

CS Connect

One of the greatest challenges for successful project management is a reliable information basis in which all of the information pertaining to a project – from the project schedule to actual work to actual costs – is consolidated and easy to access.

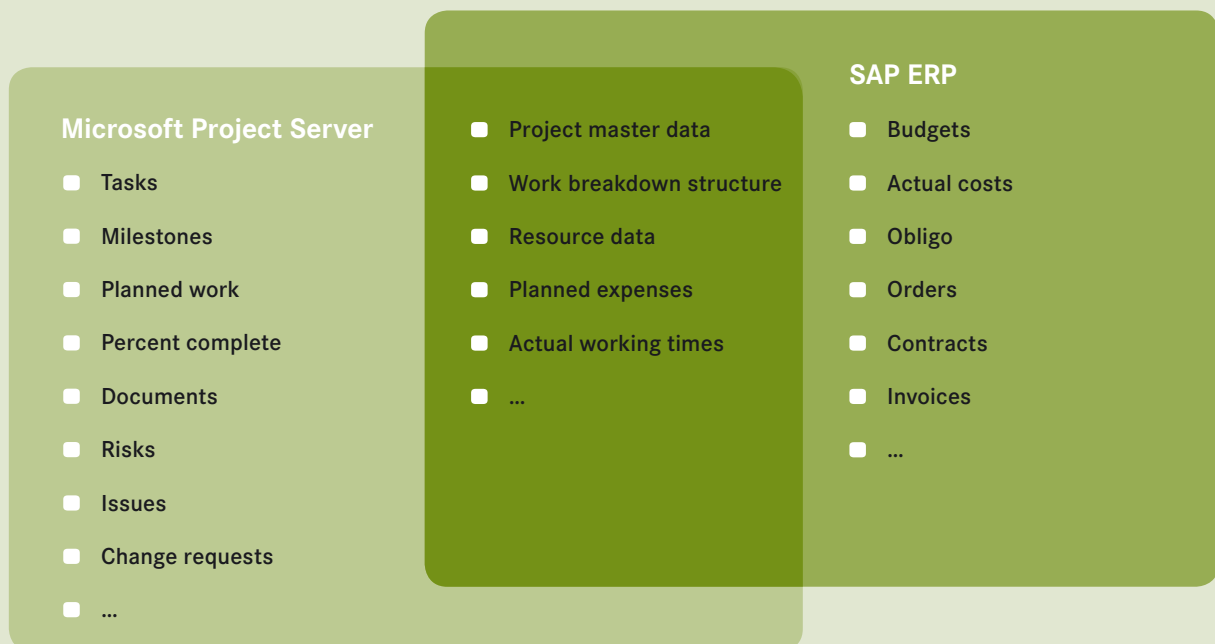
The problem: in actual practice, usually no unified data platform of this kind exists. Project members work with different systems, such as for example Microsoft and SAP, and use them to manage their project data while sometimes not even having access to the respective other system.

The solution: CS Connect, the interface developed by Campana & Schott. It integrates the different platforms and makes all of the project data available at a central location. And the best thing of all: users can enter or access project data in the programs they are used to, for example project managers in Microsoft Project Server and controllers in SAP ERP.

The Advantages at a Glance

- Easy and unified data management
- Measurably less effort for project managers and controllers
- Optimal data quality for all concerned
- Better management decisions due to improved data quality

Microsoft Project Server and SAP ERP Integration. Typical PM Data Distribution



CS Connect Technology & Solution

Microsoft and SAP determine the IT infrastructure in a lot of companies. For project management, this means the relevant information is distributed between the two platforms. Valuable time and effort is wasted through needless repetitions. CS Connect is the easy and economical solution.

A Brief Look at the Technology

Project data is synchronised with the help of CS Connect, a modular interface application (see graph). The application has two components: the core engine ① and the interface modules ②.

The Core Engine

The CS Connect core engine ① is the centrepiece of the application: it manages the data flow and the messaging, takes care of logging and error handling and orchestrates the interface modules effectively.

The Modules

The CS Connect interface modules ② control the data exchange between MS Project Server ③ and SAP ERP ④. Company specific business processes can be mapped with the aid of the integration logic (processing and validation rules). Data flows can be regulated both on a schedule as well as an event basis.

SAP Connections

CS Connect is a Microsoft .NET-3.5 application and alternatively communicates with SAP ERP via four options ⑤

- .NET RFC/BAPI-Adapter
- SAP PI (formerly SAP XI)
- XML File
- WCF LoB Adapter

Other Connections

CS Connect also includes modules for the exchange of data, e.g. with

- MS SharePoint Server
- MS Project Portfolio Server
- MS Team Foundation Server or
- SAP BW and SAP RPM

Web-Based Application

A client rollout in the company is not necessary because CS Connect is completely web-based. The integration with Microsoft Project Web App.

Microsoft and SAP Certification

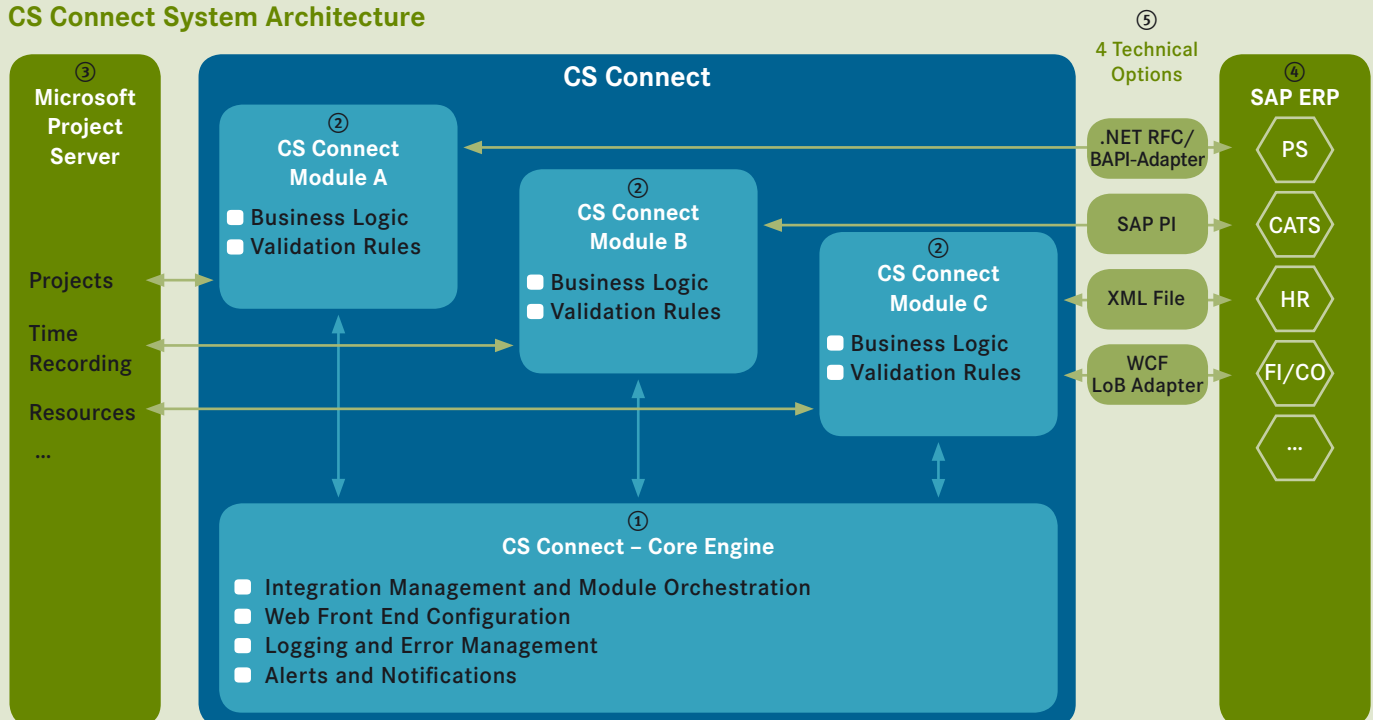
In March 2011, CS Connect successfully passed the tests for the "Certified for Windows Server 2008 R2" Logo.

The independent institute VeriTest ensured that CS Connect fully meets Microsoft's technology standards. 2009, CS Connect also achieved the "SAP Integration Certification" for integration of SAP and Microsoft environments. Amongst others, scenarios with SAP PS, CO, CATS, HCM and SAP Solution Manager have been certified.



SAP® Certified
Integration with SAP Applications

CS Connect System Architecture



Financial controlling on the one hand, project progress on the other – and no overall picture. This describes the difficult situation of a global technology company in Germany. The company subsequently hired Campana & Schott to provide a system which integrates project data between all applications.

An Overall View - from Project Proposal to Controlling

Campana & Schott realised a modular PM solution based on MS SharePoint Server and MS Project Server.

SAP was likewise integrated with the help of CS Connect. The IT Management now maps the entire life cycle of in-house projects, ranging from proposal to controlling. MS SharePoint Server, MS Project Server and SAP ERP are reliably synchronised, ensuring that all information

is always available. Data relevant to all three platforms only has to be entered once.

The diagram below shows how the individual work steps are integrated between the systems or project members.

Early Monitoring through Earned Value Analysis

“Those involved in the project can make a quick target-performance comparison regarding costs and then compare the results with overall project progress.

Earned value analysis helps to support an early warning system for the project budget. In addition the system provides a complete representation of the project cycle”, is the positive conclusion drawn after the solution was adopted.

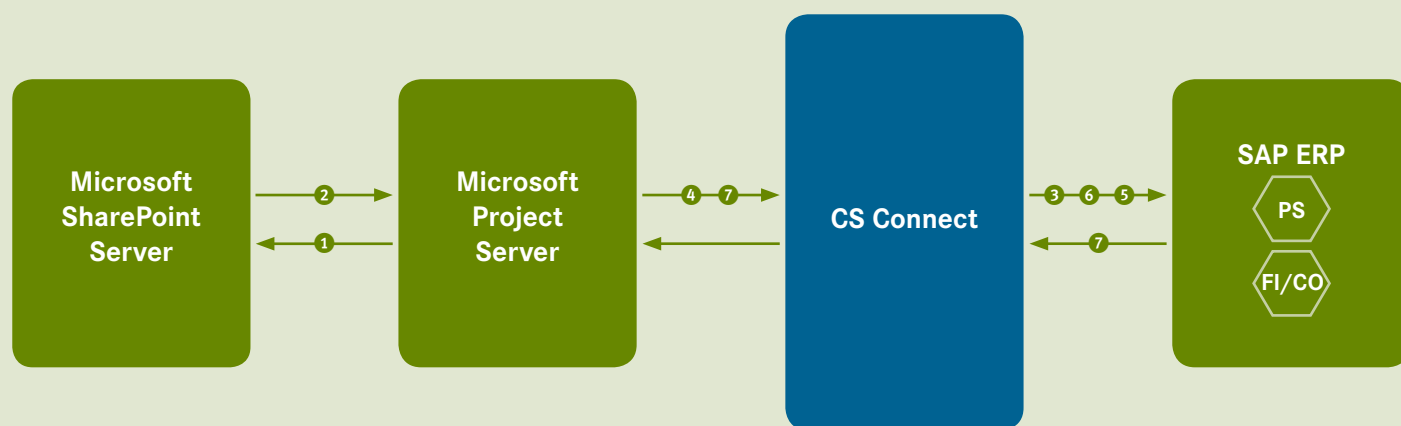
CS Connect offers companies

- Full Transaction Security
- Flexible Validation Mechanisms
- Comprehensive Error Management
- Reliable handling for complex, bi-directional data flows

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Business Processes and Scope of Solution

Combination of Components



Project managers from the company corporate IT division record master data and project structure in Microsoft Project Server. Project proposal and approval are carried out by project controllers via forms and workflows in Microsoft SharePoint Server. The corresponding WBS elements are then generated in SAP PS. In the further course of the project, actual costs are always booked in SAP, while actual times are recorded in Microsoft Project Server. CS Connect regularly synchronises the data between the two systems, so that all of the current project information is available to project managers and project controllers at all times.

- 1 Submit Project Proposal
- 2 Approve Project Proposal
- 3 Set Up Project
- 4 Transfer WBS Elements
- 5 Update Project Plan Data
- 6 Post Project Actual Times
- 7 Transfer Project Actual Costs

CS Connect brings decisive advantages to companies using CS Connect to carry out their projects.

Integrates Systems

- Provides a fully integrated project management infrastructure

Simplifies Processes

- Reduces administrative effort for project managers/project controllers
- Less effort with respect to adjusting incomplete/inconsistent data, manual booking corrections etc.

Improves Quality

- Better and quicker management decisions due to the improved quality of data, reports and KPI
- Increased user acceptance of project management solutions

Generates Value

- High added value ensures quick amortisation

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“Our project management system is a solution which integrates Microsoft Project Server with SAP ERP. This gives us huge benefits: significant savings in working time, considerably higher data quality levels and a dramatic increase in user acceptance, just to name a few.”

Head of corporate IT in a global high-tech company