Case Study

Scientia Connect Platform

Scientia Connect helps universities across the globe to effectively manage one of their most important assets: their data. Connect enables the seamless transfer of data between an institution's many applications, including the Scientia product suite.

Connect addresses the challenge of efficiently using and re-using data between various systems though a reliable, secure and high-speed solution. Establishing the accuracy of data and ensuring it can be safely and easily shared across applications - whether on-premises or in the cloud - is of primary importance to high performing institutions.

Connect helps to support a well-defined integration strategy by delivering fully-automated data transfers between applications with greater control over integration interfaces including the ability to define workflows and approvals. Customers can take advantage of increased business process efficiencies from a single integration platform.

At the heart of the Connect tool is a 'differential comparison' feature that provides efficiencies in both time and performance when conducting bulk data updates. It quickly pinpoints only data items that have changed since the previous integration was performed. Only data that has been amended, deleted or inserted is transferred during a scheduled integration routine allowing data transfers to be carried out more efficiently while reducing the load on local infrastructure.

"The implementation has been very well received, we have a well-functioning integration between Enterprise and Outlook which has been very popular with teaching staff. One of the most important benefits is that teaching staff can see all their scheduled teaching activities in their main Outlook calendar and no longer have to visit a separate webpage - they get all timetable information directly into Outlook and are always aware of upcoming changes"

Aarhus University

Case Study

Connect at Maastricht University

Established in 1976, Maastricht University (UM) is recognised as the most international university in the Netherlands. With almost 16,000 students and 4,000 staff, almost 45% of students and more than 30% of teaching staff come from abroad. Maastricht chose Connect in order to meet the demand for effective integration of staff and student data from SAP's Student Lifecycle Management solution into the Enterprise Foundation scheduling application.

Connect automates the transfer of student, staff and module information from SAP and when student and staff timetables have been completed, the system can write this information back into SAP where this data is then also used to populate the University's Blackboard virtual learning environment. Connect is configured to perform a variety of data checks to ensure data is complete and accurate before transfers are carried out.

Ger Hagens, Applications Manager at Maastricht, said:

"Connect offers a high performance solution to a complex problem. The biggest benefit is the transparency of Connect. We are able to see what Connect is actually doing – what data is coming from the source and how it will appear in the target application. We can make modifications ourselves if we need to – it's no longer a 'black box' solution."

Connect at Aarhus University

The Aarhus University School of Business and Social Sciences (Aarhus BSS) is one of four main academic areas of Aarhus University, Denmark. With 14,500 full-time students and some 740 staff, it ranks among the largest business schools in Europe.

Previously, one of the complexities staff members experienced was the need to access two separate calendars: personal agendas in Outlook as well as teaching timetables in Enterprise Foundation. To resolve the issue, Aarhus BSS chose Connect to synchronize staff calendars in Enterprise with Outlook. Connect extracts Activity information from Enterprise including Activity Names & Descriptions, Start & End Times, Staff Members and Locations. Connect validates against Exchange using the appropriate staff email address and updates Outlook by inserting new calendar appointments or updating or cancelling existing events. The project began with a pilot in a single department and is now being rolled out across the rest of Aarhus BSS.

Activities are created as 'appointments' in Outlook appearing automatically in staff Outlook calendar views. A handy colour code highlights new or updated timetable events so that staff can see changes at a glance. Cancelled events are also accompanied by an email alert to staff. The sync between Enterprise and Outlook occurs between every available timetable slot ensuring calendars in Enterprise and Exchange are kept fully up to date.

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