IBM FileNet Application Connector for SAP R/3®

Overview

IBM FileNet Application Connector for SAP R/3 is a certified solution for both data archiving and document management that helps SAP users run their businesses more efficiently. Document archival and management help to streamline processes and make it easier to access original documents.

It offers mySAP users an efficient and intuitive way to capture, store, locate, access and manage any type of content – including HTML pages, email, COLD, PDF, graphic and audio/ video objects – and link documents to mySAP transactions. Documents are accessed directly through the familiar mySAP interface to improve productivity with minimal training time.

Application Connector for SAP R/3 is a complete document and data archiving application certified by SAP for use with its popular mySAP application suite. It streamlines document entry processing while enabling easy access to external documents associated with mySAP data as well as documents and data generated by mySAP and stored in IBM FileNet repositories. When used in conjunction with IBM FileNet Web Services or IBM FileNet Workplace, Application Connector for SAP R/3 supports full access to documents using any standard Web browser.

For optimum online performance, SAP AG recommends regular archiving of old or infrequently accessed data from SAP systems. With IBM FileNet Application Connector for SAP R/3, SAP customers can:

- Manage the growth of SAP application data through periodic archiving to improve and control overall system performance

- Increase operational and administrative efficiencies by reducing backup/restore window cycle times

- Increase end-user productivity with easy retrieval from the archive simply from an SAP GUI interface even years later

- Establish a scalable and secure back-end archive management

repository that offers virtually unlimited growth capabilities

- Streamline business processes by integrating digitized content in SAP applications

- Use SAP content from within non-SAP applications or just the reverse, or both

- Perform easier and faster SAP version-to-version upgrades

- Retain SAP data and documents based on regulatory and legal requirements

IBM FileNet Application Connector for SAP R/3 seamlessly works with IBM FileNet Content Manager and IBM FileNet Image Services as well as IBM FileNet Capture Professional. It provides outbound archiving and retrieval for SAP-generated business documents, database data and reports, as well as inbound archiving and retrieval for documents generated outside of SAP, in IBM FileNet Image Manager Active Edition and IBM FileNet Content Manager. It supports "early, late, and simultaneous" document linking scenarios, including barcode processing.

Features & Benefits

Improves Performance and Lowers Database and Storage Costs
Offloads data purged from the SAP database including large documents

such as print lists and reports to optimize SAP database performance and reduce the need to purchase additional disk space.

Document-Enabled mySAP Application

Dramatically improves business processes and productivity in other mySAP application modules like FI, SD, MM, PP, HR. It replaces costly paper and microfilm with automated capture, display, storage, retrieval and management of mySAP-linked images, documents and reports.

Business Integration

Allows users of Microsoft® Office, IBM Lotus® Notes, and other mainstream business applications to create, check-in/check-out, review, revise and distribute documents across the enterprise.

Intuitive Interface

Provides client/server and Web-based mySAP users with a single, powerful and highly intuitive interface to manage external and SAP-generated documents.

SAP GUI or Internet Access

Works in the familiar SAP GUI client/ server environment or over your favorite Web browser to provide seamless access to mySAP documents via the Internet or your corporate intranet.

Modular Component-Based Architecture

Greatly accelerates mySAP transaction processing by supporting all archiving scenarios and any ArchiveLink enabled mySAP module.

Powerful Document Entry

Captures, indexes, and stores virtually any incoming document type for

archiving and management from R/3 including scanned or faxed-in images such as purchase orders, contracts, technical drawings, HTML forms and EDI documents.

Leverage the flexibility given by Content Federation Services

The comprehensive cataloging capabilities of IBM FileNet Content Manager can be utilized with existing IBM FileNet repositories and/or non-FileNet repositories through IBM FileNet Content Federation Services.

General Features

- Check-in/check-out, assembly, revision and distribution of documents across the SAP enterprise

- Document routing and attachment to SAP work items via SAP Business WorkFlow

- Use SAP DMS to link related documents or complete folders to SAP manufacturing process objectssuch as Material Masters within the mySAP client application

- Automatic archiving and indexing of SAP outgoing documents including invoices, POs and printlist reports

- Ability to view more than 200 document types including TIFF, PDF, and FAX, without the native application resident

- Ability to annotate, stamp and highlight images using freehand, color, arrows or sticky notes

- Print/fax/email integration for increased productivity

- Capturing and indexing of virtually all incoming document types

- Single solution for distributed departmental or high-speed batch document capture

- High-volume fax output; capture inbound fax documents directly into SAP

- Integrated barcode recognition and index linking to SAP

- Support for forms overlay on SAP generated documents with popular open PDF forms solutions

- Modular component design for flexible deployment in departmental or global installations

- Processing of more than 300,000 documents per day and optical storage libraries of up to 1.7 terabytes

- Software-transparent, three-way server scalability and sophisticated caching eliminate system bottlenecks

- Dual deployment capability via Internet-connected "thin" clients or traditional SAP GUI desktop

- Sophisticated IBM FileNet document security system

- General or line-of-business integration to SAP Business WorkFlow and SAP Industry Solutions

Technical Specifications

Works With

- IBM FileNet Capture

- IBM FileNet IDM Desktop

- IBM FileNet Web Services/Open Client

- IBM FileNet Content Manager

- IBM FileNet Image Manager Active Edition

- IBM FileNet Image Services

- IBM FileNet Workplace

Minimal System Requirements

ACSAP R/3 Client:

Component	Description
Client operating system	Windows 2000 Professional, and XP Professional
Client machine memory	128 MB
Client machine disk space	20 GB recommended
SAP client front-end	32-bit SAP GUI
ArchiveLink client	For utilizing IBM FileNet Image Services: *IDM Desktop for R/3 5.1.1 (shipped with ACSAP R/3-J2EE 2.0.1). Requires FileNet IDM Desktop 3.3 or later.* For utilizing IBM FileNet Content Manager: *IBM FileNet P8 3.5.1 Workplace JRE 1.4.2 and higher*

ACSAP R/3-J2EE Server:

Component	Description
Gateway Platform	2-way CPU, 2.4 GHz
Gateway memory	4GB
Gateway disk space	Requirements depend on archiving needs, primarily relevant for print lists and REO files; Rule of thumb: allocate double disk space of archive volume per timeframe
Backend connectivity (JCA)	Image Services Resource Adapter (ISRA) 3.1 or later
FileNet backend server	Image Services 3.6 (SP2+) and 4.0 FileNet Content Manager 3.5.1 or 4.0
SAP R/3 release	4.5B or greater (ArchiveLink 4.5 dependency)

Each gateway server should be sufficient for archiving volumes up to:

- 100 simultaneous retrieval users or

- 10.000 outbound PDF documents (25.000 for IS) per day or

- 1 GB print lists or REO files (2 GB for IS) per day or

- 10.000 link operations of inbound documents per day.