



ERPConnect Services

Super-smooth interface for
better project work

„Thanks to Theobald Software, we are for the first time able to manage master data in a way that enriches our SharePoint elements with SAP data. This saves time and redundant data input.“

Florian Michel, Head of Business Applications Wittenstein

Introduction

Project business always involves the handling of large volumes of data and documents. Unexpected information bottlenecks usually occur at the interface between the SAP ERP and SharePoint IT systems. Mechatronics specialist Wittenstein kept noticing this during his projects and ultimately found a solution to the problem.

Challenge

The core business of the international company based in the Swabian town of Igersheim is production optimization as well as the production of Industry 4.0-ready products – tasks that require smooth information management. But that's exactly what had lately been making life so difficult for business applications manager Florian Michel. He was especially worried about ensuring a smooth workflow on the SharePoint collaboration platform. As Michel explains, "Extra work steps that were actually unnecessary kept creeping into our day-to-day tasks."

Solution

"We are not primarily using SharePoint as an intranet-based solution, but rather as the core system for completing and organizing our projects and workflows in order to improve collaboration," states Michel. However, processing a variety of projects using the SharePoint interface also means that data as well as forms from third-party systems like SAP ERP sometimes need to be integrated or displayed. After all, it's not unusual to quickly need a material number from a certain supplier in a project; it also must be possible to enter a certain form into the SAP system without any cumbersome extra steps. And this is exactly what we had trouble implementing in the past. The reason for this is that whenever certain data and forms had to be transferred back and forth between systems, it always created extra work. As a result, employees had to perform

Solution at a Glance

Company

Wittenstein SE, leading Mechatronics specialist

Departments

Company-wide implementation

Sector

Manufacturing industry

Challenge

Avoid extra work steps, improve data quality and workflows within project work.

Solution

SAP interface ERPConnect Services

Benefits

- Single Sign-On between SharePoint and SAP
- Direct connectivity of SharePoint and SAP
- No additional middleware
- Efficient data transfer for better project management

System environment

- SAP ERP
- Microsoft SharePoint
- Nintex Workflow



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a tedious export of data in a text file from one static system environment and then import it back in the right place in the SharePoint interface. In Florian Michel's estimation, "this kind of workflow with extra, fully unnecessary steps therefore created a lot of data redundancy for us, requiring us to provide additional resources." "So we were looking for a way to create a smooth data and document transfer at the interface between systems, whereby SharePoint was essentially to serve as the input interface." Ultimately, the only useful way to link the two interfaces was the ERPConnect Services solution from Theobald Software. The solution enables direct communication between the systems, does not require any middleware, and guarantees read and write access to SAP objects. Just a few months after going live with the software, the benefits have become clear: "We are for the first time able to manage master data in a way that enriches our SharePoint elements with SAP data. This way we save our employees a lot of time that would otherwise be tied up looking for information and for redundant data entry." What actually makes this technical



Photographic material provided by: „Innovationsfabrik“ Wittenstein SE

link so unique is in the details. Entire SharePoint lists can easily be linked with SAP tables – a task that used to be very cumbersome. This was firstly because it was impossible to find forms in the SAP system right away again. Secondly, the task could only be performed by people with good knowledge of XML. The implementation of the new solution does away with this. The cross-system connection path even allows data to be written to SAP

so that it can be updated and anchored it in the corresponding business process, such as supplier management.

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„Our IT department immediately benefits from ERPConnect Services in two ways: Data and forms are always up to date, which noticeably improves quality as a result.“

Florian Michel, Head of Business Applications Wittenstein

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