Activity Types - Overview and Purpose

Purpose

The purpose of this WIKI contribution is to provide a clear understanding and basic knowledge of what an Activity type within the Controlling Module is, and its purpose within the Controlling Accounting environment.

Overview

The Activity type is used in this case for controlling specific activities and can be for one or more cost centers. Below you will see a general overview of how the activity type works within the controlling module and its purpose for allocating costs and quantities, directly and indirectly.

What is an Activity Type?

The activity type classifies the activities that are to be performed within a company by one or several cost centers. The master data transaction codes for creating, changing and displaying activity type master data are: KL01/KL02/KL03 respectively.
If a cost center provides activities for other cost centers, orders, processes, and so on, then this means that the resources of this cost center are being used. The costs of these resources need to be allocated to the receivers of the activity. Activity types serve as tracing factors for this cost allocation.

**How activity types are used to calculate costs**

In an internal activity allocation, the quantity of the activity, such as a number of consulting hours, is entered into the SAP system (manually or automatically). The system calculates the associated cost based on the activity price and generates a debit to the receiver and a credit to the sender for both the quantity and costs. The internal activity allocation is carried out using secondary cost elements, which are stored as default types in the activity type master data.

You can restrict the use of the activity type to certain types of cost centers by entering the allowed cost center categories in the activity type master record. You can enter up to eight allowed cost center categories, or leave the assignments “unrestricted” by entering an asterisk (*).

**Activity Type Category**
The activity type category is used to determine whether and how an activity type is recorded and allocated. For example, you can allow some activities to be allocated directly, but specify for others that they are either not allocated, or allocated indirectly only.

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