

1. SAP® BusinessConnector

The SAP® BusinessConnector (current version 4.8 as a middleware offered by SAP®, uses the data exchange format XML to connect any external application or system to the SAP®system. Usage of the BusinessConnector will not cause additional license costs if one of the communicating systems is a licensed SAP® server.

The Business Connector takes advantage of the functions of the internal JCo Connector (see below, 3.). Towards the external application the BusinessConnector acts as a web or a mail server, whereas towards SAP® it functions as a RFC destination, like a second SAP® system. To guarantee that a message finds its correct addressee, routing rules are defined. The XML documents received by the BusinessConnector can be mapped easily and are subsequently converted into the respective SAP® structures. With help of a graphic tool, delivered with the BusinessConnector, services for message processing can be configured easily. Furthermore for individual tasks special Java services can be implemented additionally.

Moreover the BusinessConnector supplies a data base interface for e.g. logging, monitoring, error handling and even for textual mapping. Additional optional packages enable monitoring of the BusinessConnector from within the SAP® system.

clavis has proven their BusinessConnector competence in several projects. And this competence includes as well the respective know-how for the SAP WebMethods Integration Server adapter, which is constructed in the same way as the BusinessConnector.

The SAP BusinessConnector is platform independent. And for there are no license costs, it offers, concerning connections to SAP® systems, a cost-saving alternative to the chargeable XI.

2. SAP® Process Integration (PI)

The future is named PI. With NetWeaver as the basic technology for the SAP® system PI shall replace the BusinessConnector. On the other hand, the XI concept is similar to the BusinessConnector solution, as XML, the generation of routing rules, and graphical interface services are the main techniques with PI.

PI is based on the SAP® Web Application Server (WAS) and offers options like building rules for message processing, definition of execution sequences and mappings, and backup of data into a attached data base. The WAS furthermore provides transaction security, persistence, and other J2EE compliant features.

With the new version PI for the first time comprises a functionality comparable to the BusinessConnector. Even though the migration from the BusinessConnector to PI cannot be performed by updates, the transition to PI can be accomplished in a relatively short time frame, because definition logic is identical and a further business process analysis can be omitted.

For the license fees for PI are volume dependant, the BusinessConnector remains still a cost saving alternative for SAP® users.

3. JCo-Connector

The JCo Connector offers communication functions for Java to SAP® . RFC calls thus can be set up and executed using Java. Evaluation of the results is supported as well as the provision of external RFCs that can be invoked from the SAP® system. Even though the JCo Connector needs specific system libraries, the programming is system independent.

4. .NET-Connector

The .NET Connector provides an interface between Microsoft's .NET world and SAP® . Again external RFCs are supplied as well as additional functions that can be invoked from the SAP® system. The .NET Connector can only run in a .NET Runtime environment and thus its usage is restricted to the latest Windows systems.