GENERAL

sap basis interview questions and answers 2013

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Introduction

When you're preparing for a career in SAP Basis, the first hurdle you'll face is the interview. Recruiters and hiring managers want to gauge not only your technical knowledge but also how you apply that knowledge to real world scenarios. In 2013, SAP Basis was at the core of many enterprise systems, and interviewers still reference the concepts and tools from that era to assess foundational skills. This article dives deep into the most common SAP Basis interview questions and answers from the 2013 landscape, providing you with a comprehensive study guide that blends theory, practical examples, and interview ready responses.

Understanding SAP Basis

Before you tackle the interview questions, it's essential to grasp what SAP Basis actually is. SAP Basis is the technical foundation that supports all SAP applications. It includes:

- Operating system and database administration
- Performance tuning and monitoring
- Security and authorization management
- Transport and release management
- Backup, recovery, and disaster recovery planning

In 2013, the predominant database engines were Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and IBM DB2, while the operating systems ranged from Windows Server 2003/2008 to various Linux distributions. Knowledge of these platforms is crucial for any Basis professional.

Why Focus on 2013?

Although SAP continuously evolves, many core concepts remain stable. The 2013 version of SAP Basis introduced significant enhancements, such as:

- Improved SAP HANA support for in memory processing
- Enhanced Transport Management System (TMS) features
- Upgraded performance monitoring tools (e.g., ST03N, ST04)
- New security modules and role based access controls

Interviewers often refer to 2013 because it bridges the gap between legacy systems and the newer SAP S/4HANA era, making it a perfect benchmark for assessing a candidate's foundational knowledge.

Common SAP Basis Interview Questions (2013 Edition)

General SAP Basis Questions

1. What is SAP Basis and why is it important?
2. Explain the difference between SAP and SAP Basis.
3. What are the key responsibilities of an SAP Basis administrator?
4. Describe the SAP System Landscape and its components.

5. What is the role of the SAP Kernel?

Installation and Upgrade Questions

1. Walk through the steps to install SAP NetWeaver 7.0.
2. How do you perform a database migration from Oracle to Microsoft SQL Server?
3. What is the SAP Software Update Manager (SUM) and how is it used?
4. Explain the difference between a standard upgrade and a custom upgrade.
5. How do you handle system copy and system replication?

Performance and Monitoring Questions

1. What tools do you use for performance monitoring?
2. Explain the function of the ST03N transaction.
3. What is the purpose of the SAP Memory Monitor?
4. How do you identify and resolve a bottleneck in a SAP system?
5. What are the key performance indicators (KPIs) for SAP Basis?

Security and Authorization Questions

1. Describe the SAP security architecture.
2. What is the difference between user master records and roles?
3. Explain how you manage authorization checks.
4. What is a “role-based access control” (RBAC) model in SAP?
5. How do you conduct a security audit in SAP?

Backup and Recovery Questions

1. What backup strategies are recommended for SAP systems?
2. Explain the difference between a full backup and an incremental backup.
3. How do you recover a database from a backup?
4. What is the role of the SAP Data Transfer Workbench (DTW)?
5. Describe a disaster recovery scenario.

Transport Management Questions

1. What is the Transport Management System (TMS)?
2. Explain the difference between a transport request and a transport request set.
3. How do you avoid transport conflicts?
4. Describe the steps to release a transport request.
5. What is the role of the Transport Directory?

Database Management Questions

1. Explain the concept of database partitions.
2. What is the purpose of the SAP Database Migration Workbench?
3. How do you perform a database backup and restore?
4. What are the key considerations for database tuning?
5. How do you monitor database performance in SAP?

Detailed Answers to 2013 SAP Basis Interview Questions

What is SAP Basis and why is it important?

SAP Basisis the middleware that manages the communication between the SAP application and the underlying operating system, database, and network. It ensures that the application runs reliably, securely, and efficiently.

Without a well managed Basis layer, even the most advanced SAP modules would fail to deliver business value.

Explain the difference between SAP and SAP Basis.

While **SAP** refers to the suite of business applications (e.g., FI, MM, SD), **SAP Basis** is the technical platform that supports these applications. Think of SAP as the "content" and Basis as the "infrastructure."

What are the key responsibilities of an SAP Basis administrator?

- Installing and configuring SAP systems.
- Managing user accounts, roles, and authorizations.
- Monitoring system performance and troubleshooting issues.
- Planning and executing database upgrades and patches.
- Ensuring data integrity through backup and recovery.
- Coordinating transport requests and release cycles.

Describe the SAP System Landscape and its components.

A typical SAP landscape consists of:

- Development (DEV) – where new objects are created.
- Quality Assurance (QA) – where testing occurs.
- Production (PRD) – the live system that supports business operations.

Each system hosts a set of **clients** that isolate data and configuration.

What is the role of the SAP Kernel?

The **Kernel** is the core runtime component that executes SAP applications. It handles communication between the user interface, application layer, and database. Kernel upgrades are critical for performance, security, and compatibility.

Walk through the steps to install SAP NetWeaver 7.0.

1. Prepare the hardware and operating system.
2. Install the database and configure the database user.
3. Run the SAP Software Provisioning Manager (SWPM).
4. Follow the guided wizard to install the kernel, profile, and client.
5. Configure the system parameters and perform post installation checks.
6. Validate the installation by logging into the SAP GUI.

How do you perform a database migration from Oracle to Microsoft SQL Server?

Use the **Database Migration Workbench (DMW)**:

1. Export the Oracle database schema.
2. Create the target SQL Server database.
3. Import the schema and data into SQL Server.
4. Update the SAP instance profile with the new database details.
5. Run the SM59 transaction to test connectivity.
6. Perform a full backup and restore test.

What is the SAP Software Update Manager (SUM) and how is it used?

SUM is a tool that automates the installation of SAP patches, kernel upgrades, and system copies. It streamlines the update process by handling database changes, system files, and user data migration.

Explain the difference between a standard upgrade and a custom upgrade.

A **standard upgrade** follows SAP's documented upgrade path and applies all recommended changes. A **custom upgrade** involves selective application of patches or custom code adjustments, often required to meet specific business needs.

How do you handle system copy and system replication?

Use the **System Copy** function for one time copies, and **System Replication** for continuous data synchronization. Both require careful planning of transport routes, client IDs, and data filtering.

What tools do you use for performance monitoring?

Key tools include:

- ST03N – workload analysis.
- ST04 – database performance.
- ST06 – operating system monitoring.
- ST04 – SQL trace.
- ST03N – session analysis.

Explain the function of the ST03N transaction.

ST03N provides a graphical overview of system performance, including user activity, response times, and resource utilization. It's essential for identifying performance bottlenecks and planning capacity.

What is the purpose of the SAP Memory Monitor?

The Memory Monitor tracks SAP memory consumption (buffer pools, shared memory, etc.) and alerts administrators when thresholds are exceeded. It helps prevent out of memory errors and ensures optimal performance.

How do you identify and resolve a bottleneck in a SAP system?

1. Use ST03N to identify slow transactions.
2. Check ST04 for database wait times.
3. Examine ST06 for CPU or disk I/O issues.
4. Apply performance tuning (e.g., index creation, memory allocation).
5. Re test to confirm resolution.

What are the key performance indicators (KPIs) for SAP Basis?

- System uptime.
- Average response time.
- Number of concurrent users.
- Database throughput.
- Memory usage.

Describe the SAP security architecture.

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