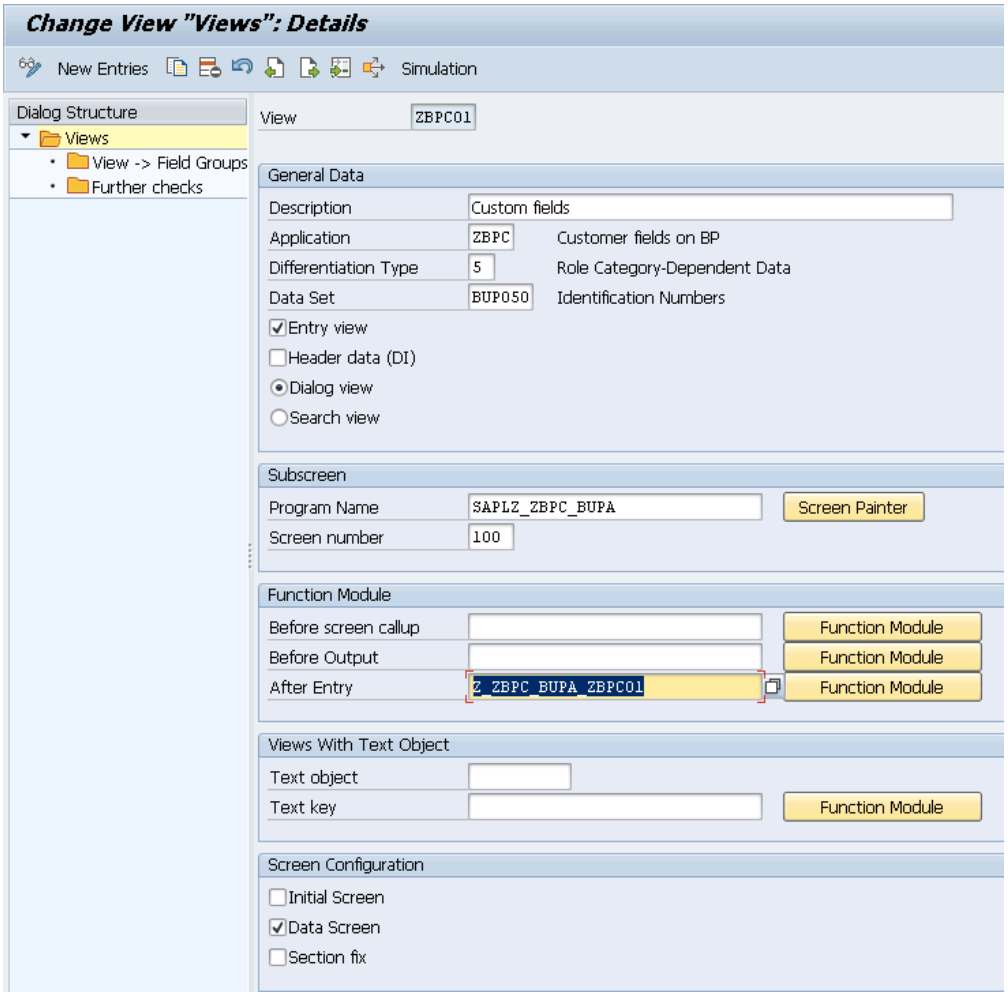

Figure 40: Adding the PAI function module to the view

This PAI function module is needed to transfer the changed field value to our function group memory.

That's it! You just added a customer field to your application without knowing BDT in detail. Congratulations!

I'm always open to feedback, so please let me know if anything in this short course was unclear or needs further details.

You just learned **how** to add a custom field to the BDT, but I omitted most of the time **why** you had to choose certain settings.

Would you be interested to know why those settings were made?

What the other settings, not mentioned, are good for?

What if you need to do more complex BDT tasks, like adding a new check to an SAP field, adding a whole new customer table to an application?

I'm in the progress of creating an eLearning course that covers every aspect of the Business Data Toolset.

If you have got any questions or issues regarding BDT, drop me a line at bdt@apadev.co.uk and I'm happy to include the information/explanations/solutions in the upcoming course.

Don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind Regards,

Frank Vieregge