# Baan IV

# PMC Partner Guide

User Documentation U7294A US

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# Document information

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of the document

The Baan Global Support Organization uses the Product Maintenance and Control Module for delivering of solutions and Service Packs. This to ensure a controlled installation of software. For Baan IV the use of PMC started from the c4 release and will start from the b5 release. For Baan ERP the use of PMC has started from Service Pack 5.

In the PMC module two roles are present: that of the Distributor and the Recipient. The Distributor is the organization that delivers solutions; the Recipient is the organization that installs solutions from the Distributor. Baan Partners are in the specific situation of being Distributor of their own software as well as Recipient of Baan solutions. This Partner Guide intends to explore and clarify some of the particulars of this situation.

## 1.2 References

How to use PMC is explained in the Quick Guide, which is accessible via ftp://www.support.baan.com/updates/B40_c/guide.doc. Furthermore there is a Multimedia Based Training available about Patch Management and Distribution. The Patch Management and Distribution MBT is a Multimedia Based Training (MBT) CD-ROM module intended to train users to install Baan solutions using the PMC module. In the PAR report February 1999 you can find information on how to order this MBT.

## 1.3 Definitions, acronyms and abbreviations

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| PMC | Product Maintenance and Control module |
| Baan Partner | Authorized Baan Customization Providers or Baan Development Partners |
| Solution | An update file containing a bug fix, dumped by a Distributor |
| Dependency | The kind of relation that exists between two PMC solutions to prevent a Recipient from installing incomplete or incompatible solutions. |
| Distributor | An organization that delivers solutions in PMC format |
| Recipient | An organization that updates its software using the PMC module |
| Service Pack | A collection of individual PMC solutions. In the PMC module a Service Pack is referred to by the term Patch. |

## 1.4 Document reading guide

In PMC you will come upon the terms "Service Pack", "PMC solution" and "Initial dump". Below the meaning of these terms will be explained.

A PMC solution consists of software components that are dumped by a Distributor using the PMC Module. The solution contains not only the software component, but also information about the solution itself. The PMC solution can be installed with the use of PMC at a Recipient.

A Service Pack is a collection of individual PMC solutions. The Baan Service Packs are tested by Baan before release and delivered on CD-ROM. A Service Pack can contain a single software component for several times. When a software component, for example a program script, is part of two different solutions that are dumped between the release of two Service Packs, the latest Service Pack will contain the source two times. This is a consequence of the PMC mechanism that we call dependencies. This will be explained in chapter 3.

The initial dumps (with names like td0001 and tf0001) that Baan created consisted of software components that were modified since the release of Baan IV c4. These initial dumps were distributed as a part of Service Pack 3 for Baan IV c4 and were the first individual PMC solutions available. Note that the initial dumps are *individual* PMC solutions, unlike a Service Pack, that consists of a *collection* of individual PMC solutions.

# 2. PMC and derivation structures

## 2.1 The role of Recipient

To make sure the customer installs all the solutions he needs, the concept of VRC combinations is used at the Recipient side. A VRC combination consists of a collection of update VRC's. When a customer has a customization on top of a localization his VRC Combination should consist of an update VRC for the Baan standard, an update VRC for the Baan localization and an update VRC for their customization. Each update VRC's is linked to a separate Base VRC. A Base VRC is also a PMC concept. The Base VRC is a virtual VRC that does not need to exist. You need to give your Base VRC's the same name as Baan (or another Distributor) did. This is because PMC expects the same names on the side of the Distributor and the Recipient. The Base VRC's that Baan uses for the Baan IV c releases are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| B40 | c | | Baan IVc Standard |
| B40L | c | cnt0 | Baan IVc Controlling extension |
| B40L | c | fre0 | Baan IVc French localization |
| B40L | c | jap0 | Baan IVc Japanese localization |
| B40L | c | mcr0 | Baan IVc Multicurrency extension |
| B40L | c | nl10 | Baan IVc Dutch localization |
| B40L | c | scc1 | Baan IV c Supply Chain and Controlling extension |
| B40L | c | sch0 | Baan IV c Supply Chain extension |
| B40L | c | sch1 | Baan IV c Supply Chain enhanced extension |

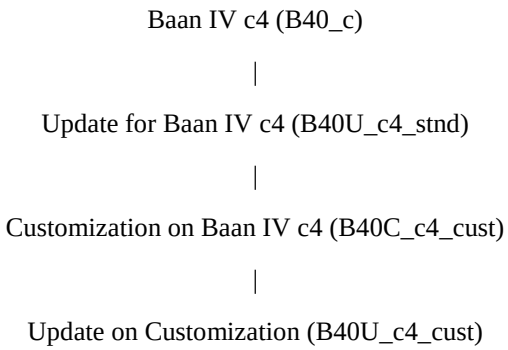
Base VRC's are linked to update VRC's in session Maintain Update VRC's (ttpmc2140m000). Recipients will have to generate update VRC's and adapt their VRC-structures. This can be done using PMC sessions. More information about how to set up and use PMC as a Recipient is in the Quick Guide.

## 2.2 The role of Distributor

The Distributor is the organization that delivers solutions in PMC format. A Distributor should define one or more Base VRC's for his own releases. These names should be communicated to his customers. A Distributor has to define a Base VRC and Export VRC in session Maintain Base VRC's (ttpmc0110m000). It is also possible to enter a Development VRC there, but this is not obligatory.

Below you will find an example on how to use PMC as a Distributor.

Lets suppose that a Partner uses a Baan IV c4 release, and maintains a customization on top of this standard. Between the standard and the customization he needs an update directory for the Baan solutions. It is recommended that he as well generates an Update VRC for his customization.




The Partner can place Baan solutions in the update IV c4 VRC. After that he needs to merge the Customization on c4 with the update on c4 to the update on the customization, to deliver to his customers the correct combination of a Baan solution with his customization. Now, for this customization, what should become the name of the Base VRC and which VRC should become Export VRC? The Partner names his Base VRC B40_c4_cust, and uses his update on the customization, B40U_c4_cust as Export VRC. Base VRC and Export VRC can be linked to each other in session Maintain Base VRC's (ttpmc0110m000).

Do not forget to communicate the name of this Base VRC to your customers. Note that you have to fill the Baan Base VRC's in session Maintain Base VRC's (ttpmc0510m000) to be able to generate dependencies between your own solutions and Baan solutions. After you have entered Base and Export VRC's, you need to make sure that your derivation structure is updated.

## 2.3 Copying the Solution Registry

Partners usually want to derive their customization from a Baan Service Pack. This makes it necessary for them to link two Update VRC's to a single Base VRC. Look below for an example.

B40 c Standard (1)

|

B40 c First Update (2) ------- B40C Customization (3)

|

B40 c Second Update (4) ------- B40C Customization Update (5)

In the first Update VRC (2) the Partner installs the latest Baan Service Pack. He derives his Customization (3) from this Service Pack. In a second update VRC (4), which is directly derived from the first Update VRC (2), individual Baan solutions can be installed. This prevents the overwriting of customized software components by Baan solution components. Moreover, the Partner can choose to merge his customization with an individual solution in the VRC containing the Update on the Customization.

When a Partner wants to implement PMC in this way, he needs the session Copy Solution Registry to Derived Update VRC(ttpmc2290m000). This session can copy the PMC Registry information from the first Update VRC (2) to the second Update VRC (4). This enables PMC to install individual solutions in the second Update VRC (4), as if the latest Baan Service Pack was installed in the second Update VRC (4), while the Service Pack is installed in the first Update VRC (2).

When a Partner is using PMC in this way, he has to realize that the uninstalling of solutions is not possible anymore. Furthermore, he has to note that the two Update VRC's must be derived from each other directly. There can be no VRC in between.

Because this functionality was not implemented from the beginning, the session Copy Solution Registry to Derived Update VRC (ttpmc2290m000) is available as a solution. This solution can be found under ftp://www.support.baan.com/updates/B40_c/73548stnd. Note that this solution is only intended for Baan Partners, not for customers.

# 3. Baan solutions and Baan Partner Solutions

## 3.1 General

The dependency mechanism in PMC controls the order in which solutions need to be installed at the Recipient side. The result of this is that can not happen anymore that your customer installs a program script that is older than the one he is working with. Dependencies can also force the customer to install, when needed, a standard component and a localization component at the same time. Dependencies can exist as dependencies between individual solutions or dependencies between SP's. Note that PMC does not allow a dependency from a SP to an individual solution or vice versa.

There are three kinds of dependencies: pre-requisite, co-requisite and post-requisite. Dependencies can be entered manually or generated via session Generate Dependencies (ttpmc1240m000). This session is started from Maintain Dependencies (ttpmc1140s000), which is started from the Maintain Solutions session (ttpmc1100m000).

Note that, when acting as a Distributor, a PMC solution can be dumped only once. This is caused by the fact that there cannot circulate two versions of one solution.

## 3.2 Pre-requisite dependencies

When you deliver a solution containing a customization, you will generate pre-requisite dependencies between the solutions within your own Base VRC.

Solution 1234

component A

| pre-requisite

Solution 1237

component A

When you deliver solution 1237, which contains component A, a pre-requisite will be automatically generated when you run session Generate dependencies (ttpmc1240m000). This prerequisite will concern solution 1234, which also contained component A. There should never be pre-requisite dependencies between your solution and a Baan solution, because your solution should come from a Base VRC that is different from the Baan Base VRC.

## 3.3 Post-requisite dependencies

A post-requisite dependency is used to indicate a bad fix. Post-requisite dependencies will never be generated by session Generate Dependencies (ttpmc1240m000). Post-requisite dependencies will therefore always have to be filled manually. Post-requisites will not be visible until they are published in a service pack. A post-requisite dependency will always, as is the case with pre-requisite dependencies, concern two solutions that are part of the same Base VRC.

## 3.4 Co-requisite dependencies between Baan solutions and Baan Partner solutions

Co-requisites are the only dependencies that can be generated between solutions from different Base VRC's. Let us look at an example where we need co-requisites. Suppose a Baan Partner has added some extra functionality to a program script X, which calls (includes) function Y.

(co-requisite)

Baan solution 1238 ========== Partner Solution 1238

Function Y Program script X

When your customer needs the new functionality of function Y, you should compile program script X again, and deliver the new object to your customer.

Co-requisite dependencies between your own solution and a Baan solution will be generated automatically when your solution has the same number as the Baan solutions. At the Recipient, PMC checks which Base VRC's are present in the VRC combination of the customer, and on basis of this information decides which co-requisite solutions need to be installed.

# 4. Service Packs

## 4.1 Service Packs

PMC gives you the opportunity to deliver your software in your own Service Packs. When you want to deliver your software using Service Packs, you can use dependencies just as you can use them with individual PMC solutions. You can define a co-requisite dependency between your own Service Pack and a Baan Service Pack; and you can define pre-requisite dependencies for your own Service Packs. Note that a Service Pack needs to be installed in its entirety. A Service Pack consists of individual PMC solutions. These solutions are automatically installed by PMC.

## 4.2 Multi-level dumps

Sometimes a customer needs a solution from you really quick. For this purpose, you can use the session Export Solution Multi-level (ttpmc1202m000). This means that your customer can update his system by downloading all related solutions in one go. Multi-level dumps really speed up the installing of solutions. When the customer install the solution he wants, all pre- and co-requisite dependent solutions will be installed automatically. A multi-level dump consists of the solutions that were published after the publishing of the last Service Pack.

Exporting a solution using the multi-level technique is easy. After entering a Base VRC and a solution code, the system generates a multi-level dump that contains all solutions that were dumped between the release of the last Service Pack and the solution entered. After running the session, Export Solution Multi-level (ttpmc1202m000), the multi-level dump will be present on your operating system. (You have entered this directory as "Path for Multi-level Export dumps" in the PMC parameters). You only have to copy this solution to the path for published solutions (this path is also present in the PMC parameters).