A Practical Perspective on the Design and Implementation of Enterprise Integration Solution to improve QoS using SAP NetWeaver Platform

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ABSTRACT

Most of the enterprise operations require information from several systems within and outside the enterprise(s). The past few years have seen explosive growth in direct program to program interaction for application integration, removing manual steps yielding tremendous improvements in reliability and efficiency.

This paper addresses the practical approach for the design and implementation of Enterprise Application Integration in a heterogeneous environment with SAP NetWeaver Platform (i.e. Exchange Infrastructure (XI)/Process Integration (PI)) using a Customizable Tool named TEmplate based Functional Requirements for Integration Design (TEFRID) developed by the author(s) to improve the Quality of Service (QoS) and reduce the development time and cost with the end-to-end scenario development.

Key Words: Enterprise Application Integration (EAI), Adapters, Automation, Implementation, SAP NetWeaver Platform

1. INTRODUCTION

Providing integration solution between both SAP [1] and non-SAP systems with heterogeneity in the landscape is a big challenge to an organization. Different challenges to overcome, such as maintaining interfaces, reusability, productivity, quality of service, scalability and throughput have to be met. Towards this end, usage of SAP XI as a middleware is proposed. When the operating model of an organization has several departments/systems such as sales, purchase, orders etc., some of these systems together can be converted to a single SAP system. Suppose there are 200 systems in an organization on the whole and the organization wants to integrate their systems. Then, the 'to-be' landscape will obviously have less number of systems than the 'as-is' landscape (reduces to around 75 systems).

2. RELATED WORK

There are several technologies that are used for both internal and external integration. Hub-and-spoke archi- tecture [2], often referred to as message broker or message- oriented middleware (MOM), provides a more elegant ap- proach to enterprise application integration than a point to point integration model. Hub-and-spoke architectures consist of a centralized hub, which accepts requests from multiple applications that are connected to the centralized hub as spokes. Artix [3, 4], developed by IONA Technologies, enables designers to develop web service adapters for legacy systems and integrate them using a hub-and-spoke [5] approach. It claims to provide flexible and incremental integration approaches (which may be considered as an integration strategy) but does not provide support to develop conversation policies.

3. SAP NETWEAVER EXCHANGE INFRASTRUCTURE (XI) / PROCESS INTEGRATION (PI)

AP NetWeaver offers Exchange Infrastructure (XI) for integration. XI as shown in Fig. 1 has the collection of components to implement the seamless integration between A2A, B2B, SAP and Non-SAP applications, etc.

The components include **System Landscape Directory** – a central repository of information about software and systems, **Integration Builder** – containing **Integration Repository** (IR) and **Integration Directory** (ID). IR is used for the design and development of the interfaces and ID is used for the configuration based on the customer landscape. The other components are Integration **Server** – a central processing engine, **Adapter Engine** – an JCA compliant engine to connect to back- end systems, **Central Monitoring Engine** – to have a concrete understanding of the runtime behavior of the processes.

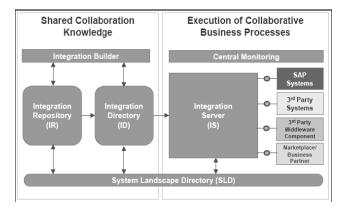


Fig. 1 SAP Net Weaver Exchange Infrastructure (XI) / Process Integration (PI) (Source: SAP AG 2004)

4. DESIGN AND CONFIGURATION WITH SAP XI

This section describes the design and configuration steps for the scenario implementation. Scenario design will be done in Integration Repository (IR) and the configuration will be done at Integration Directory (ID).

Steps in Integration Repository (IR)

The following steps are followed in IR:

- 1) Create a software component and its version in System Landscape Directory (SLD) and add a namespace to it.
- 2) Create data types for sending and receiving messages.
- 3) Create message types for the above data types
- 4) Create interfaces based on the message types (inbound and outbound)
- 5) Create message mapping between the message types.
- 6) Create interface mapping between the two message interfaces.

Steps in Integration Directory (ID)

The following steps are followed in ID:

- 1) Create a configuration scenario.
- Create a business service inside the configuration scenario.
- 3) Develop communication channels for sender and receiver.
- 4) Create the sender agreement.
- 5) Create the receiver determination.
- 6) Create the interface determination.
- 7) Create the receiver agreement.

5. TEFRID TOOL

All the steps involved in the traditional design use SAP XI's Integration Directory (ID), and Integration Repository (IR) are being repeated for all the scenarios depicted in the paper.

By using the TEFRID Tool, we can generate a mapping guide (extra sheet will be added to the FS spread sheet after running the tool) which is very useful in developing

mapping logic between sender and receiver, and XML Schema Definition (XSD) and content conversion (cc) parameters as shown in Fig 2. We just need to import them into our integration builder (IB).

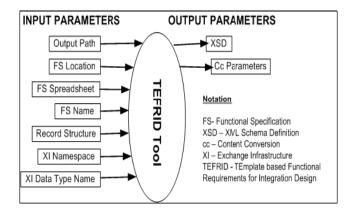


Fig. 2 Tool with input – output parameters

This TEFRID tool reduces time for creating the XSD and CC parameters shown in Fig 4. For example, in general it takes around 10 minutes to create a Data Type; using this tool we can create it within 3 minutes. This not only reduces the creation time, but also the manual intervention so that we can produce seamless results.

We directly import XSD into IR and use it as data type for the interface. This is more useful when we are supposed to create a data type with more number of fields. Since the values are taken from the FS spreadsheet shown in Fig.3 there is no possibility of error from the developer's perspective.

	C5	• (* fe	C:\Documents and Settings\kk43183\Desktop\kiran	
	. A	1	67 C	1
1	Cateogry	Input Variables	Input Values	Description
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1		OutputDGFileName	DTL200_Todag_DGast	
10	Record Info	RecordStructure	Header Dato Trailer	Select Value. Record Structure for this UF.
11	XI	NameSpace	Http://INDAC.com/acenu/or/THPSCR014	NameSpace of XI
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Fig. 3 Functional Specification (FS) template

The mapping guide that was generated from this tool is the most useful when we do a complex mapping. There is every chance for errors in recognizing the mapping logic out of the FS since there are number of other columns in between. This mapping guide contains Field Number, Field Length, Field Format, SAP Field Number, SAP Field Length, Mapping Logic and Padding Description (i.e., padding required or not). These scenarios are developed /implemented based on the functional specification document and the excel sheet should be macros enabled (MS Office 2007).

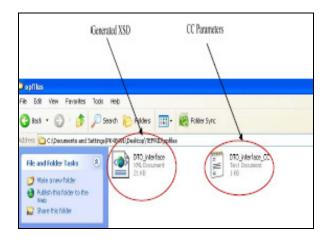


Fig. 4 Template creating XSD and CC parameters

6. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND TEFRID METHODS

The flow charts in Figs. 5 & 6 give a pictorial representation of the traditional method and the method using TEFRID tool, respectively, depicting the difference between the two methods, which was earlier discussed in the previous sections 4 & 5.

The following are advantages of using TEFRID tool:

 Reduces time for the development of a scenario by a ratio 1:10 when compared to the conventional method.

(Suppose creation of a data type takes 10 minutes manually, the same data type can be generated within 1 minute by using this tool.)

- It supports both inbound and outbound scenarios.
- Mechanization of data types creation.
- Automatically generates FCC (File content conversion) parameters for file adapter.
- Automatically generates a developer guide, which is very useful while mapping.
- Reduces in the errors.

7. CASE STUDY

Problem Statement

Based on previous consulting engagements with fortune 500 customers, the authors have decided to present one of the case studies, which is a sample representation of problems faced during enterprise integration. One of the largest Asia Pacific manufacturing companies has a vast heterogeneous landscape in its operating model. Providing optimal interoperability between these heterogeneous systems is a big challenge for such a company. For such problems, we chose SAP NetWeaver as its landscape and SAP XI as an integration tool to provide an optimal solution.

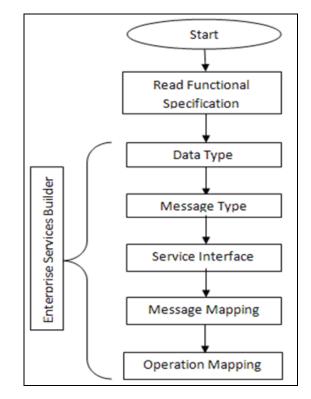


Fig. 5 Traditional method

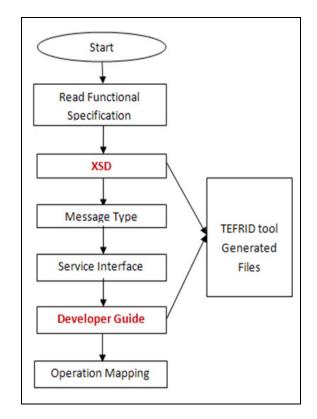


Fig.6 TEFRID Tool

Design and Implementation

The following Table 1 gives environment details of the experimental setup.

Table 1 Environment details

Software Configuration	Java Web Start, SAP GUI, Microsoft Excel 2007.
Tools used	 SAP Exchange Infrastructure (Integration Repository, Integration Design, Integration Server), TEFRID tool.
Technologies	 Java (for writing User Defined Functions), UNIX shell scripts (to run OS commands in file adapter), Microsoft Excel (for TEFRID tool)

Design Procedure

Integration Repository Objects: The snapshot shown in Fig. 7 is the depiction of various steps involved in the creation of design objects in IR

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Integration Scenarios & Integration P		Design Test Messa	ges				
✓ Interface Objects		0-11110 B	出· 二				
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SAI_PILEZFILE_SEND_MI		1:# 2 V	1 🗳		B ⊞ 🖻 😽 !!	ë 'r 🕑 🛛	H 🖪
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Fig. 7 Integration Repository snapshot

Integration Directory Objects: The snapshot shown in Fig. 8 is the depiction of various steps involved in the creation of each configuration objects in ID.

Using TEFRID Tool:

Before proceeding to the IR part, TEFRID tool is used, which generates XSD and CC parameters.

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SAT FILE2FILE BS	Business S	ervice			
🗢 🍇 Communication Channel	Receiv	er Sender As	ssigned Users Other Attributes		
SAT_FILE2FILE_REC_CC SAT_FILE2FILE_SEND_CC	Inbound In	nterfaces			
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Receiver Determination					
SAT_FILE2FILE_BS SAT_FILE2FILE_S	Name		Namespace	Software Component	Versicn
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SAT_FILE2FILE_BS SAT_FILE2FILE_S					
▽ 🙀 Receiver Agreement					
SAT_FILE2FILE_BS SAT_FILE2FILE_					
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		1			
	Name				
		E2FILE REC_CC			
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Fig. 8 Integration Directory snapshot

The functional specifications are obtained from the client and all the details are entered in the TEFRID tool as mentioned in the section 4. Subsequently, it generates XSD at the output path specified as shown in the following XML schema.

xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ? - <xsd:schema <="" th="" xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"></xsd:schema>
xmins="http://namesapce" targetNamespace="http://namesapce">
- <xsd:complextype name="DTO_interface"></xsd:complextype>
- <xsd:sequence></xsd:sequence>
- <xsd:element name="RS"></xsd:element>
 cxsd:complexType>
- <xsd:sequence></xsd:sequence>
- <xsd:element name="HEADER"></xsd:element>
 <xsd: complextype=""></xsd:>
- <xsd:sequence></xsd:sequence>
- <xsd:element name="Field1"></xsd:element>
- <xsd: annotation=""></xsd:>
<xsd:documentation< th=""></xsd:documentation<>
xml:lang="EN'>Information type
code
- <xsd: simpletype=""></xsd:>
- <xsd:restriction base="xsd:string"></xsd:restriction>
<s:sd:maxlength_value="4"></s:sd:maxlength_value="4">

Tool generated XML schema output

This XSD needs to be imported into Integration Repository.

Steps to be followed to import XSD:

1. Create Namespace and Data type (DT) which have the same format as that of generated XSD to avoid naming conflicts while importing.

2. Import the generated XSD into DT as follows:

Open Tools menu and select Import XSD as shown in Fig. 9. Then the complete DT will appear just as the one we create manually as shown in Fig. 10.

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DTO_interface Sim	nple type					

Fig. 9 Open tool menu of export and import XSD

When DT has huge number of fields, there is every chance for errors with manual creation. If we use this tool, errors can be reduced extensively and time for creation will also be reduced considerably.

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Interface Objects	Field2	Element	xsd.string	1	maxLength="1"	A	Record type code		
🕒 Message Ir	Field3	Element	xsd:string	1	mad_ength=*8*		Data creation date		
🚯 Message T	Field4	Element	xsd.string	1	maxLength="6"		Data creatoin time		
	Field5	Element	xsd:string	1	mad_ength:*6*		Receiving side		
			unit obtion		maxLength="6"	AC	Sending side		
🔏 Fault Mess	Field6	Element	xsd.string		max_engui= 6				
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Fig. 10 XSD input for design

Mapping Guide generated: This mapping logic is generated for an outbound scenario (i.e., legacy system to SAP system scenario) as shown in Fig. 11.

Field Number	Field Len	Field Format	SAP Field Number	SAP Field LengM	apping Logic	Padding Description
Field1	4	N/A	SAP-0028	10 SE	ET WID(BH-TOKU-C,1,4)	Not Required
Field2	1	N/A		SE	ET "A"	Not Required
Field3		YYYYWWDD		SE	I System Date	Not Required
Field4	6	HHMMSS		SE	ElSystem Time	Not Required
Field5	6	N/A		SE	ET CONCATENATE(Field1,"	DINot Required
Field0	6	N/8		SE	T "INDAC"	Padding with trailing
Field7	369	N/A		SE	I ″ ″	Padding with trailing
Field8		-				Not Required
Field9	4	N/8	SAP-0028	10 SE	ET WID(BH-TOKU-C,1,4)	Not Required
Field10	1	N/A		SE	ET "D"	Not Required
Field11	8	YYYYWWDD		SE	ET Field3	Not Required
Field1Z	б	HHMMSS		SE	iT Field4	Not Kequired
Field13	7	N/8		Fi	eld13 = Field13 + 1	Not Required
Field14	8	YYYYWWDD	SAP-0010	8 SE	ET OEI-0001	Not Required
Field15	8	YYYYWWDD	SAP-0001	8 SE	ET GII-0002	Not Required
Field16	2	N/A	SAP-0015	4 SE	ET OEI-0025	Not Required
Field17	4	N/A	SAP-0016	4 SE	ET BH-EIGY-C	Padding with trailing
Field18	4	N/A		SE	er "odo"	Padding with trailing
Field19	4	N/A		SE	E Field1	Not Required
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Fig.11 Mapping logic of legacy system to SAP system

Implementation Procedure

After completing the above design procedure steps, we get the file from sender legacy system and copy the same into the source path that is mentioned in the sender communication channel. Then, SAP XI generates the receiver file(s) depending upon the configuration chosen.

8. RESULTS AND REALIZED BENEFITS

The measure of benefits has different factors depending on the type of scenario we chose. In our case study (file to file scenario), the performance of the scenario depends upon the input file size, load on server and number of scenarios running at that particular time on

the server. Table 2 and Fig. 12 show the performance (increasing file size / processing time) of file to file scenario.

Table 2 Performance scenarios of file tran
--

Size of the input File	Process start time	Process end time	Process Time	Success / failure
1 KB	07:16:49	07:16:50	l sec	success
14 KB	10:58:54	10:58:55	l sec	Success
1684 KB	11:00:14	11:00:15	l sec	Success
5050 KB	11:05:04	11:05:19	15 sec	Success
6705 KB	11:10:30	11:11:11	41 sec	Success
7956 KB	07:24:26	07:30:26	6 min	Success
13030 KB	07:57:52	07:59:46	~2 min	Success
15555 KB	09:03:49	09:06:23	1min 34 sec	success
16280 KB	11:37:35	11:39:46	2min 11 sec	Success
20138 KB				Failed
24470 KB				Failed
16855 KB				Failed
17244 KB				Failed

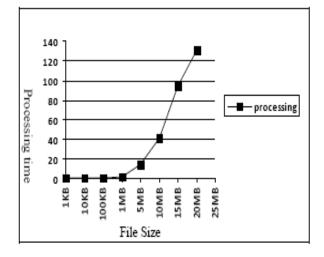


Fig. 12 Graphical representation Performance scenarios of file transfer

The following screen shots from figs. 13 through 15 give the success/ failure monitoring output as the file size is increased.

SXMB_MONI output:

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Ĩ	R		18.02.3088	12:58:18	18.02.2008	12:05:19			SKT_FILE2FILE_BI	ENTTPUCHWWW, FLEZFILE, M	63
	A		20.02.3088	17:03:18	20.02.2008	<u>915319</u>			SKT_FILE2FILE_BI	ENTTP://DHWW,FLE2FLE_N	63
	R			17:14:18	20.02.2008	07:14:21			SKT_FILEZFILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FLE2FLE_N	63
	A			07:16:49	28.00.2808	07/16/51			SKT_FILE/FILE_B	INTERIORNAL FLEDRILE JA	a s
				1805:3T	20.02.2008	0815346			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FILE/FILE_N	83
	A			10.08.09	20.00.2008	10:02:10			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHAVA_FLEDFLE_N	8 5
	Ň			101741	28.02.2008	11:17:8			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FLEDFLE_N	8 5
	A			103011	28.02.2808	183014			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FLEDFLE_N	8 5
	R			18:32:12	28.02.2008	113213			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FLEDFLE_N	8 5
	A			105754	28.02.2808	115154			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	INTERIONANA, FLEDRIE, N	88
	A			105854	28.02.2808	18:58:55			SKT_FILE2FILE_B	(HTTP:/DHANA_FLEDFILE_N	88
	A			110014	20.02.2008	11:0015			SKT_FILE2FILE_BI	(HTTP:/DHAVA_FILE2FILE_N	63
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Fig. 13 Screen shots SXMB_MONI output

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Fig. 14 Screen shots Performance monitoring output

End to End Monitoring:

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Fig. 15 Screen shots End to End Monitoring output

Different parameters to measure performance:

a) **Time:** As mentioned in section 4, creation time for data type, mapping logic and content conversion parameters for an interface get reduced drastically, as depicted in the graph in Fig 16.

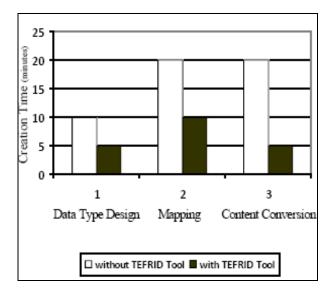


Fig. 16 Performance measure

b) Production: We can have greater productivity using TEFRID tool. Fig.17 indicates the number of objects produced with and without using TEFRID tool per 30 minutes. Suppose in 30 minutes we are able to produce 3 data types, 2 message mappings and 3 content conversion parameters without TEFRID tool. We can produce 8 data types, 4 message mappings and 7 content conversion parameters with TEFRID tool in same time period.

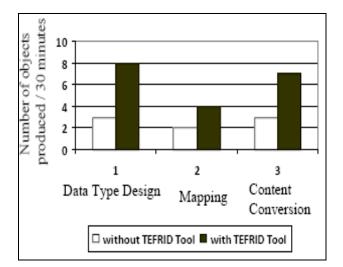


Fig. 17 Productivity measure

c) Error Reduction: The main advantage using the TEFRID tool is the reduction in manual errors. If we create data type, message mapping and content conversion manually, chances of manual errors are more as the complexity of the data type increases. But with TEFRID tool, we are able to reduce the errors to a maximum extent, which will be $\sim 0\%$ errors for data type. Fig. 18 gives a comparison of the possible errors with and without usage of the TEFRID tool.

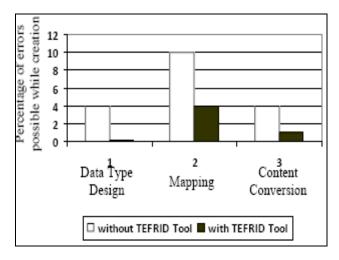


Fig. 18 Errors estimation

d) Cost & Effort: Suppose a project takes 5 months, 5 units of man power and Rs.5 lakhs to complete a phase. By using this tool, we can produce the same results or even more seamless results with only one unit of man power, with Rs. 1 lakh in one month. The following graph in Fig. 19 gives the cost and effort estimation.

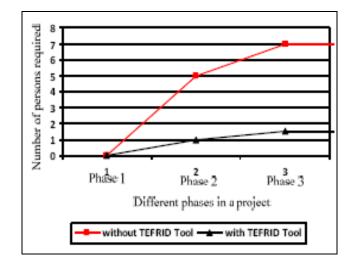


Fig. 19 Cost and effort estimations.

9. CONCLUSIONS

SAP NetWeaver offers some significant advantages in the overall visibility at enterprise level. Depending on the need for integration and the complexity of landscape, an organization can choose SAP XI for implementing and adapting their integration strategies using functionalities and tools described in this paper.

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