# **ABSOFT**

# Webinar Q&A

Integration of SAP Systems with Microsoft Power Platform

# Thank you for attending our webinar! Here is the Q&A from the session:

# Analytics

• Does using PowerBI over oData connections work quickly enough for large data sets (like, say, analysis of purchase order data over 5+ years - maybe 1,000,000 POs or more)? Or is that only practical with a direct HANA/ODBC connection?

Pagination of oData services is possible to access theoretically limitless amounts of data through repeated calls, but the performance and feasibility of loading all of that into Power BI Desktop will be a limiting factor. Staging the data in Azure Data Lake is recommended for large volumes. For direct usage in Power BI, it is best to try to use an oData service that will return a smaller data set and push the processing into the back-end SAP system.

• Can oData be used for overnight data loads? If not, what is the alternative?

We have experience at Absoft of using oData for overnight loads to Azure Data Lake and it works well. Pagination is used to load large volumes of data using oData services, and you can pass filters to the queries to achieve a delta loading capability in relevant cases.

• Can Data Intelligence help with replication data into Azure Data Lake as an alternative to ADF? Does SAP Data Intelligence feature at all in the Data Warehousing architecture diagram presented?

There is not a connector available for Azure Data Lake in SAP Data Intelligence by standard. Generally a product like Azure Data Factory with connectivity to both Azure Data Lake and SAP is used to load the data, and that has been our experience with customers.

If there is a strong preference to use SAP Data Intelligence, it may be possible to use the HTTP Client Connector Operator in SAP Data Intelligence to connect with a suitable API for Azure Data Lake and we'd be pleased to work with you to develop this further.

SAP<sup>®</sup> Certified

Partner Center of Expertise



Gold Microsoft Partner

© 2021 Absoft



• What is preferred way to load data from SAP BW 7.5 to Azure Data Lake/Synapse?

Azure Data Factory has a connector for SAP BW via the Integration Runtime (see connectivity answers below) on-premises, that works with InfoCubes and QueryCubes and provides a very simple solution.

There is also connectivity to SAP Business Warehouse via Open Hub, which offers more flexibility to present different data within BW to third-party products.

A whitepaper is available on <u>SAP Data Integration using Azure Data Factory</u> with more information on options.

• Our project for replacing BW with Azure is connecting direct to SAP ECC tables, into the Lake using ADF and then transform the data in Data Bricks. One task we are finding difficult in replacing BW is identifying the SAP ECC tables the standard extractors use. Do the standard oData connectors remove the need to identify the SAP ECC tables?

If you can find a suitable oData service on <u>https://api.sap.com</u> for your release you can get ready-made user-friendly services without the need to understand the underlying tables.

If not, and in ECC, you are unlikely to find suitable oData services, you need to develop them in the SAP system so you will need to know the table names to do that. A lot of our SAP-specialist work in this area has been in oData service development to facilitate access from external teams who are not familiar with ECC tables.

SAP<sup>®</sup> Certified

Partner Center of Expertise



© 2021 Absoft

# **Power Apps**

• Am I able to import my existing On-Prem SAP oData services into Power Apps as a Custom Connector?

Absolutely, you can use the On-Premises Data Gateway to provide technical connectivity to any oData service on-premises. The Custom Connector shown in the demo is <u>available</u> on <u>GitHub here</u>.

• What are some business use cases you've seen for Power Platform with SAP?

Some of our customers have Power Apps capabilities stronger than their Fiori development capabilities, so they've chosen to use standard SAP Fiori apps where one exists, with small developments or extensions as required, but to use Power Apps for any completely custom use-case (click to read our our case study for further details).

Typical Power Apps use cases are in workflow, providing functionality for business processes that cross Microsoft and SAP products, and prototyping of new productivity tools that may later be redeveloped as a Fiori app if they offer business value.

Power BI has been used to provide operational reporting through standard reports, such as graphical views of upcoming deliveries from SAP or dashboards of factory performance.

One customer has created a dashboard of invoice payment approval issues and metrics which has significantly reduced their late payment fees from vendors by reducing the time taken to approve invoice payments, and provide visibility to those responsible for the approvals.

Some of our customers have adopted a data-driven enterprise strategy with enablement for their staff to use Power BI to make their own reports, and they wish to make SAP data available in a digestible format. Absoft's development of high-quality oData services has been fundamental to providing this SAP data to the users.

"We have worked with Absoft's consultants to achieve interactive reports that give us great insight into our daily operations. By using Power BI, we are no longer having to look up data across multiple screens in SAP, instead we are seeing everything we need at a glance." **Charles Marshall, Marshall Trailers' MD** 

Click here to read the full Case Study on SAP data with Microsoft Power BI



© 2021 Absoft



# Connectivity

• The diagram shows HTTP connections between On-Premise Data Gateway and Azure Data Factory. Is HTTPS available?

All connections are HTTPS. The mention of HTTP was a simplification in the connectivity diagram which will be clarified for future presentations, and below.

On-Premises Data Gateway is used for connectivity with on-premises systems for the products that were shown, and does not connect to Azure Data Factory specifically as the diagram suggested.

#### • What are the security challenges of integrating SAP with Azure services?

The technical connectivity is very secure, with the On-Premises Data Gateway providing an HTTPS tunnel for secure connection to your on-premises data.

For user security, using single-sign on in Power Platform to connect to the SAP application with the end-user's account is the best approach to ensure they can only access data that they could access with their SAP authorisations.

The biggest security challenges come when using a shared SAP account, or direct access to the database, from any external service as the external service must then enforce user authorisations correctly, for example limiting a user to see data only from their own plant or company code.

### • Is the On-Premises Data Gateway the same as Azure Data Factory Integration runtime?

No. The connectivity diagram suggested On-Premises Data Gateway connects to Azure Data Factory like the Integration Runtime, but On-Premises Data Gateway is installed to facilitate the technical connectivity from Power Automate, Azure Logic Apps, and Power BI, among some other services.

Azure Data Factory Integration Runtime is used to provide a similar capability for Azure Data Factory specifically.

#### A clearer connectivity diagram:





Partner Center of Expertise

# Licensing

• Has SAP licensing been simplified for exposing SAP data outside SAP?

SAP licensing changes should be discussed directly with SAP or your reseller.

• Can I use Power Platform with SAP on-premises, or does it have to be in Azure?

Power Platform can be used with SAP on-premises and in Azure, using the On-Premises Data Gateway to provide secure connectivity.

• To clarify, oData is licenced for use with a runtime licence?

Generally, a database runtime license will not be relevant to usage of oData from the SAP application server. oData connectivity directly to a database will require full licensing of the relevant features. All licensing questions should be confirmed by SAP or your reseller.

To ensure smooth running of your SAP on Azure it is crucial to work with a partner who combines SAP expertise with a sound knowledge and strong referenceability within Microsoft Azure projects.

Get in touch with our expert SAP and Azure team if you have any further questions! If you'd like to stay updated with upcoming SAP on Azure resources follow us on social media or get in touch directly.



Follow Absoft to stay updated with upcoming SAP on Azure resources:



### Absoft Your One-Stop-Shop for SAP and Microsoft Solutions



SAP and Microsoft Gold Partner



30 years of SAP experience 10 years of SAPin the cloud



Bespoke, collaborative solutions; Enablement and training



Hundreds of SAP system migrations



Highly skilled and fully certified in both SAP and Microsoft Azure team





SAP<sup>®</sup> Certified Partner Center of Expertise