

## Browse the Book

*discusses the creation and derivation of characteristics, which are identical for costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis. In this reading sample, the author guides you through creating characteristics, with special considerations for SAP tables, value maintenance, existing values, and assigning those characteristics to operating concerns.*



**“Configuring Characteristics”**



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## Chapter 3

# Configuring Characteristics

*Characteristics define on which level you can analyze your data. Both costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis use characteristics to structure reporting.*

Characteristics are required to define the basic structure of costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis. You should put some time into defining characteristics and thinking about strategic goals when you set up your characteristics. It isn't easy to change characteristics after you're productive with costing-based profitability analysis or margin analysis. You can't delete characteristics that have postings at all. In addition, you're limited to 60 characteristics that you can assign to your operating concern. There are some fixed characteristics that are assigned to every operating concern by default. The 60 characteristics can be assigned in addition to the fixed characteristics.

**Characteristics:  
basic structure of  
profitability analysis**

All characteristics in margin analysis are available in the Universal Journal. The characteristics in costing-based analysis are stored in the separate characteristics table CE4xxxx. The xxxx can be replaced with the technical name of your operating concern.

**Storing  
characteristics**

The fixed characteristics in SAP standard can be accessed from the data structure that you can display via the operating concern. To see the data structure, use Transaction KEAO to display the operating concern Z100, and then click on  (Display Data Structure) in the **Data structure** section (see Figure 3.1). By choosing **More • Extras • Display fixed fields**, you can display the fixed fields that are assigned to every operating concern by default.

**Fixed characteristics**

The fixed fields are divided into three categories:

**Types of fixed  
characteristics**

- **Charact.**

In this tab, you'll find characteristics for the organizational structure, such as company code, profit center, and so on, as well as characteristics for the main master data, such as customer, vendor, article, and so on.

- **Techn. fields**

In this tab, you'll find the document numbers and all characteristics related to the period, such as fiscal year, posting period, and so on.

■ **Acctg. Amounts**

In this tab, you'll find all the quantity fields and amount fields.

The fixed fields have more relevancy for costing-based profitability analysis as all those fields are available in the Universal Journal by default and will be updated in margin analysis after the operating concern is activated. Before you assign characteristics to your operating concern, you should check the fixed fields to see which ones are assigned to your operating concern by default. Figure 3.2 shows an extract of the characteristics that are fixed fields. We won't list all the fixed fields here, but you now know how to display them.

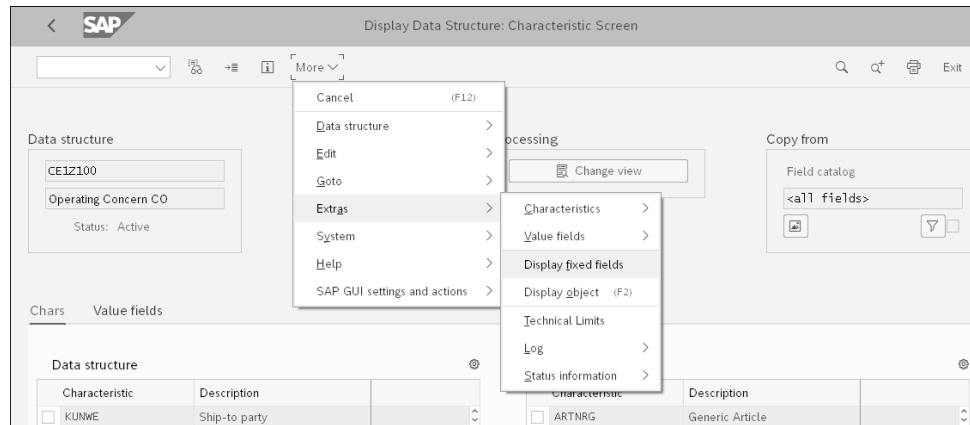


Figure 3.1 Display Fixed Fields

Fixed Fields of data structure						
Charact.	Techn. fields	Acctg amounts				
Field name	Description	Use	DTyp	Length	Orig.Table	Data element
ARTNR	Product	F	CHAR	40	MARA	ARTNR
BUKRS	Company Code	F	CHAR	4		BUKRS
COPA_KOSTL	Cost center	F	CHAR	10		COPA_KOSTL
FKART	Billing Type	F	CHAR	4		FKART
FKBER	Functional Area	F	CHAR	16		FKBER
GSBER	Business Area	F	CHAR	4		GSBER
KAUFN	Sales Order	F	CHAR	10		KDAUF
KDPOS	Sales ord. item	F	NUMC	6		KDPOS
KNDNR	Customer	F	CHAR	10	KNA1	KUNDE_PA
KOKRS	CO Area	F	CHAR	4		KOKRS
KSTRG	Cost Object	F	CHAR	12		KSTRG
LIEFNR	Delivery	F	CHAR	10		VBELN_VL
LIEFPOS	Item	F	NUMC	6		POSNR_VL

Figure 3.2 Fixed Fields of an Operating Concern

Types of customer-specific characteristics

In addition to the fixed fields, you can assign characteristics from a list of already available characteristics in the client to the operating concern. You also can create customer-specific characteristics and assign them to the operating concern. The following types of customer-specific characteristics are available in profitability analysis:

- **Creating characteristics from SAP tables**  
You can copy characteristics from existing SAP standard tables.
- **Creating characteristics with your own value maintenance**  
You can create your own values for your user-defined characteristic.
- **Creating characteristics without value maintenance**  
You can assign values to characteristics that don't have specific values. These characteristics are often created for technical reasons.
- **Creating characteristics with reference to existing values**  
You copy an existing characteristic, including its values.

In this chapter, we'll give you step-by-step instructions on how to create the different types of characteristics and give meaningful examples for when to create each type of characteristic. Next you'll learn how to create characteristic derivations and how to analyze them. Finally, we'll show you how to realign characteristics when you, for example, decide to add a new characteristic to your operating concern and want to derive that characteristic for all existing documents.

### 3.1 Characteristics

In this section, we'll introduce the various forms of user-defined characteristics. We'll show how you can create user-specific characteristics and add them to the operating concern.

#### 3.1.1 Create, Change, and Update Characteristics

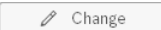
Transaction KEA5 can be used to create, change, and display characteristics. You can access Transaction KEA5 by following the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Characteristics**.

Create/change/display characteristics: Transaction KEA5

Figure 3.3 shows the selection screen to create/change or display characteristics transactions. The screen is divided into two sections. In the **Choose Characteristics** area, you have the following different functions for changing/displaying a characteristic:

- **All Characteristics**  
All characteristics that have been created in the system are displayed/available in change mode.
- **Chars from operating concern**  
Only the characteristics of a predefined operating concern are displayed/available in change mode.
- **Characteristics that are not used in operating concerns**  
Characteristics that aren't used in any operating concern existing in the system are displayed/available in change mode.

**Create new characteristics** In the **Create Characteristic** area of the screen, you can create a new characteristic. We explain how to create the different types of customer-specific characteristics in Section 3.1.2 and the following.

**Change characteristics** In this example, we'll execute Transaction KEA5 to view all characteristics that are assigned to operating concern Z100 in change mode. Therefore, select **Chars from operating concern Z100**, and then click on .

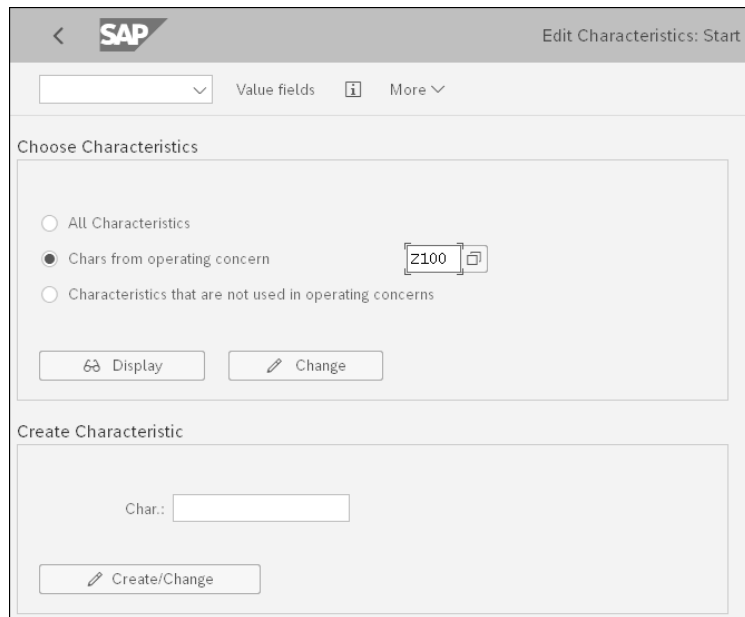


Figure 3.3 Selection Screen to Create/Change and Display Characteristics

**Characteristics of the operating concern** In Figure 3.4, you see an overview of all characteristics assigned to operating concern Z100. You can change the name of the customer-specific characteristics in change mode. Otherwise, no changes to characteristics are

possible. You recognize customer-specific characteristics by their technical name because they must start with WW. In Figure 3.4, no customer-specific characteristics have been assigned to the operating concern yet, but the following information about the characteristics is available:

- **Char.**  
The technical name of the characteristic. Customer-specific characteristics start with WW.
- **Description**  
The description of the characteristic.
- **Short text**  
The short text of the characteristic.
- **DTyp**  
Whether the characteristic is a numeric characteristic (**NUMC**) or whether other characters are permitted as values (**CHAR**).
- **Lgth.**  
The lengths of the characteristic values.
- **Origin Table**  
For all noncustomer-specific characteristics, the origin table columns from which table they are originating.
- **Origin field d**  
The origin field if the characteristic is created with reference to an existing characteristic.

Char.	Description	Short text	DTyp	Lgth.	Origin Table	Origin field d
<input type="checkbox"/> KUNWE	Ship-to party	Ship-To	CHAR	10	PAPARTNER	KUNWE
<input type="checkbox"/> LAND1	Country	Country	CHAR	3	KNA1	LAND1
<input type="checkbox"/> MATKL	Material Group	Matl Group	CHAR	9	MARA	MATKL

Figure 3.4 List of Characteristics Assigned to the Operating Concern

Let's look at the characteristic's details. Double-click on one of the characteristics, and you'll be forwarded to the detailed view. For example, Figure 3.5 shows the details of **Characteristic LAND1** (Land).

The detail screen is divided into several sections:

- **Texts**  
Define the description/name of the characteristic.

**Details of characteristics**

**Characteristic detail screen**

- **ABAP Dictionary**  
Displays the technical name of the characteristic.
- **Origin**  
Contains the origin table and origin field if the characteristic has been created with reference to an existing SAP table.
- **Further Properties**  
Provides information on whether the characteristic is already active.
- **Validation**  
Shows which characteristic type the characteristic has and if the characteristic has a check table that is storing its values. You'll learn more about the different characteristic types in Section 3.1.2 and following.

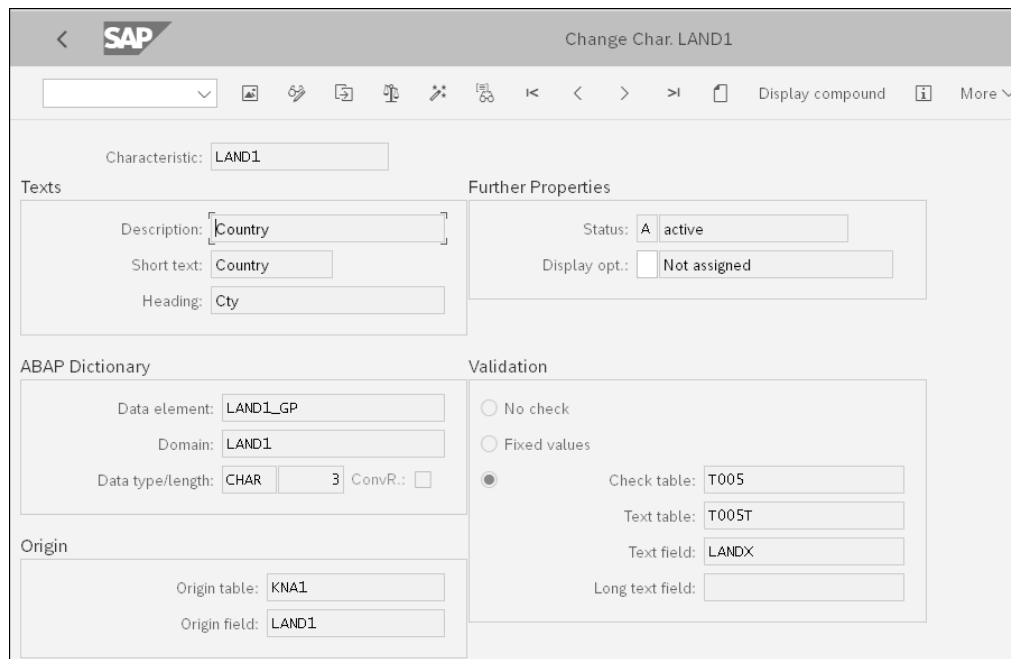
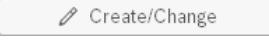


Figure 3.5 Details of a Characteristic

### 3.1.2 Creating a Characteristic from an SAP Table

Create a characteristic from a SAP table: Transaction KEA5

To create a characteristic with reference to an SAP table, go to Transaction KEA5 or follow the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Characteristics.**

You create a new characteristic by clicking on  in the **Create Characteristic** section of the screen shown in Figure 3.6.

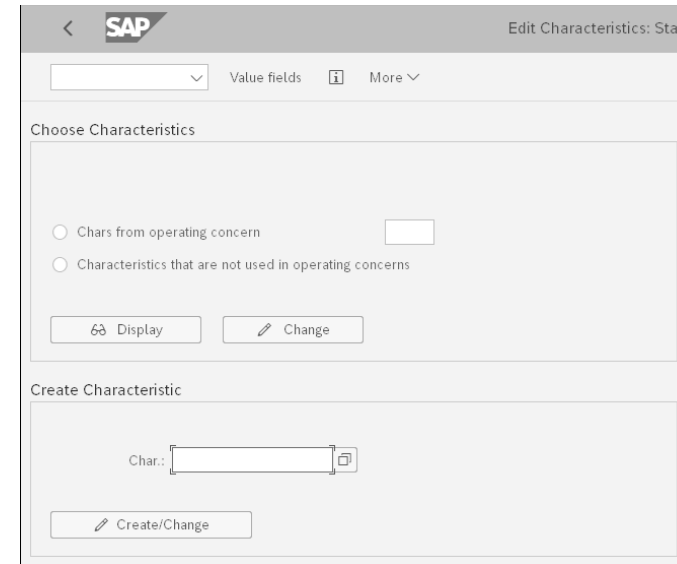


Figure 3.6 Create Characteristic

In the popup shown in Figure 3.7, choose the type of characteristic to create (e.g., **Transfer from SAP table**). With the **F4** Help, you can display all the reference tables that are available for transferring a characteristic, as shown in Table 3.1. You need to know the technical name and table from which you want to transfer the characteristic.

Create a characteristic from an SAP table

Table	Description
KNA1	General Data in Customer Master
KNB1	Customer Master (Company Code)
KNVV	Customer Master Sales Data
MARA	General Material Data
MARC	Plant Data for Material
MVKE	Sales Data for Material
PACPROJECT	Characteristics from cProjects That Can Be Used in CO-PA
PACRMIPM	Characteristics from CRM IPM That Can Be Used in CO-PA
PACRMSLS	Characteristics from CRM Sales That Can Be Used in CO-PA
PACRMSRV	Characteristics from CRM Services That Can Be Used in CO-PA
PAPARTNER	SD Partners That Can Be Used in CO-PA

Overview of reference tables

Table 3.1 Overview of SAP Tables

Table	Description
PARETAIL	Retail Fields That Can Be Used in CO-PA
PRPS	WBS (Work Breakdown Structure) Element Master Data
T001W	Plants/Branches
VBAK	Sales Document: Header Data
VBAP	Sales Document: Item Data
VBKD	Sales Document: Business Data
VIAUFKST	Generated Table for View VIAUFKST
WTY_COPA	Warranty Processing: Characteristics for CO-PA

Table 3.1 Overview of SAP Tables (Cont.)

Choosing a reference table

After you select the table, confirm the selection by pressing **[Enter]**. (In the example shown in Figure 3.7, table **KNVV – Customer Master Sales Data** has been selected as the reference table.)

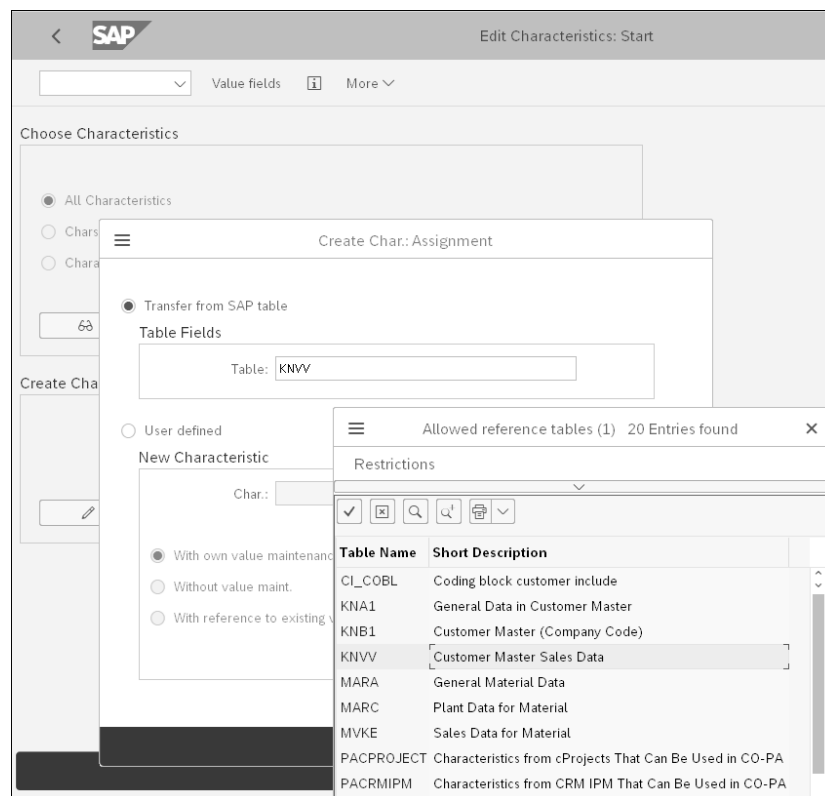


Figure 3.7 Choose the Reference Table for the Characteristic

In Figure 3.8, you see all fields that are available in table **KNVV** (Customer Master Sales Data). The characteristics that are grayed out can't be transferred to the operating concern. They may already be transferred, they may be part of the fixed fields, or a transfer is technically not possible. All characteristics with white background can be transferred. Select the checkbox next to **INCO1 – Incoterms**, and then press **[Enter]**.

Choosing a characteristic

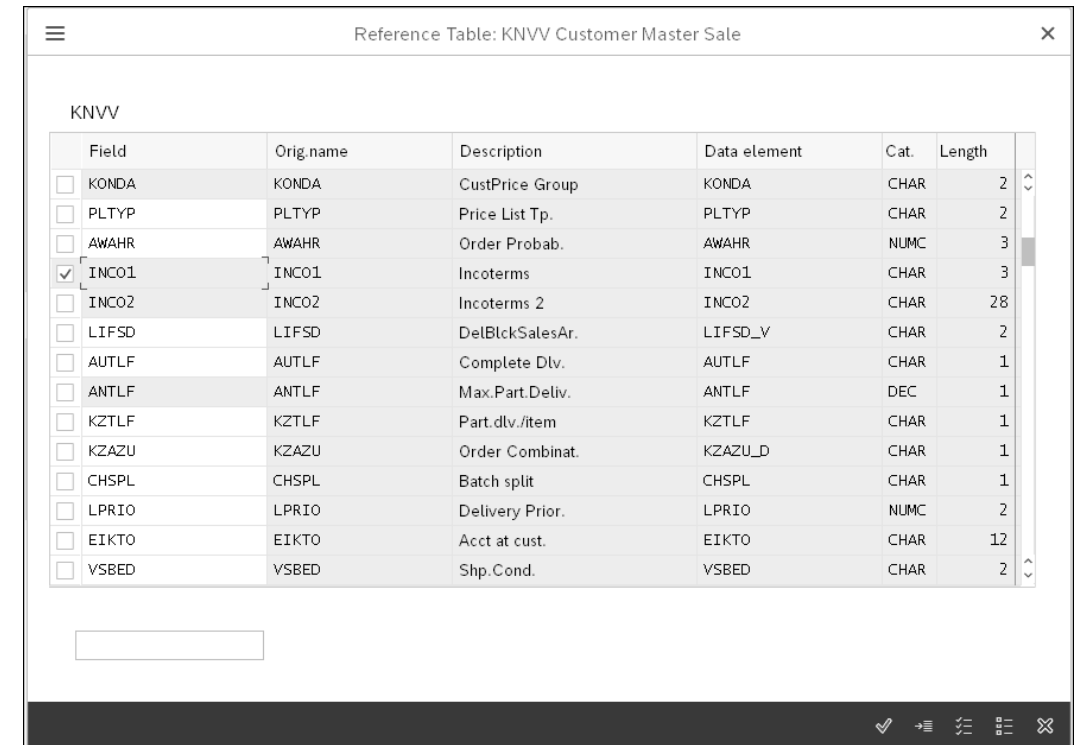


Figure 3.8 Choose the Characteristic for Transfer

In Figure 3.9, you see the details of **Characteristic INCO1 – Incoterms**. Because it was created from a reference field, you can't make any changes to the details. Activate the characteristic by clicking **[Activate]**, and save the characteristic with **Save** or **[Ctrl]+[S]**.

Details of the characteristic

To make the characteristic available in costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis, you have to assign it to the operating concern. We explain how to assign characteristics to the operating concern in Section 3.1.6.

Assignment to an operating concern

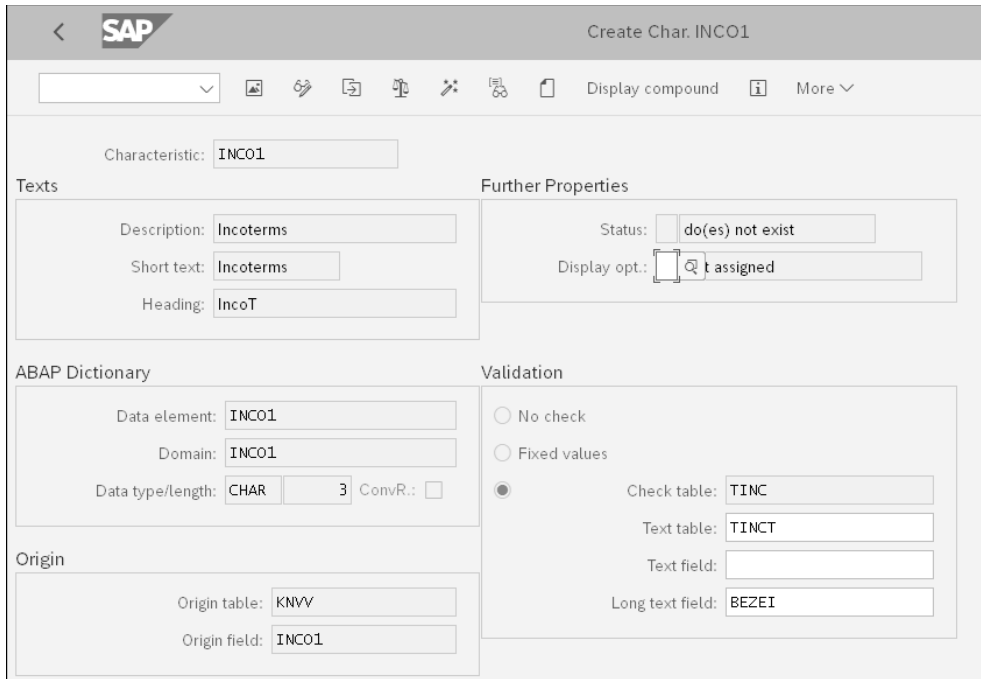


Figure 3.9 Details of the Characteristic

### 3.1.3 Creating Characteristics with Your Own Value Maintenance

**Characteristic with your own value maintenance**

To create a characteristic with your own value maintenance, go to Transaction KEA5 or follow the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Characteristics**.

In Figure 3.10, for example, create a new characteristic by clicking on **Create/Change** in the **Create Characteristic** section.

**Choose the characteristic type**

In the screen that appears, choose to create a **User defined** characteristic (see Figure 3.11) because you don't want to reference any existing SAP table with the characteristic. Next, enter the technical name "WWCON" (remember, user-defined characteristics must start with WW) and the description "Continent" for this example. The objective is to create a characteristic with your own value maintenance that will assign every country to a continent using a derivation you'll create in Section 3.2.1. We're assuming that the sales districts are divided by continents, and to create a margin contribution report by continent, you can assign every country to a continent to facilitate reporting. Choose **With own value maintenance** and press **Enter**.

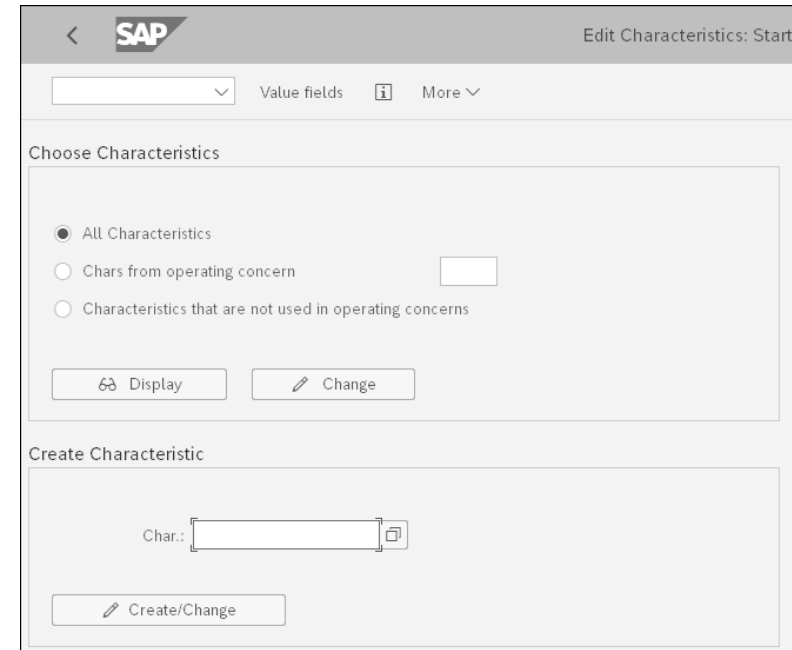


Figure 3.10 Create Characteristics

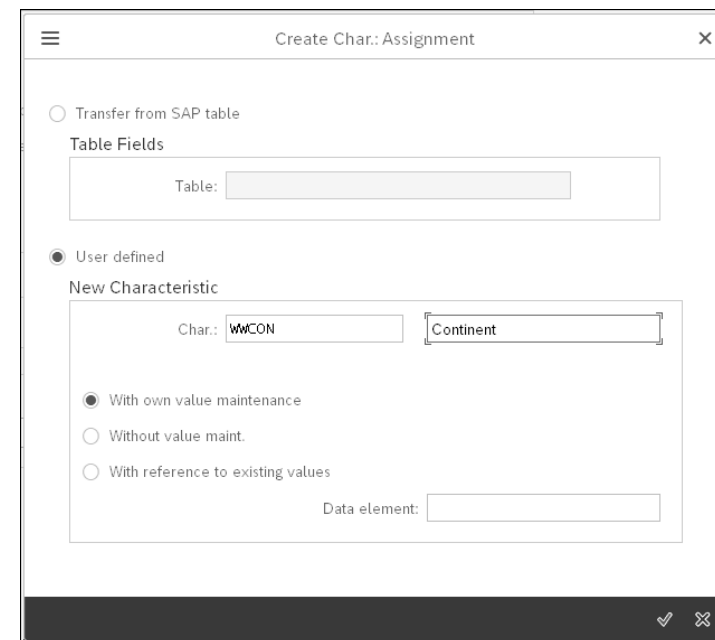



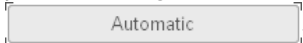
Figure 3.11 Creating Characteristics with Your Own Value Maintenance

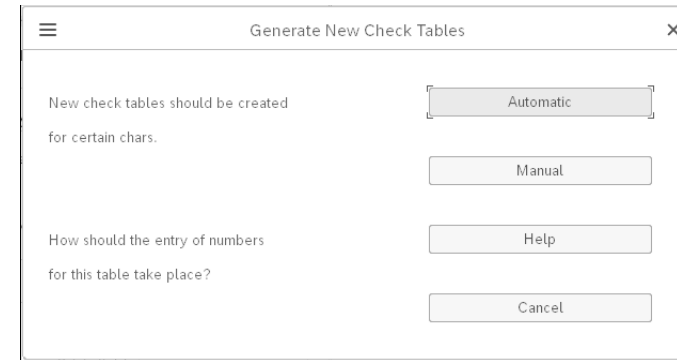
**Maintaining details of the characteristic**

In Figure 3.12, you maintain the details of the characteristic WWCON – Continent in the following fields:

- **Short text**  
Enter a short text for characteristic WWCON (“Continent” for this example).
- **Heading**  
Enter a heading for characteristic WWCON (“Continent” for this example). The **Heading** is displayed in the column name when you maintain values for characteristic WWCON.
- **Data type/length**  
Define if the values for characteristic WWCON are numeric or a mix of letters and numbers (in this example, **NUMC** for numeric data type and a field length of **4**).

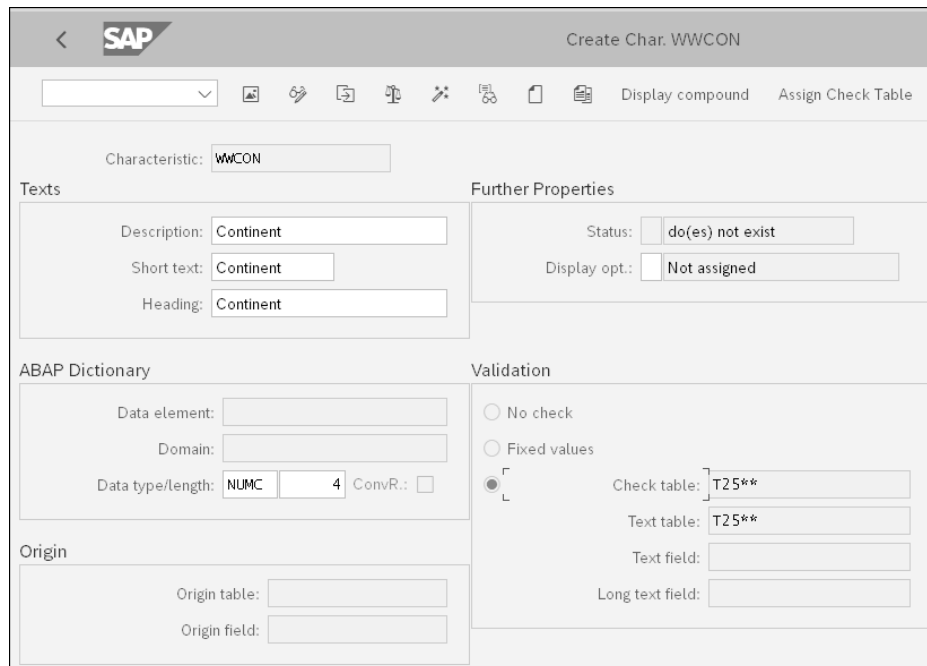
**Generating check tables**

Activate your characteristic with  (Activate), and you’ll see the popup shown in Figure 3.13. The system asks if you want to generate the check tables automatically or manually. Choose .

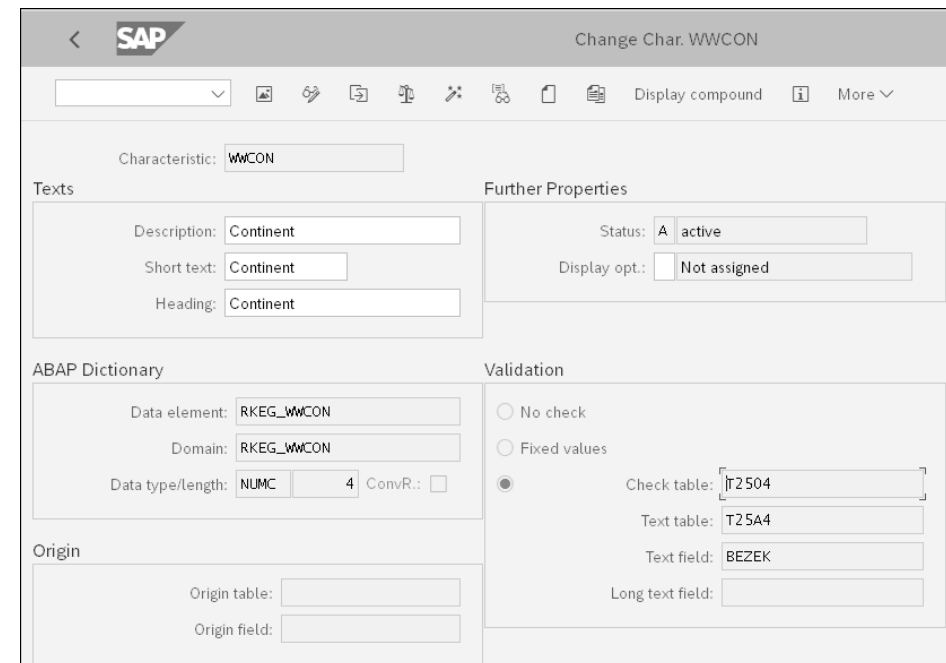


**Figure 3.13** Generating New Check Tables for Characteristics with Value Maintenance

After confirming, the system will generate the check tables in the background and enter their technical names in the **Validation** section in the characteristic details of **WWCON** (see Figure 3.14).



**Figure 3.12** Maintaining the Details of the Characteristic



**Figure 3.14** Details of the Characteristic with Generated Check Tables

Save the characteristic with **Save** or **Ctrl+S**. The next step is to assign the characteristic to the operating concern, which you’ll do in Section 3.1.6. After the characteristic is assigned to the operating concern, you can




maintain values for characteristic WWCON. You learn how to maintain characteristic values in Section 3.1.7.

### 3.1.4 Creating Characteristics without Value Maintenance

Create characteristics without value maintenance

To create a characteristic without value maintenance, go to Transaction KEA5 or follow the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Characteristics**.

You create a new characteristic by clicking on  in the **Create Characteristic** section shown in Figure 3.15.

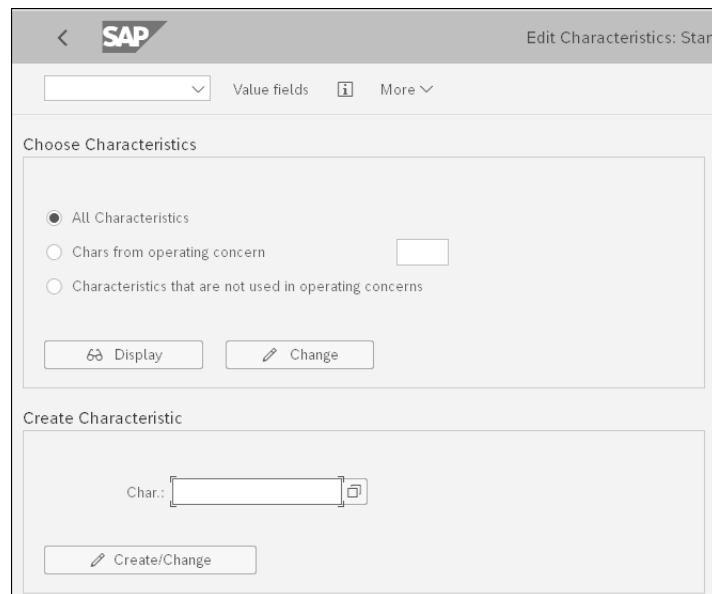




Figure 3.15 Create the Characteristic

Create a characteristic without value maintenance

In Figure 3.16, choose **User defined** and then press  to create a characteristic without value maintenance, meaning there is no check table for the values of the characteristic.

There will be no set of allowed values or texts assigned to the characteristic. Consequently, there will be no validity check taking place when postings occur on that characteristic. Enter the technical name “WW999” (must start with WW) and the description “Intern/Domestic”. The objective is to create a characteristic without your own value maintenance. The characteristic for this example will define whether a sale is international or domestic. You’ll assign that characteristic to a characteristic derivation that you’ll create in Section 3.2.3 to all sales transactions. In Figure 3.16, in the **New Characteristic** section, choose **Without value maint.** and press .

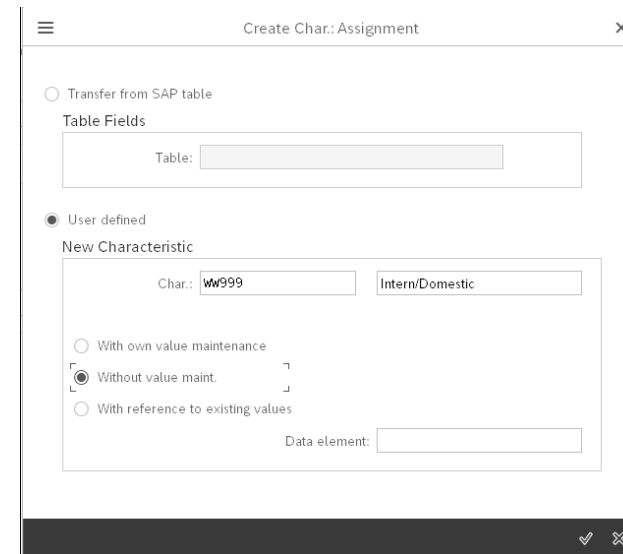


Figure 3.16 Creating Characteristics without Value Maintenance

In Figure 3.17, enter the details of characteristic **WW999** as follows: **Short text** (“Intern/Dom”) and **Heading** (“Intern/Domestic”). In the **ABAP Dictionary** section, enter **Data type** “CHAR” (alphanumeric) and a data length of “1”, which means values or text in characteristic **WW999** can be moved with a length of two.

Maintain details of the characteristic

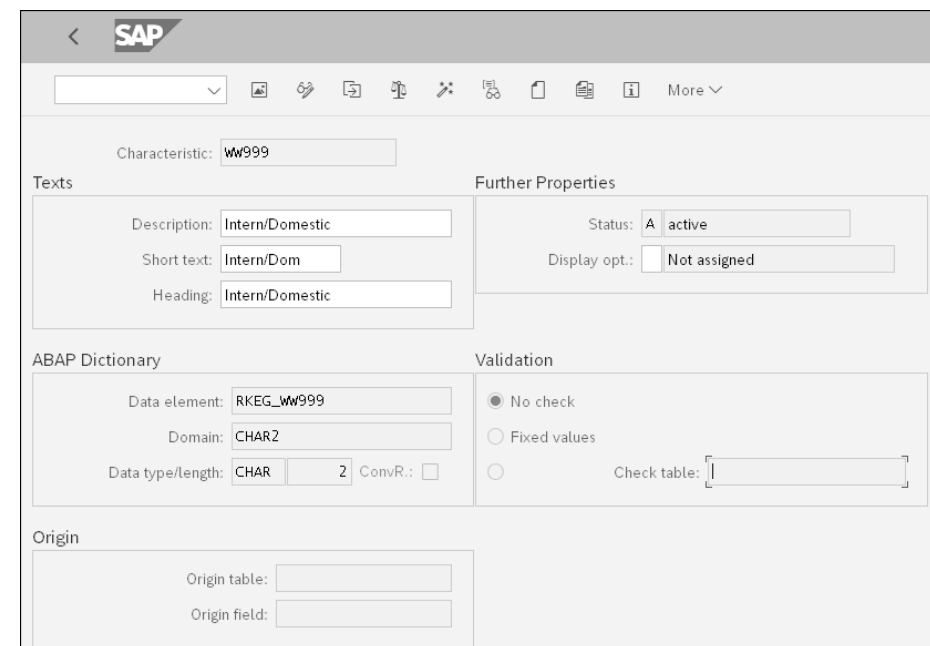




Figure 3.17 Maintain Details of the Characteristic without Value Maintenance

**Activate and save characteristic** Activate the characteristic with  (Activate) and save your settings with **Save** or **Ctrl+S**. For the characteristic to be available in costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis, you have to assign it to the operating concern, which you'll learn about in Section 3.1.6.

To enable the derivation of the characteristic just created, you have to create a derivation rule to let the system know which documents have to be assigned to this characteristic and which criteria have to be met beforehand. You'll learn how to derive characteristic WWIAD to documents in Section 3.2.3.

### 3.1.5 Creating Characteristics with Reference to Existing Values

**Characteristic with reference to existing values** To create a characteristic with reference to existing values, we go to Transaction KEA5 or follow the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Characteristics**.

You create a new characteristic by clicking on  in the **Create Characteristic** section, as seen in Figure 3.18.

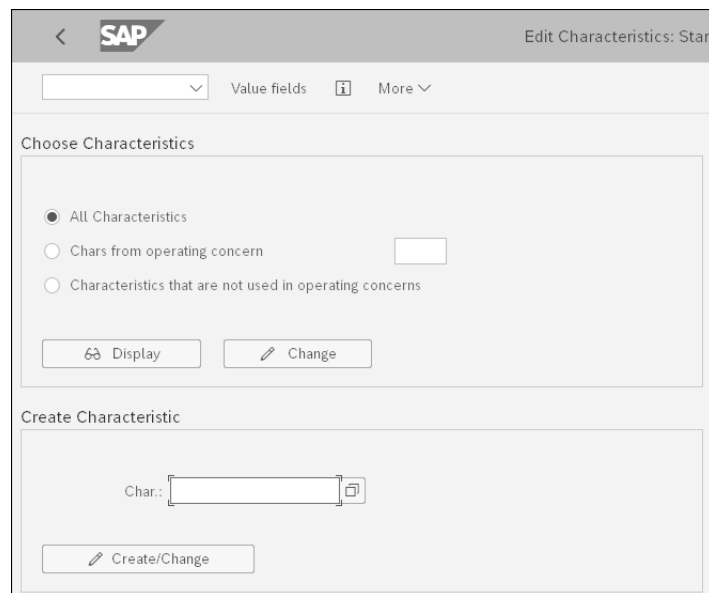


Figure 3.18 Create the Characteristic

**Create a characteristic for country of ship-to** For this example, create a **User defined** characteristic with reference to an existing characteristic (see Figure 3.19), which means that the characteristic takes on the same values as the reference characteristic. Enter the technical

name “WWLAN” and the description “Land of Ship-to”. The objective is to create a characteristic with reference to the country key. In addition to the country of the sold-to customer, you can derive the country of the ship-to customer. It doesn't make sense to create a characteristic and maintain all the values manually, so you create a characteristic with reference to existing values. You'll assign that characteristic with a characteristic derivation that you'll create later in Section 3.2.1 to all sales transactions.

Next, choose **With reference to existing values** in the **New Characteristic** section, and enter “BELAND” as the **Data element** to reference. To find the correct data element to reference, you can use **F4** help in the **Data element** field. Confirm the selection by pressing **Enter**.

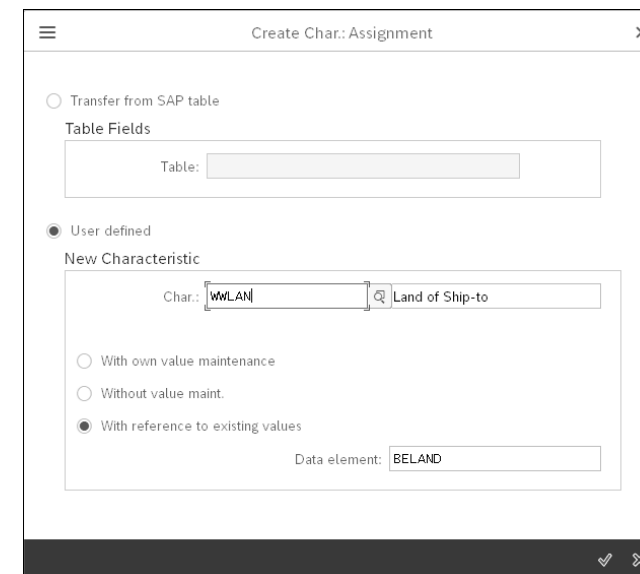


Figure 3.19 Create the Characteristic with Reference to Existing Values

Figure 3.20 shows the details of characteristic **WWLAN**. There are no fields for you to maintain because all attributes are copied from the reference characteristic **BELAND**. Even the **Description** is copied from the reference field and changed to **Dest. Country** (Destination Country).

Activate the characteristic with  (Activate), and save your entries with **Save** or **Ctrl+S**.

In the next section, you'll learn how to assign the characteristic to the operating concern to make it available for use in costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis.

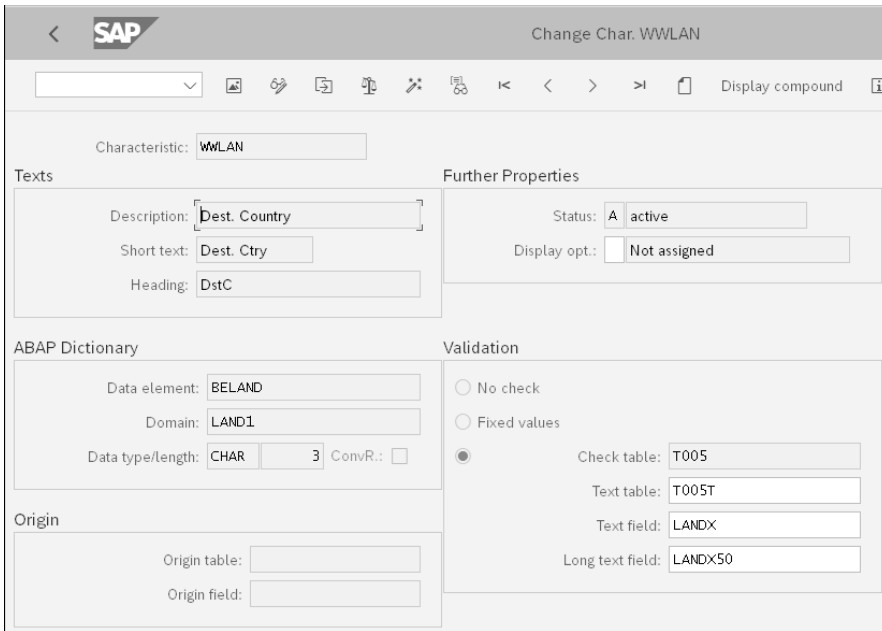


Figure 3.20 Maintain Details of the User-Defined Characteristic

### 3.1.6 Assigning Characteristics to the Operating Concern

Assigning characteristics to the operating concern

By using Transaction KEAO or by following the configuration path **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Structures • Define Operating Concern • Maintain Operating Concern**, you can assign the characteristics to the operating concern and make them available for use in costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis.

In the screen shown in Figure 3.21, you can assign the characteristics just created to operating concern Z100. Enter the operating concern to which you want to assign your characteristics in the **Operating Concern** field and click on (Display/Change) to change the data structure. After you do this, you can assign new Characteristics to the **Data Structure**.

Changing the data structure

Click on **Change**, and you'll be able to add the characteristics to the data structure. In the **Transfer from** section, select all the characteristics created in this chapter, that is, **WWCON – Continent**, **WWIAD – Intern/Domestic**, and **WWLAN – Dest. Country** (see Figure 3.22). With (Transfer Fields), you can move those characteristics to the **Data structure** section to assign them to the operating concern.

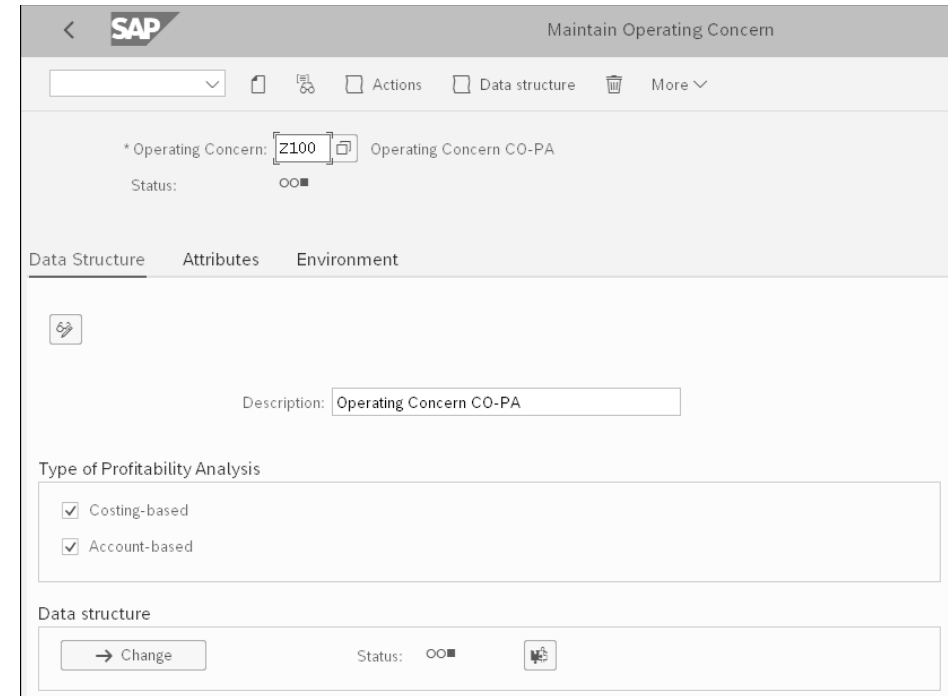


Figure 3.21 Change the Data Structure of the Operating Concern

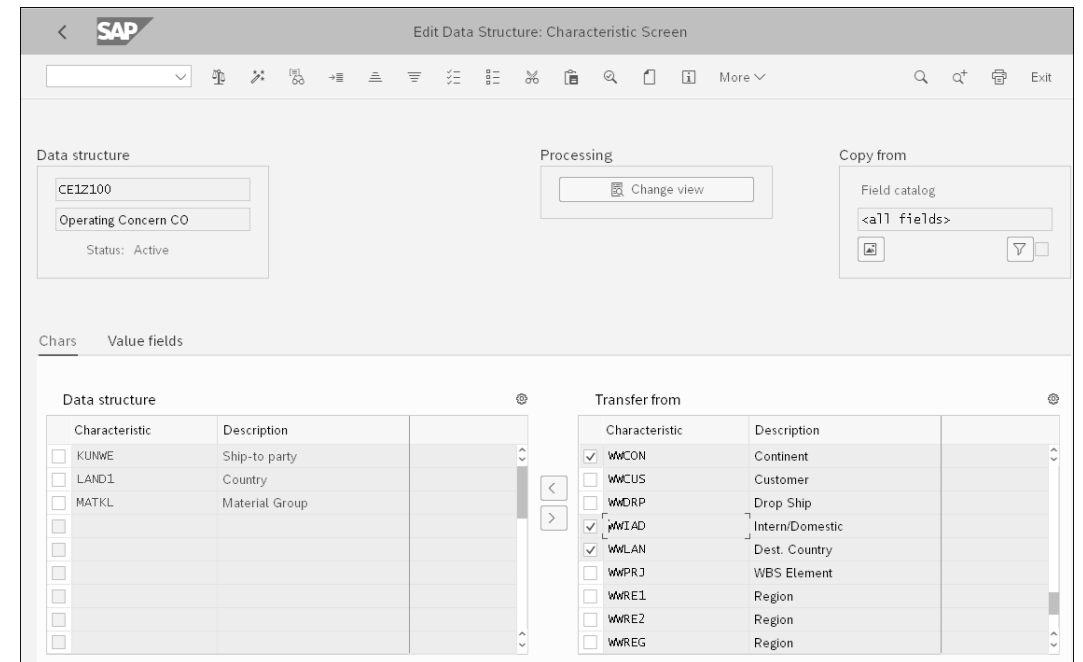



Figure 3.22 Transfer Characteristics to the Data Structure

**Activate data structure** Next, activate the data structure with  (Activate). At the bottom of the screen shown in Figure 3.23, you can see that the data structure was successfully activated, and the characteristics in the **Data structure** section changed their color to blue. Now save your changes with **Save** or **Ctrl+S**.

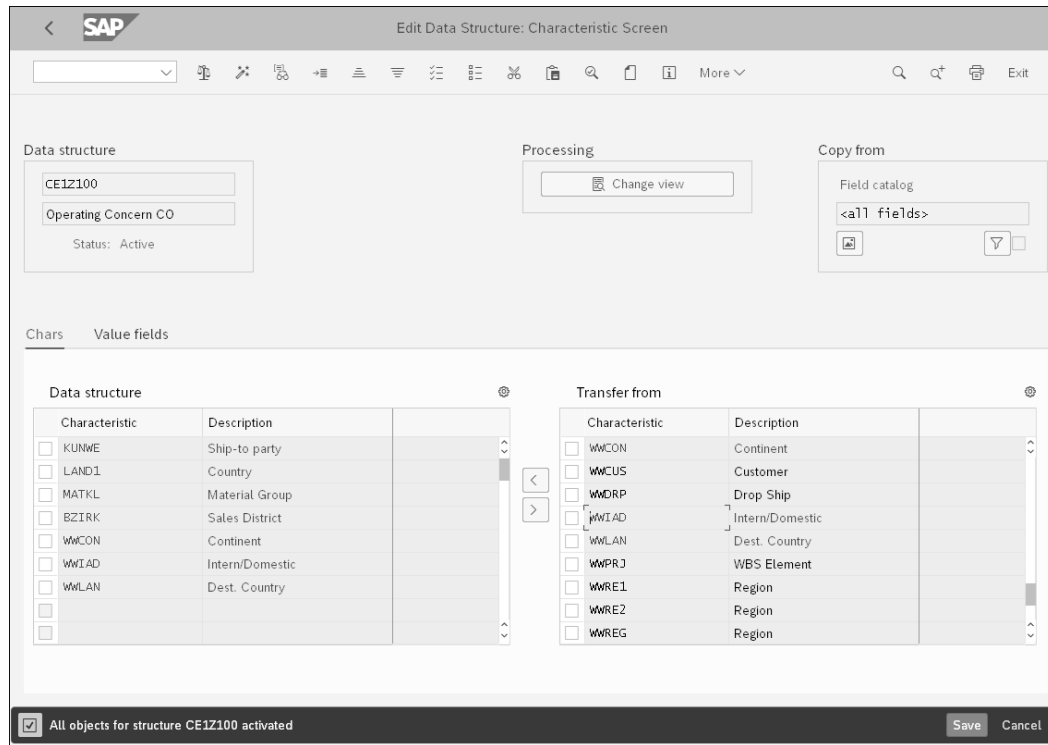



Figure 3.23 Activate the Data Structure

Now go back to the operating concern by clicking **<** (Back) or pressing **F3**. You might get a popup that asks if you want to generate the environment of the operating concern. Confirm the popup by pressing **Enter**. If not, then follow Figure 3.24 and go to the **Environment** tab of the operating concern. Activate the **Cross-client part** and **Client-specific part** manually with  (Activate).

The costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis can only be used when the operating concern is fully generated and has a green status.

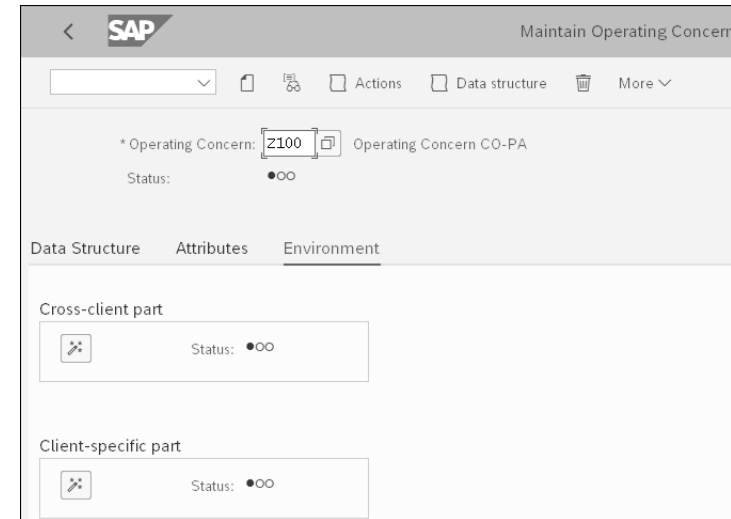


Figure 3.24 Generating the Environment of the Operating Concern

### 3.1.7 Maintaining Characteristic Values

For the WWCON – Continent characteristic with own value maintenance created in Section 3.1.3, you now need to assign values to it via Transaction KES1 or the configuration path **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Master Data • Characteristic Values • Maintain Characteristic Values**.

Maintain characteristic values

Figure 3.25 provides an overview of all characteristics with your own value maintenance that are assigned to the operating concern. In this example, only the WWCON – Continent characteristic with own value maintenance. Double-click on **Continent** to maintain values for characteristic WWCON.

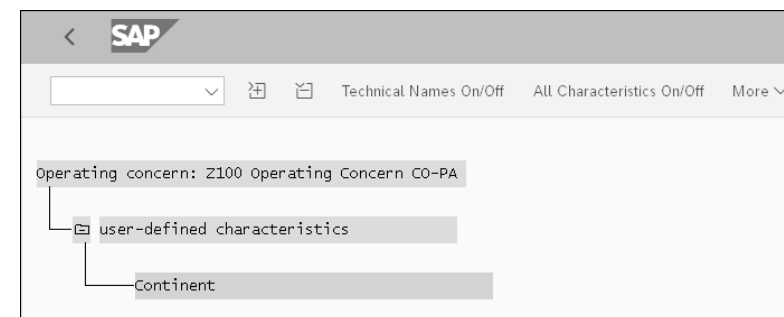


Figure 3.25 Maintain User-Defined Characteristics

In Figure 3.26, you can maintain values with **New Entries** or **F5**. In the **Continent** column, you specify the technical name of the characteristic, and in the **Descriptn** (Description) column, you maintain the description for the

Creating user-defined characteristic values

created characteristics. In this example, create the characteristic value **0001 – North America** in Figure 3.25. Save the changes with **Save** or **Ctrl+S**.

#### Deriving characteristics

Now you need to create a characteristic derivation that the characteristic values get derived from in the document. You'll learn in how to create a characteristic derivation for characteristic **WWCON – Continent** in Section 3.2.1.

Continent	Descriptn
<input type="checkbox"/> 0001	North America
<input type="checkbox"/> 0002	South America
<input type="checkbox"/> 0003	Europe
<input type="checkbox"/> 0004	Asia
<input type="checkbox"/> 0005	Africa
<input type="checkbox"/> 0006	Australasia

Figure 3.26 Maintain Values for the Characteristic

## 3.2 Characteristics Derivations

#### Types of characteristic derivation

You've already learned about the different characteristic types, but for the system to be able to derive the characteristics when the profitability segment is created, you need to create a characteristic derivation. The SAP system provides the following types of characteristic derivation, which are explained further in this section:

#### ■ Derivation rule

The derivation rule is used most in profitability analysis because it enables you to derive characteristic values on the basis of various combinations of characteristics. Section 3.2.1 explains how to create characteristic derivations for your user-defined characteristic **WWCON - Continent**.

#### ■ Table lookup

The table lookup enables you to access tables, for example, of master data, that are included in the document and to derive characteristics from these tables. Section 3.2.2 explains how to create a table lookup for the characteristic derivation of the country of the ship-to party for your user-defined characteristic **WWLAN**.

#### ■ Move

With moves, you assign a specific value to the characteristic. Section 3.2.3

explains how to create a characteristic derivation for your user-defined characteristic **WWIAD**.

#### ■ Clear

With clears, you can reset characteristics. Characteristic values might have to be reset for technical reasons before another value is assigned to the characteristic. Section 3.2.4 covers creating derivations to clear fields.

#### ■ Enhancement

Enhancements enable you to create characteristic derivations via user exits. This is useful for the creation of complex characteristic derivations when the SAP standard reaches its limits. Section 3.2.5 covers derivations with enhancements.

In the next subsections, you'll learn how to create characteristic derivations for the user-defined characteristics created earlier in this chapter. You'll also learn how to test your derivations and how to execute a derivation analysis.

### 3.2.1 Creating Characteristic Derivations with Derivation Rules

The characteristic derivation with derivation rules is the first and most used derivation. For this example, you'll create a derivation rule for the user-defined characteristic **WWCON – Continent**. To create a characteristic derivation with derivation rule, go to Transaction **KEDR** or follow the configuration path **KEDR Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Master Data • Define Characteristic Derivation**.

To create a characteristic derivation, click on (Display <-> Change) to switch to the change mode of the characteristic derivation. You'll then see the possibility to create a new characteristic derivation with (Create Step) or **F5**. In Figure 3.27, choose **Derivation rule** and press **Enter**.

In Figure 3.28, define **Step Description** as "Derivation **WWCON – Continent**" before defining the rules for the derivation. The screen is divided into two sections:

#### ■ Source Fields

Define the fields that are required to derive the user-defined characteristic. You can enter multiple fields. In this example, where characteristic **Continent** is supposed to be derived, maintain characteristic **WWLAN (Country of Destination of Goods)** as the source field. When the source field is filled, the target field will be derived.

#### ■ Target Fields

Define the fields that will be filled with characteristic values. In the

Characteristic derivation with derivation rule

Defining rule definitions

example in Figure 3.28, maintain the user-defined characteristic with your own value maintenance **WWCON (Continent)**.

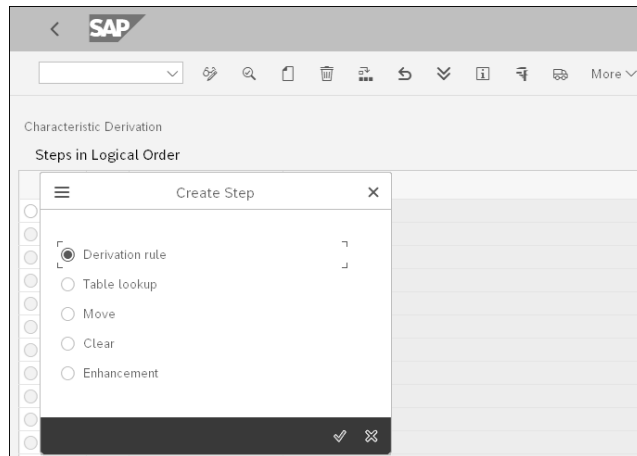


Figure 3.27 Create Derivation Rule

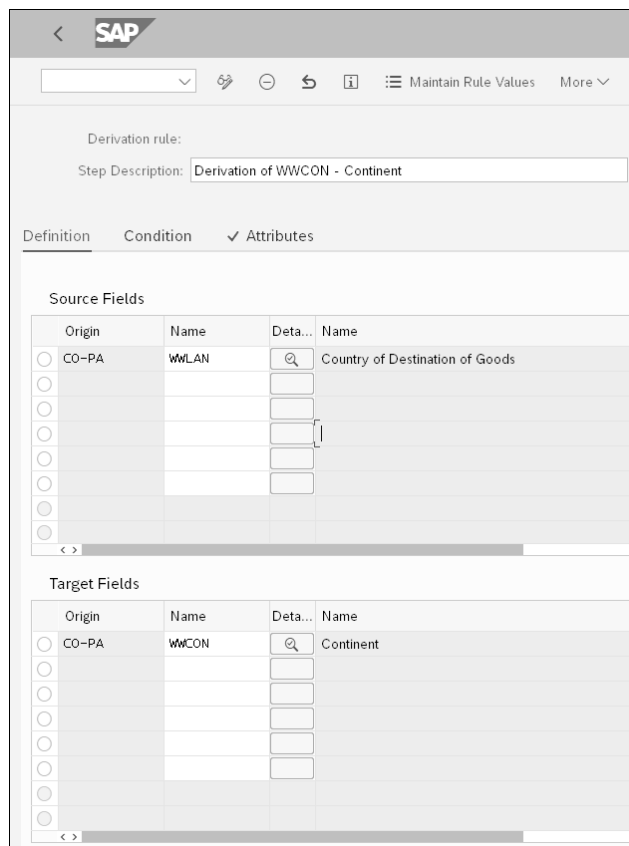


Figure 3.28 Maintain Definition in the Derivation Rule

Navigate to the **Condition** tab in Figure 3.29. Here, you can define additional conditions that have to be met to trigger the derivation. You can define the billing type and a specific value here, for example. In this case, characteristic WWCON – Continent would only be derived for this specific billing type. In the example in Figure 3.29, you don't need to add any further conditions for a successful characteristic derivation for characteristic WWCON – Continent for every document that has the characteristic WWLAN – Country of Destination of Goods filled.

Maintain condition in the derivation rule

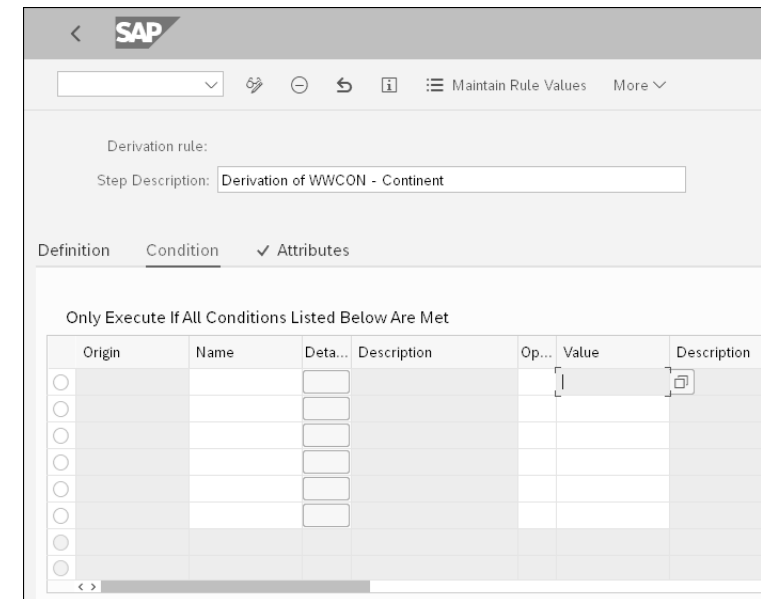


Figure 3.29 Maintain the Condition in the Derivation Rule

Navigate to the **Attributes** tab in Figure 3.30. Here, you can maintain the following settings:

Maintain attributes in the derivation rule

- Issue error message if no value found**  
 If this setting is enabled, the system issues an error message when a document is created that contains the source field but for which characteristic WWCON – Continent can't be derived. You should consider carefully whether to select this checkbox or not because its selection disrupts the process. You have the possibility to re-derive characteristics or correct falsely derived characteristics with the realignment of characteristics. You learn how to use the realignment in Section 3.2.11.
- Maintain entries using validity date**  
 If this setting is enabled, you can maintain the derivation of the characteristic values using a validity date. This is useful to obtain some kind of history if characteristic values change frequently.

- Optimize access, no from-to values can then be maintained**  
 To improve the performance, you can optimize accesses to the characteristic derivation by not maintaining from-to values. For example, if you maintain a value from customer 1 to customer 2000, the system includes all 2,000 customers in the characteristic derivation check. This might take some time; consequently, you can improve the performance by preventing interval maintenance. Set this attribute to optimize the access in Figure 3.30.
- User-defined step ID (optional, see F1 help)**  
 In this field, you can enter a step ID, which makes sense if you use user exits. In addition, the step ID enables you to directly navigate to the rule maintenance in the initial screen.

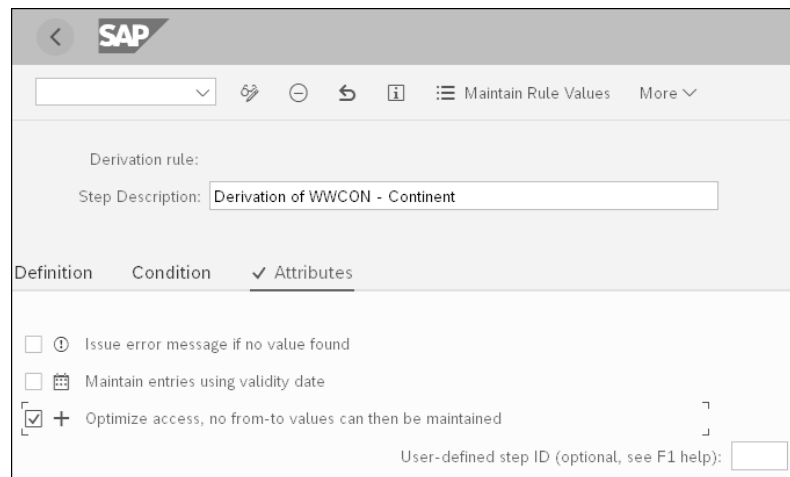


Figure 3.30 Maintain Attributes in Derivation rule

Save your settings with **Save** or **[Ctrl]+[S]**. To maintain rule values, click on **Maintain Rule Values**.

**Transporting rule entries**

In Figure 3.31, in the **Country of Destination of Goods** column, select the source values for the source characteristic WWLAN, and select the target values from the **Continent** column for the target characteristic WWCON. The example shows the rule that when the country of destination is **US** (USA), the continent **0001** (North America) will be derived. Save your rules with **Save** or **[Ctrl]+[S]**.

You can add rule entries to a transport request with **(Transport)** and transport them to the target system. However, if the target system is a production system, you can maintain rule entries directly in the target system via Transaction KEDR. This makes sense because derivation rules often use master data that isn't available in the source system.

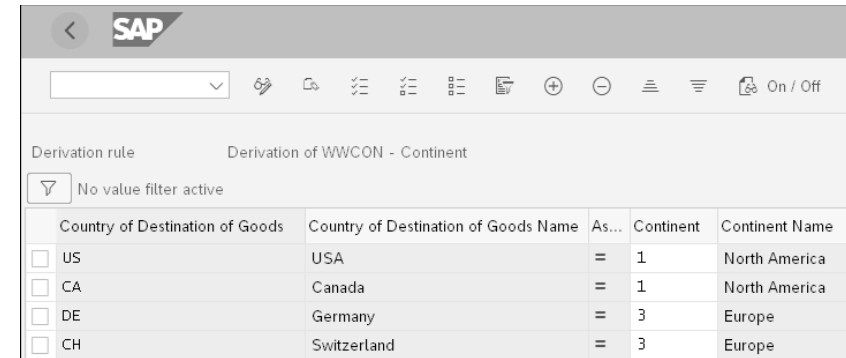


Figure 3.31 Maintain the Derivation Rule

Going back to the overview of the derivation rules with **[F3]** or **(Back)**, you can test your derivation rule with **(Test)** or **[F8]**. In Figure 3.32, you see an overview of all characteristics that are assigned to the operating concern (custom-specific and fixed). For this example, you enter "US" in the **Dest. Country** field, as this is the source field for the derivation rule, and then click on **Derivation** to test the derivation rule.

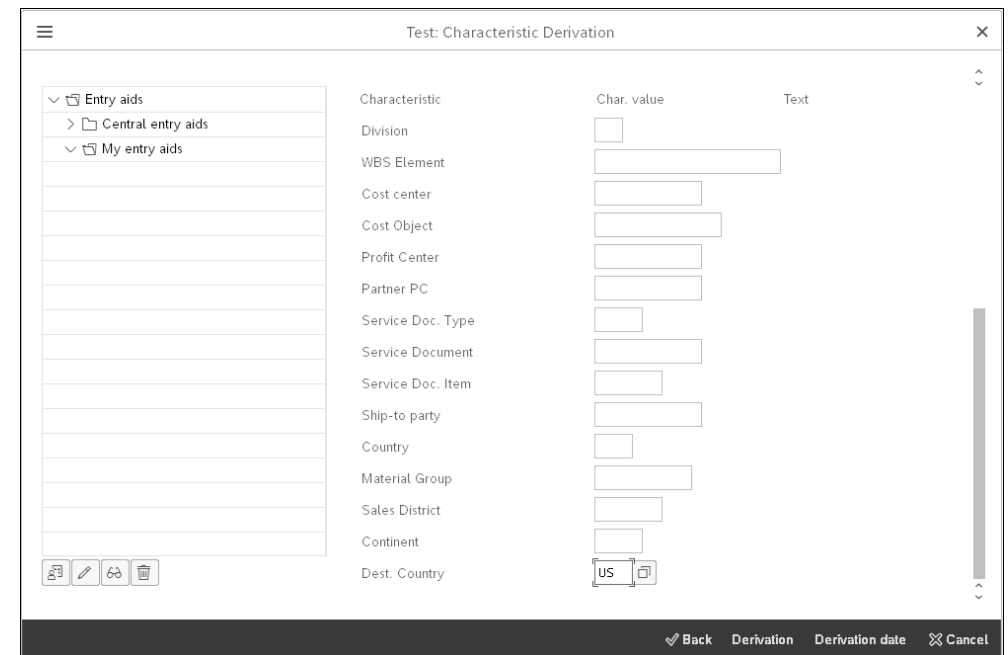


Figure 3.32 Test the Derivation Rule

In Figure 3.33, you can see the result of the derivation rule test. The system derived **Continent 1 – North America** for the **Dest. Country US**, which matches with the rule maintained earlier in Figure 3.31.

**Display result of the derivation rule test**

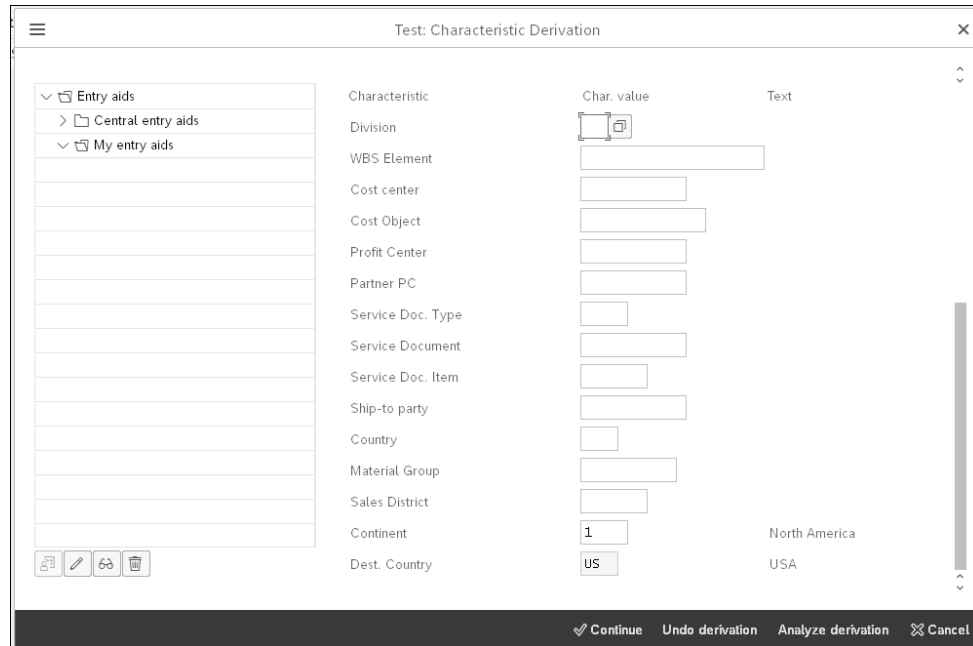


Figure 3.33 Display the Result Test Derivation Rule

### 3.2.2 Creating Characteristic Derivations with Table Lookup

Characteristic derivation with table lookup

The characteristic derivation with table lookup allows you to access characteristics that are available in standard SAP tables but can't get created as a user-defined characteristic from an SAP table, like the one created in Section 3.1.2. The characteristic to derive with the derivation with table lookup should be part of the upstream process; it isn't possible to derive a characteristic that is totally unrelated to the business process. In this example, you'll create a characteristic derivation with table lookup for the country of the ship-to customer. In practice, the sold-to customer is often in a different country than the ship-to customer, which means you might be interested to know where the goods are shipped to, as this is most likely the market in which they will be sold. A characteristic for the country of destination for goods was created in Section 3.1.5, which will be used in the characteristic derivation with table lookup. To create a characteristic derivation with table lookup, go to Transaction KEDR or follow the configuration path: **Controlling • Profitability Analysis • Master Data • Define Characteristic Derivation**.

Selecting the type of characteristic derivation

To create a characteristic derivation, click on (Display <-> Change) to switch to the change mode of the characteristic derivation. You'll then see the possibility to create a new characteristic derivation with (Create Step) or **F5**. In Figure 3.34, choose **Table lookup** and then press **Enter**.

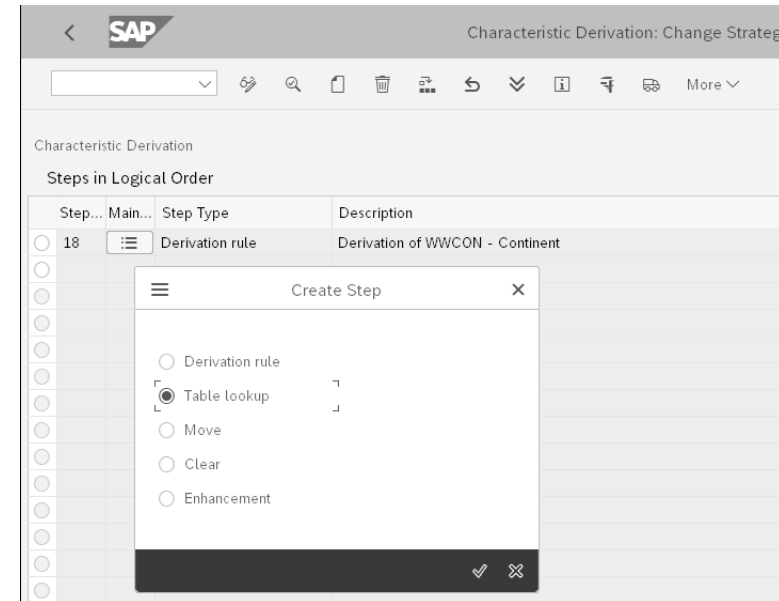


Figure 3.34 Create the Table Lookup

Figure 3.35 shows a popup that asks you to enter a table name. This is the table in which the characteristic you want to derive is stored. In this case, this is the ship-to country.

Choosing the table name for the table lookup

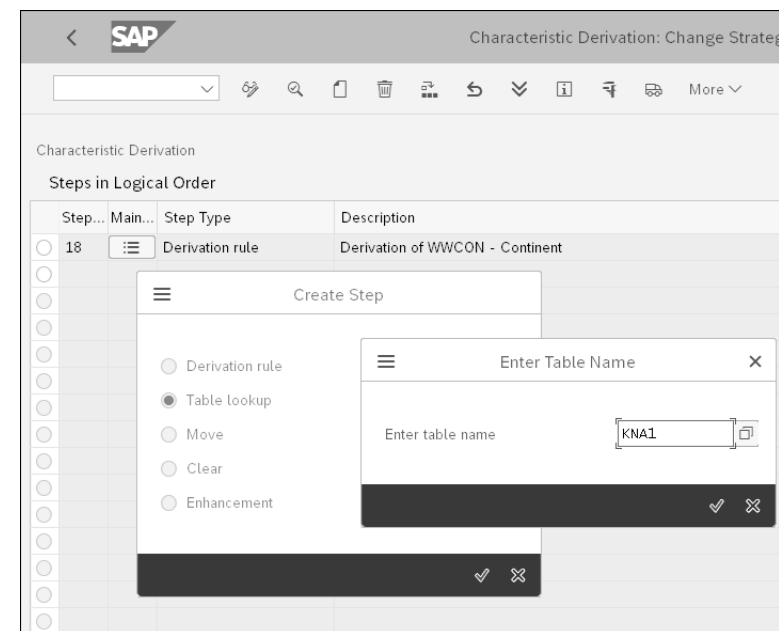


Figure 3.35 Choose the Table for Table Lookup



The country of a customer is stored in table KNA1 (General Data in Customer Master). That is why you select **KNA1** as the table for the creation of the characteristic derivation with table lookup earlier in Figure 3.7 Confirm your selection with .

**Defining the source and target fields for table lookup**

Next you maintain a name for the characteristic derivation. In Figure 3.36, choose **Derivation of WWLAN – Country of Dest**. The definition of the characteristic derivation with table lookup is divided into two sections:

■ **Source Fields for Table Lookup**

The source fields for the table lookup are the fields required to derive our Country of Destination. In Figure 3.36, the **KNA1 – KUNNR – Customer Number** is entered by default. This is the customer number the system will read from table KNA1. The system is instructed to read the KNA1 – KUNNR with the entry of the KUNWE field, which is the ship-to party characteristic you assigned to the operating concern.

■ **Assignment of Table Fields to Target Fields**

In the target fields, you tell the system which field to derive from the customer number. In Figure 3.36, the country of the customer needs to be derived. In this example, the of the ship-to country is entered in the **WWLAN – Country of Destination of Goods** user-defined characteristic from Section 3.1.5.

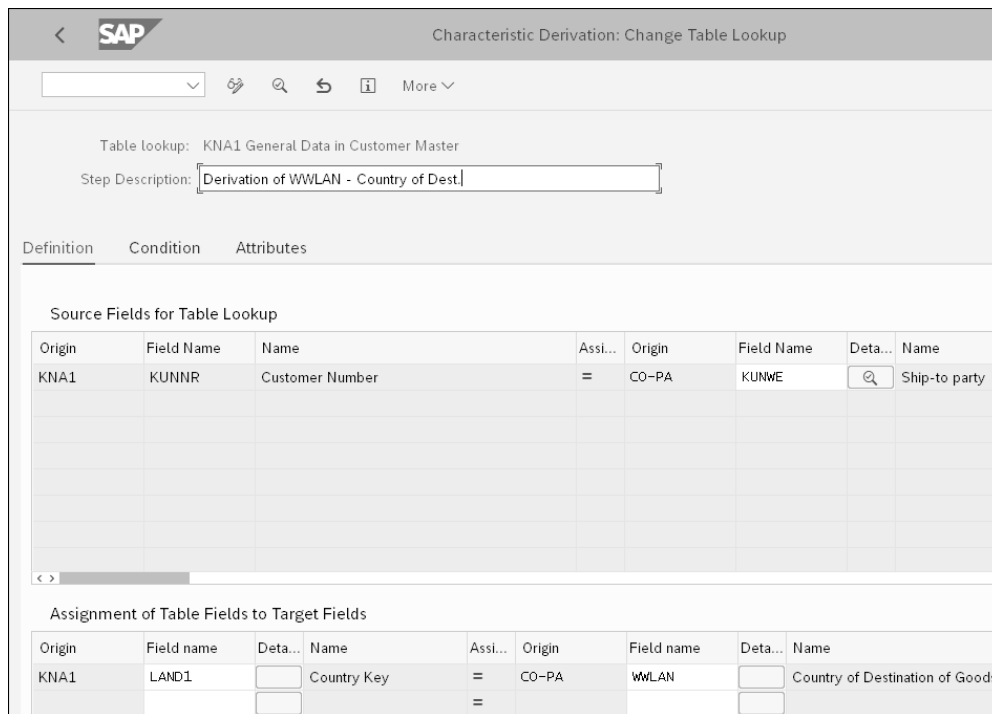


Figure 3.36 Define Source and Target Fields for the Table Lookup

Basically, in one sentence, the table lookup is saying: take the ship-to customer and check in table KNA1 for the country of the ship-to customer, and transfer the entry to WWLAN – Country of Destination of Goods.

Figure 3.37 shows the next tab, **Condition**, in which you can maintain conditions/rules for which the characteristic derivation will be executed. For this example, no conditions need to be maintained because the characteristic derivation needs to be executed for any document that is being transferred to costing-based profitability analysis and margin analysis.

**Maintain conditions for the table lookup**

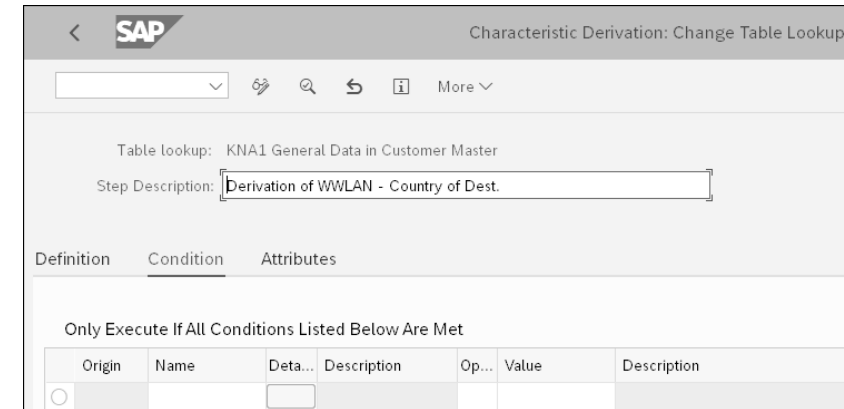


Figure 3.37 Maintain Conditions for the Characteristic Derivation

Figure 3.38 shows the **Attributes** tab with the **Issue error message if no value found** checkbox. If you select this checkbox, all documents that are transferred to costing-based profitability analysis/margin analysis where no characteristic value can be derived for WWLAN won't be transferred, and you'll receive an error message.

**Maintain attributes for the table lookup**

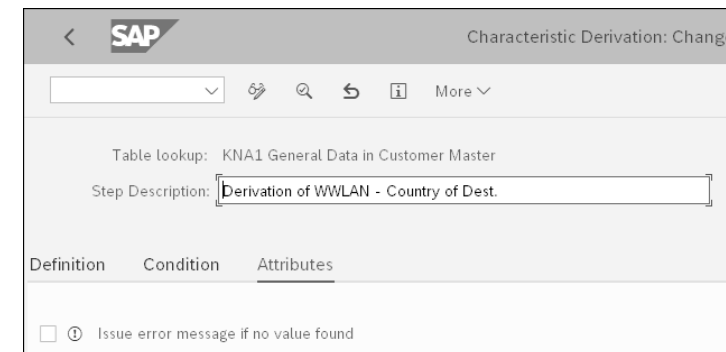




Figure 3.38 Maintain Attributes for the Characteristic Derivation

For this example, leave the checkbox empty so you can execute a realignment if some characteristics are missing or not derived correctly. In Section 3.2.11, you'll see how to create and execute the realignment for characteristics.

Now let's test the characteristic derivation in Transaction KEDR with  (Test) or . In Figure 3.39, enter the **Customer** number "1000000" – **Plant 1 US** and the sales area data (i.e., enter "Z001" for **Sales Org.** and "Z1" for both **Distr. Channel** and **Division**) as the partner roles for the customer are maintained depending on the sales area, and the system needs to know in which sales area it has to check for the ship-to information.

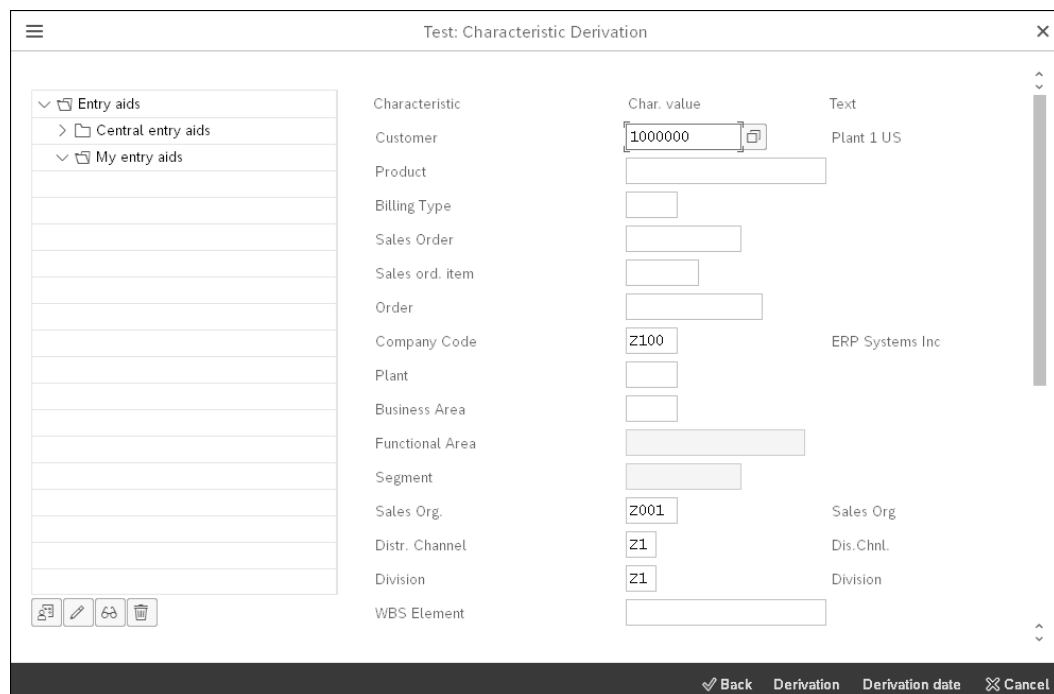


Figure 3.39 Testing the Characteristic Derivation with Table Lookup

After you enter all the source data, execute the test of the derivation with **Derivation**. In Figure 3.40, scroll down to characteristic **Dest. Country** to see that **IN for India** has been derived. This is also the country of the ship-to customer that is assigned to customer 1000000. This is evidence that the characteristic derivation with table lookup is working!

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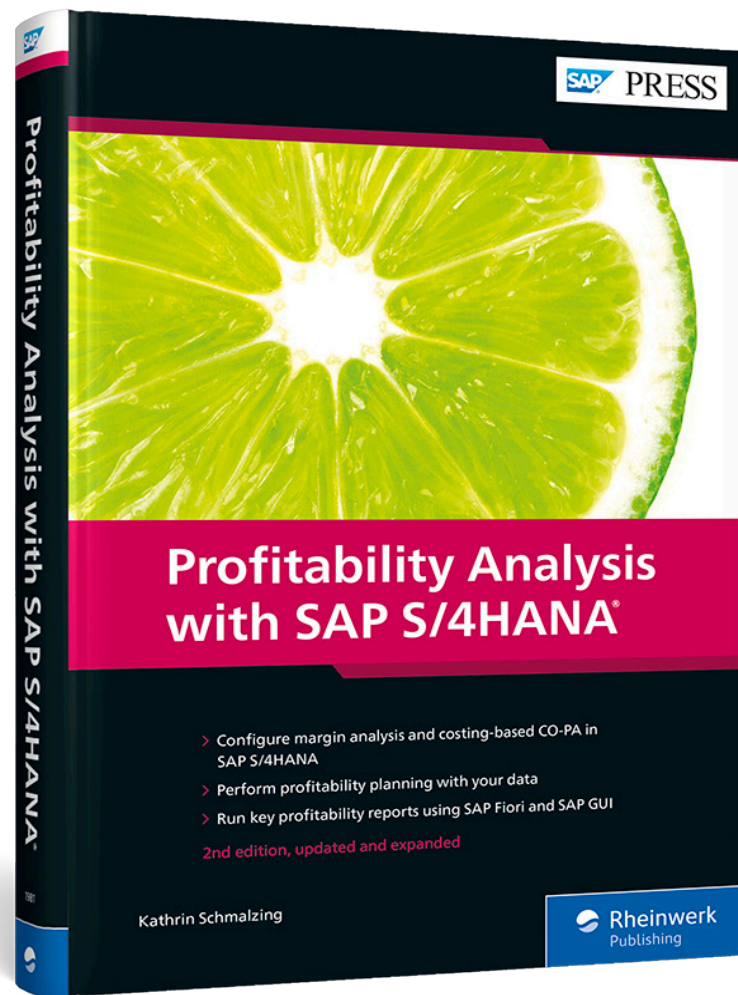
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