

Integrating with SAP, Oracle and other ERP Systems

This overview outlines some of the complexities and practical issues when reviewing integration options between REACHsuite and SAP, Oracle and other ERP and database systems.

A lot of the data that you as a business will require for REACH will be held in your ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system(s), SAP and Oracle figure commonly in larger businesses and there are others as well. But to base one's REACH strategy on these is not always a practical proposition:

- They often lack the functionality to manage REACH-specific processes
- Integration with other REACH-related systems is frequently problematic
- Clients may have multiple ERP system instances across business units, and even different vendors systems, often a legacy of acquisitions, and using multiple ERP instances for REACH compliance can be challenging
- Even where vendor announcements have been made to address REACH, the functionality appears to be a long way short of REACHsuite's capabilities and available product some way from shipping; time, in terms of REACH, is not on anyone's side

With REACHsuite available here and now, integration with ERP systems can be a viable way forward and technology selections you make may vary in complexity. This is particularly true of SAP integration, RFCs, BAPIs, a data browser and the SAP Query tool are good starting

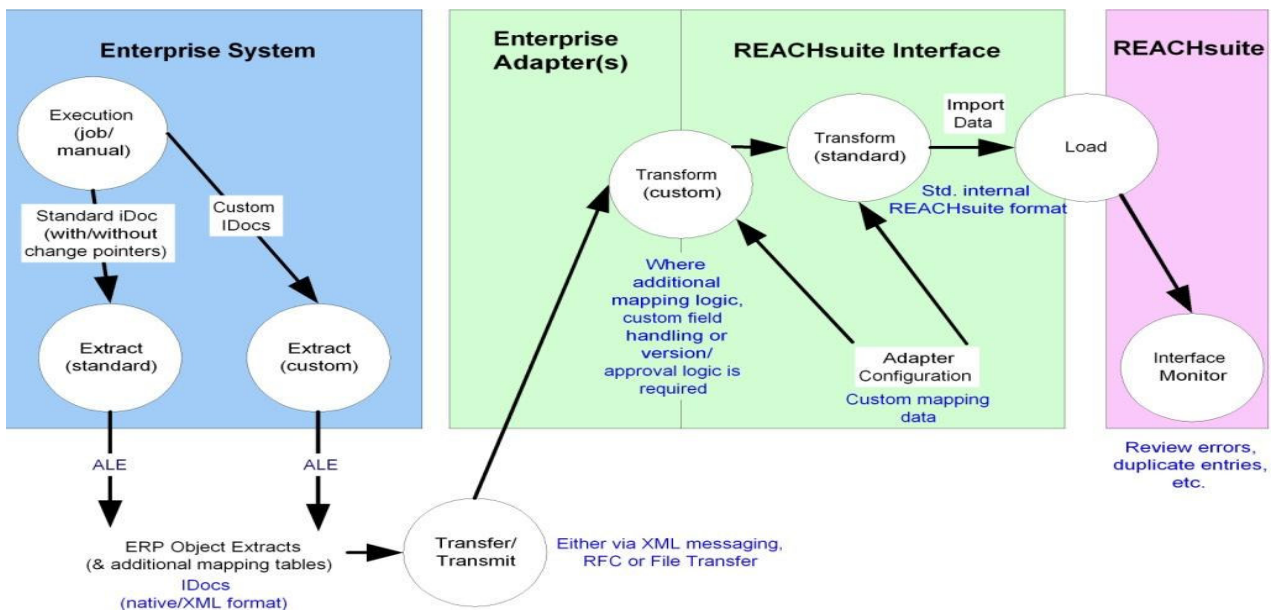
points for getting at usable data; IDocs, XML files, messaging and even comma separated variable (CSV) files can be used to transport SAP data to another application, which can be automatically initiated by a trigger, use of a scheduled batch movement or user-initiated transfer. All these methods have been used to connect to SAP systems and the choice depends on several factors, primarily:

- Does the transfer have to happen automatically?
- Does it require synchronous or in-process transfer, or is an asynchronous mode adequate?
- Is the data a one-off requirement with or without occasional updates, or is there an ongoing need for the movement of data?
- Is two-way data transfer a requirement?

SAP-stored information is unlikely to have the same name or format as that required by the destination application. It will most likely be obtained from multiple tables so there's mapping and conversion to consider, and a strategy to deal with duplicate, incomplete and invalid data needs to be implemented too.

The REACHsuite SAP-integration strategy is predicated on using skilled integration partners who are comfortable with REACHsuite's solution technology, like DAI in the UK and throughout Europe, who can select and implement the most appropriate technology and best-fit for the business requirements, apply it quickly and cost effectively, and also understand what the data itself means.

These principles can also apply to a large extent to Oracle-based and other ERP systems.



Contact Details:

Head Office - UK
 Baytouch Ltd, Ribble Court,
 1 Mead Way, Padiham
 Burnley, Lancashire
 BB12 7NG, England
Phone: +44 (0)1282 687000
Fax: +44 (0)1282 687009
Web: www.REACHsuite.com

Brussels Office
 Baytouch Ltd
 c/o Penman Consulting BVBA
 Sint Hubertuslaan 25,
 3080 Tervuren
 Belgium
Phone: +32 2305 0698



Reg. Office: Ribble Court, 1 Mead Way, Padiham, Lancs BB12 7NG, England
 Reg. No. 3229808 (England)