ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION PLATFORM 2.1 / SAP-LINK 4.1
RELEASE NOTES

April 26, 2005, Status: Version 6

This document gives you an overview of the new features of the Enterprise Integration Platform (EIP) Version 2.1

Contents

Support of Java Runtime Environment (JRE) version 1.4.2

Admin GUI

Search by Process ID and Queue Message ID

More connector status information

EIP Logging available to multiple Admin GUIs

Export of complete processes from Admin GUI into XML file

Business Process Management (BPM)

New Engine ID

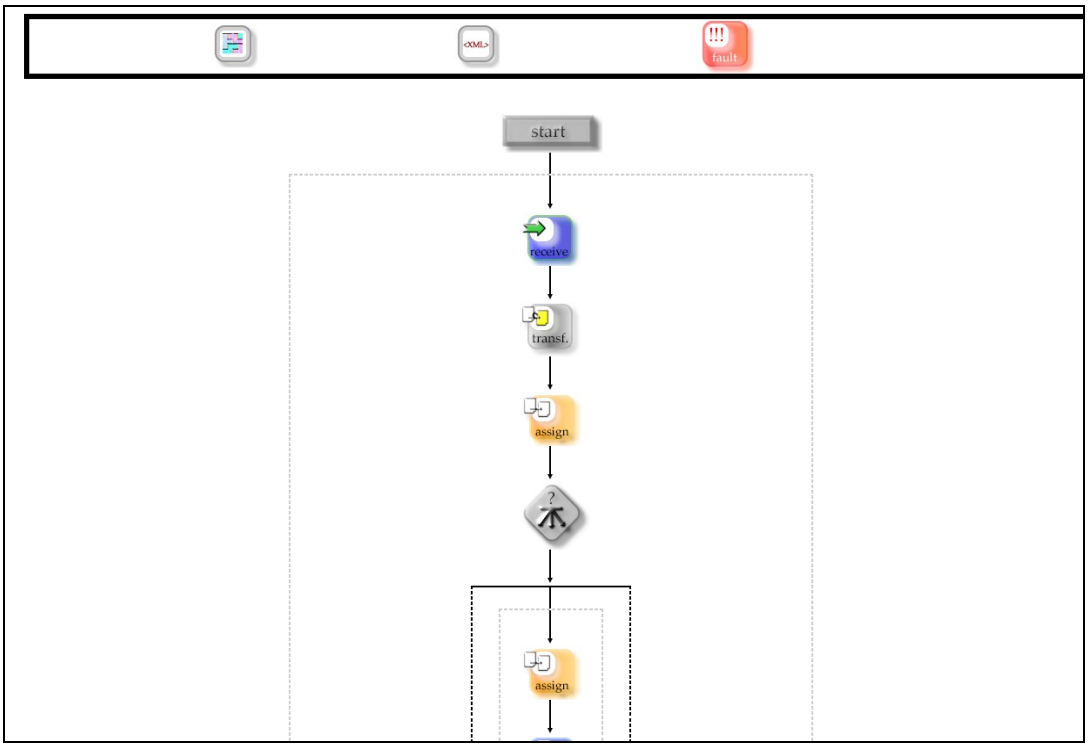
The Business Process Connector now allows to define an Engine ID (unique identifier of a BPM engine instance) in the configuration file, which is necessary when different EIP/BPM Engine installations want to use the same EIP database. All BPM processes are then stored along with the Engine ID in the EIP database.

New activity <wait>

A new activity <wait> has been introduced. It allows to pause the process for a certain time.

Displaying BPEL process definitions in a graphical way

It is now possible to convert the BPEL process definitions (BPEL file) into graphical HTML representations (see below). The HTML view can be used to check the content of a process and print it out.



Enhancements in PLM Connector

Agile e6.0 Support

All operating systems and databases, which are supported by Agile e6.0, are also supported by the Enterprise Integration Platform Version 2.1, especially the PLM Connector.

Please note, older versions of EIP/SAP-Link CANNOT be used in combination with Agile e6 !

Performance Optimization when reading data from Agile e6.0

The External XML Interface (EXI) has been optimized with respect to performance when reading data from Agile e6.0.

Also, a bug related to reading data through DataView Constraint relations has been fixed

Support of Enhanced Change Management

Agile e6.0 provides many new features with respect to Enhanced Change Management. As part of the SAP-Link solution, predefined business processes and PLM configuration have been provided to RELEASE a Work Set from Agile e6.0 to SAP R/3.

Support of “Preliminary Record” Flag and Filtering by Phases

Agile e6.0 introduces the notion of Preliminary Records as part of the new Enhanced Change Management solution. A filter can be defined, which defines whether preliminary records should be included in or excluded from the result set of a query. This filter can now be set in the Transfer Queue, where a new field “Preliminary Flag” has been added.
Also, it is now possible to set the filter for retrieving only those records, which apply to the configured Phase Filter.

Filtering by Preliminary Flag and Phases does only work in combination with setting the Version View explicitly in the Transfer Queue (or via EXI) ! Otherwise, those filters will not have an impact.

Snapshot functionality now optional

With EIP version 2.0 the new XML Snapshot feature was introduced. Since not every EIP user wants to make use of that feature, it is now possible to deactivate the XML Snapshot feature in the configuration file. If this feature is deactivated and not used, the specific customizing (e.g. tables, masks etc.) does not have to exist, which simplifies installation.

Also, the data model for storing XML Snapshots, which has been introduced with EIP 2.0, has been optimized. The new data model now allows to build n:m relations between the Transfer Queue record and the XML Snapshot record, whereas in EIP 2.0 only 1:n relations were possible.

Name of Transfer Queue mask configurable

The name of the mask, which should be used by the PLM Connector for reading the transfer queue entries, is now configurable.

HTTP Connector

New HTTP Client and Server Connector

A new HTTP Connector has been provided for sending and accepting HTTP requests. The HTTP Client can be used to send an EIP XML message to a predefined port through HTTP. The HTTP Server accepts incoming HTTP-based request which contain XML data.

XML-RPC Connector

New XML-RPC Server Connector

A new XML-RPC Connector has been provided for processing incoming XML-RPC requests. The connector accepts request on a configurable port and exposes a predefined Remote Procedure. This Remote Procedure expects a predefined number of parameters, one of them being the XML data, which should processed by the EIP.

Web Service Connector

New Web Service Connector

A new Web Service Connector has been implemented, which allows EIP to accept Web Service requests from other applications. It comes with a predefined set of Services, which allow external applications to “send” XML data to the EIP. In combination with the Agile e6 Connector (as a target connector), the Web Service enables the Agile e6 system i.e. EIP provides a Web Service layer on top of Agile e6.

SOAP Connector

New SOAP Connector

A new SOAP Client Connector has been provided for calling external Web Services via SOAP.

Mail Connector

Mapping data before sending

The Mail Connector, which was introduced with EIP 2.0, does now allow to map the data into another format just before sending the mail.

FTP Connector

Mapping data before uploading onto ftp server

The FTP Connector, which was introduced with EIP 2.0, does now allow to map the data into another format just before uploading the data onto the ftp server.

Data File Connector

Mapping data when loading data

The Data File Connector now allows to map the already read data into another XML format by utilizing XSL files.

Enhancements in SAP-Connector and RFCs

Full Unicode support in R/3 Connector and Agile´s RFCs

The synchronous SAP-Connector (RFC-Server) can now be registered as a Unicode server in SAP.

All delivered ABAP packages (Agile's RFCs) were checked with the SAP transaction UCCHECK and the system found no Unicode syntax errors. The flag 'unicode check active' is set for all related function groups.

Flag for activating RFC trace output

It is now possible to configure, whether the RFC (Remote Function Call) and JCo (Java Connector) trace output should be activated. A trace file will be written for each one of them (RFC Trace and JCo Trace).

General Enhancements

Queue ID for storing in shared EIP database

It is now possible to define a Queue ID in the <queue> section of the configuration file. All XML messages are then stored along with the Queue ID in the EIP database. This allows different EIP instances to use the same, shared EIP database which could be displayed together in one Admin GUI.

Better support of Oracle features in Queue Management

The Queue Manager in EIP 2.1 now always uses the same schema name as the user name when connecting to the Oracle database.

Automatic cleanup of finished processes and XML messages from EIP Database

Based on a certain time interval, which can be defined in the eai_ini.xml file, the EIP database can be cleaned up automatically. This includes the XML Message Queue and the Process History (as shown in the Process Monitor).

Storing synchronous XML messages in EIP Queue

In previous versions of EIP, XML messages (XDOs) were only stored in the EIP database if the message was transferred in asynchronous mode. Now it is configurable, whether a synchronous XML messages (synchronous transfer mode) should also be shored in the EIP database.

Although this leads to a slight performance loss during the synchronous transfer operations, it greatly enhances the visibility of the transferred data in synchronous mode e.g. when SAP data is retrieved from and displayed in Agile e6.

Support of Java Runtime Environment (JRE) version 1.4.2

With EIP 2.1, only JRE version 1.4.2 is supported.

Admin GUI

Search by Process ID and Queue Message ID

The Queue Tab and Process Monitor tab provide additional search fields in order to enter and run a query against the database. This allows to display only specific queue or process entries based on their ID.

More connector status information

The Admin GUI provides more information (e.g. Mode, Features) about the connectors.

EIP Logging available to multiple Admin GUIs

The technical implementation for providing logging information to the Admin GUI has changed. Therefore it is now possible to start multiple Admin GUIs, all of them looking at the logging information of the same EIP server.

Export of complete processes from Admin GUI into XML file

Before 2.1, it was only possible to view running or completed BPM processes in the Admin GUI. Now it is also possible to export those processes (process history) into external XML files. This can be done via the Export button in the Process Monitor tab of the Admin GUI.