

Connect for SAP®



Fact Sheet

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1. About Connect for SAP®

Connect for SAP® is an object-oriented software library. It has been specially designed for access to SAP application servers using Borland Delphi™ and for building partner server programs run in non-SAP systems.

Connect for SAP® is a flexible and versatile tool for:

- Integration of existing Delphi applications with SAP systems. This feature allows corporations to use their own information systems and create superstructures offering new opportunities;
- Development of new systems and applications that have access to SAP application server as clients;
- Extension of SAP system functionality through Connect for SAP® by building external non-SAP servers. This feature gives the developer an opportunity to avoid costs connected with ABAP training as all functionality extensions are implemented in Delphi programs.

2. How does Connect for SAP® work?

Connect for SAP® encapsulates SAP RFC API and offers high-level software components and classes. Figure 1 shows how Delphi applications (both client and server ones) can interact with SAP system through Connect for SAP®.

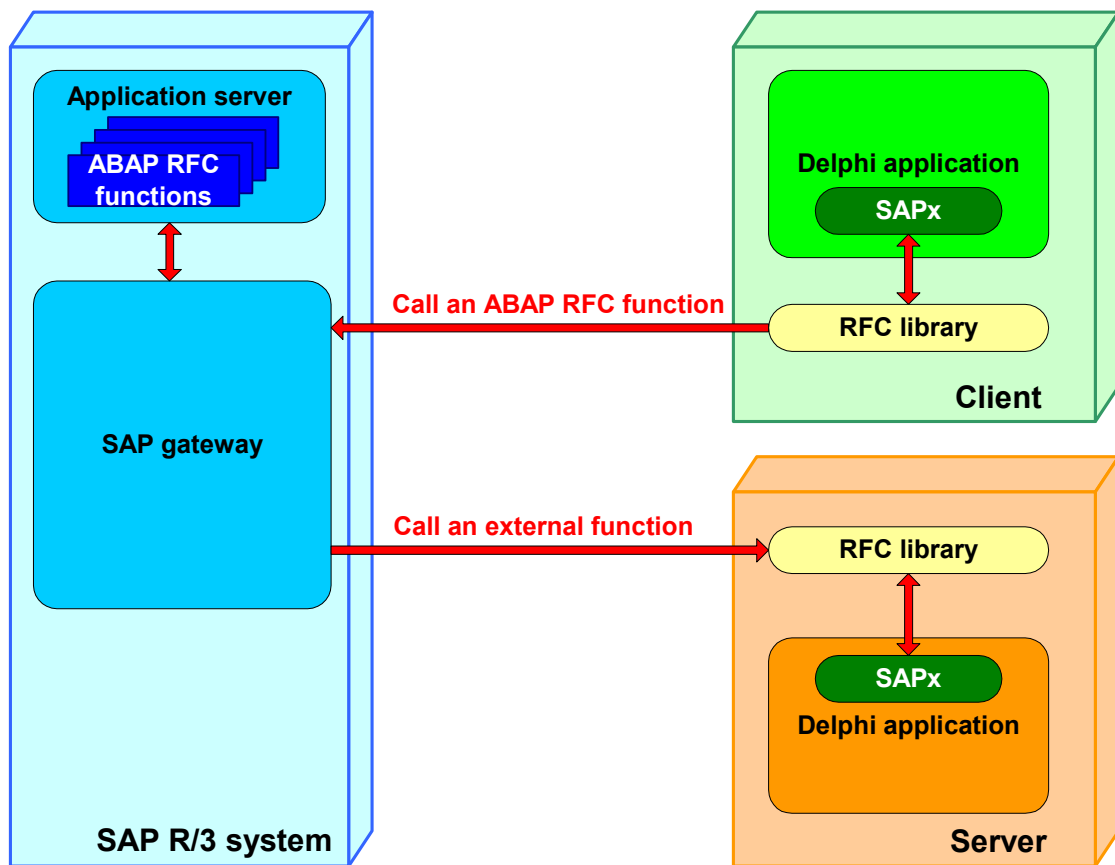


Figure 1: Interaction of Delphi application with a SAP system through Connect for SAP®

3. Requirements

Before you install Connect for SAP®, ensure that your computer meets the following requirements:

3.1. System requirements

- SAP RFC library version at least 4.6 is installed on your PC. RFC library is specific for different operational systems. For example, librfc32.dll is used in Windows 95/NT/2000. SAP RFC library may be installed as part of SAP GUI installation.
- SAP R/3 system you want to work with is at least Release 2.1
- Borland Delphi™ 5 / 6 / 7 / 2005 / 2006 / 2007 (Win32 or .Net) or Borland C++Builder™ 6 / 2006 / 2007 is installed on your PC

3.2. Additional requirements

- SAP user account used by Connect for SAP® client application should have all required privileges to execute RFC function modules.

4. Connect for SAP® key features and advantages

Delphi compliant development style

Object-oriented approach to development

Connect for SAP® is built in accordance with Delphi object-oriented approach. Naming and using object methods and properties are quite clear, easily understandable and look very much like standard VCL approach. These facts simplify development process and reduce time dedicated to training.

Connect for SAP® open architecture

Developer can amplify Connect for SAP® functionality and capabilities by creating his own classes derived from Connect for SAP® objects.

Using visual components

Connect for SAP® features a set of visual components that allow to use Delphi Visual GUI data aware components for browsing and editing RFC function module data. This feature is always enabled both at run time and at design time.

Complete mapping RFC data types to Delphi ones

RFC and Delphi have different sets of data types. Connect for SAP® automatically maps one simple data type to other, facilitating execution of tiresome tasks. Connect for SAP® permits developer to easily operate structured data types.

Robustness and high-performance

Multithread processing

Connect for SAP® allows developers to build applications supporting multithread processing.

Dynamic memory handling	Connect for SAP® dynamically allocates as much memory as it is required to perform an operation and releases it as soon as the operation is finished.
Error handling	Using RFC API directly the developer has to check the result codes constantly. Connect for SAP® has an internally concealed error handling based on standard Object Pascal exceptions mechanism. This feature simplifies program code.
Automatic adoption to server data representation	SAP R/3 server is able to run on different platforms, including some, which have different from Wintel platform data format representation. Connect for SAP® automatically detects server data format and will convert data on fly into Wintel representation.
Generating static wrapping codes for RFC function modules	Connect for SAP® has tools designed to generate Delphi classes code using metadata from SAP system dictionary. This feature prevents roundtrip to metadata at any time the function module is called so the performance speed increases considerably.
Expanding SAP system functionality	
Building non-SAP application servers	Working with Connect for SAP® the developer can build non-SAP application servers that improve and amplify SAP system functionality. Their functions can be called from any ABAP program.
Support of RFC transaction processing	Connect for SAP® supports working with RFC function modules built as transactional ones. These are very easy and clear ways to arrange local transaction management.

Flexibility and easy of use

Supporting aliases to simplify connection process

Aliases allow the developer to facilitate handling of connection parameters. Connect for SAP® contains tool that manages a set of aliases.

Supporting both synchronous and asynchronous modes

Connect for SAP® supports synchronous (blocking) RFC calls as well as asynchronous (non-blocking) ones

Dynamical getting of function parameters

Connect for SAP® can get metadata from a SAP system and form a set of function module parameters dynamically before execution starts. This feature allows the developer to access to its parameters and call a certain function module during run time.

Wide range of demo applications

Connect for SAP® has wide range demo applications, which covers at most all library functionality. Few demos demonstrates how to build custom Web applications, using libraries like a IntraWeb, ExpressWeb, etc

5. Contact Information

If you need any additional information do not hesitate to contact us:

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