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The Complete Guide to SAP NetWeaver® Portal

The Complete Guide to SAP NetWeaver Portal

- Understand everything you need to know about SAP NetWeaver Portal, from installation to administration to development.
- Learn how to perform tasks efficiently and effectively using step-by-step instructions and illustrations.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest information for SAP NetWeaver 7.3.

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Blueprinting is an important step in implementation planning that defines how you should move forward with a project.

5 Implementation Planning

Previous chapters of this book have focused on the SAP NetWeaver Portal platform and how to install and configure the portal system. At the end of all of these steps, we will have a simple portal with basic configurations. The usual next step is to implement the portal per the customer needs. This is when the consulting team needs to start customizing SAP NetWeaver Portal and planning for development. As such, the next topic to discuss is the blueprinting process and the process of designing the solution based on the blueprinting. This is the most important chapter from an implementation point of view; in most projects, the quality of the job done at the blueprinting level reflects directly on the implementation.

The most common problem that implementation teams face is getting the information they need from customers in order to accurately design the solution. Not asking the right questions leads to an incomplete understanding of the system and landscape, which results in inferior implementations. In this chapter, we provide a checklist of the most important considerations and questions the implementation team should address before choosing the architecture of the SAP NetWeaver Portal implementation.

We start by talking about blueprinting, which is the process of identifying the problems to solve and the features to implement. After the blueprinting is done, we are faced with the challenge of choosing the user interface (UI) technology on which to base the UIs. We will discuss the implementation process in detail as well as the factors that must be considered when choosing the right UI technology for the implementation.
5.1 Blueprinting

Blueprinting is the process of analyzing the business process and defining the system that needs to be implemented as part of the implementation process. In this section, we will explain the blueprinting process to make it easier for consultants. We will discuss various topics concerning SAP NetWeaver Portal that need to be discussed with the customer. In most of the implementations, customers will not be aware of the features and capabilities of SAP NetWeaver Portal. It is a consultant's responsibility to make the customer aware of these capabilities and determine how he wants the features to be implemented. Customer questionnaire topics such as “Objective of the Client's Portal Project” can have far-reaching effects on the portal implementation because the objectives will need to be considered in all of the important decisions you make during the implementation. What content will need to be created versus what existing content will need to be integrated will also drive the scope of the entire project. In this section, we discuss the important areas that should be covered by the consultant while blueprinting and the important questions that need to be answered.

5.1.1 Scoping Questionnaire

Asking the right questions can significantly simplify the blueprinting process. Before getting into the detailed requirements, it's helpful to ask the customer some important initial questions, such as the ones suggested here. The answers to these questions will form the basis for the next level of detailed questions and help identify the project requirements.

The following subsections categorize the various areas that you need to cover initially to get a feel for the implementation scope.

Objective of the Client's Portal Project

It's very important to determine whether the portal is implemented for employees, customers, or partners. The implementation approach is based on this answer. The following are the questions that need to be answered concerning the portal's objective:

- Is the client implementing a company portal for employees?
- Is the client implementing an external company portal for customers?
Is the client implementing an external company portal for partners?
Is the client implementing a portal for SAP applications?
Is the client implementing a portal for non-SAP applications?

Because the UI standards for external and internal portals are different for many corporations, the requirements for the UI may change based on the overall objective of the client. The security requirements can vary based on the users of the portal.

**Key Assumptions for the Project**

Key assumptions reflect the guiding principles of the project. For example, some projects are implemented with an approach that excludes custom development, whereas some customers are more open to custom development that accommodates their requirements. The following are some other examples of key assumptions:

- **No modifications to SAP-delivered code should be done.**
  SAP code modifications are sometimes avoided to make maintenance easier. In such scenarios, you need to look at other options such as enhancements, custom applications, and so on.

- **All UI development should be done using ABAP technology.**
  Some customers are more comfortable with ABAP technology than Java. Your options are then limited to the ABAP stack.

- **The portal will be exposed to the Internet.**
  When the portal will be exposed to internet, you have to start thinking about the whole landscape and consider security aspects.

**Number and Skills of Available Resources**

The resources that will be available for the project will affect its scope. The following roles are important for a successful portal implementation:

- Project manager
- Portal role administrator
- Systems administrator
- Web security administrator
- Web developer
- Content specialist
Implementation Planning

- Graphics specialist
- Extended team of business-process experts
- Backend systems expert
- Workflow developer

**Client’s Existing Technology**
The client's existing network architecture is very important because SAP NetWeaver Portal normally has to fit into the client's existing network topology. The following are important considerations:

- Client's network architecture (firewalls, DMZ, etc.)
- Browsers and platforms used (including versions)
- Server platforms
- Databases

For example, if the client normally works on a Java platform, then he would probably be more inclined to keep long-term in-house maintenance in mind and therefore opt for Web Dynpro Java development.

**Sizing and Scalability**
The approximate sizing of the hardware depends on scalability requirements. One of the most important parameters is the number of concurrent users in peak load. In general, the following questions need to be answered:

- Is the portal expected to be available at all times?
- What is the peak number of concurrent users the client expects the portal to handle, and how many web requests does the client expect every day?
- How many different roles does the client expect to issue?
- Does the client plan on making the portal available to more users in future phases?
- To how many locations will the client make the portal available now and in future phases?
- How many documents will be stored in the portal?
- Will indexing be needed in the portal?
Security
SAP NetWeaver Portal has to be configured for the security policies of the enterprise and to comply with the single sign-on (SSO) policies for the client. Many customers want to seamlessly access the portal from their existing intranet portals, which requires that an SSO system be established between them. To understand the security requirements, you will need to gather the following information from the client:

- The authentication method that the client plans to use to authenticate the user, for example:
  - Digital certificate
  - Windows NT/2000 authentication
  - Netegrity SiteMinder authentication

- If the client is going to use user ID and password authentication, you need to check the type of authentication required:

  - **HTTP basic authentication**
    Before the portal user enters the portal, the browser prompts the user for an ID and a password.

  - **Form-based logon**
    The portal displays an initial start page to the user. The page contains entry fields where the user can enter a user ID and password.

- If the client plans to use digital certificates, what certification authority (CA) will issue certificates? The following are the options:

  - **SAP Trust Center Service**
    The SAP Trust Center Service can issue security certificates.

  - **External certification authority**
    External certification authorities such as VeriSign can be used for certificates.

- Will Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) be used for encryption?
  If the client is going to use SSL, then you will need to understand where SSL will terminate. If the SSL will terminate at the portal, then you will need to configure the portal to handle SSL. If the SSL terminates at the load balancer or the proxy, then you may not need to configure the portal for SSL.

- Would the client like to provide anonymous access to the portal?
  If the client wants to provide anonymous access to the portal, you will need to create anonymous content and configure anonymous access.
For which backend systems is SSO required?
- SAP systems (specific versions)
- Internet/extranet web servers

Does the client require any custom development?
Sometimes the security requirements involve some custom development. For example, some authentication and SSO systems may have special requirements that lead to custom development on the portal side.

User Management and Roles
The User Management Engine (UME) needs to be configured for the type of user management that the client wants to use. You need to know the following:

- Does the client already have user and identity management processes in place?
- Does the client plan to import roles from R/3 systems into the Portal Content Directory (PCD)?
- Has the client deployed a corporate LDAP directory to store users?
- If the client is already using a corporate LDAP directory to store users, which schema is used for the directory?
- Ask the client for a general description of the directory architecture. Is one server used for the entire organization (a tree)? Are multiple servers (a forest with referrals between servers) being used?
- Ask the client for a general description of how the directory stores users. Is a user stored directly beneath the group? Are users stored in one branch and groups in another?
- Ask the client for a description of how roles are defined in the corporate directory.
- What LDAP directory server product does the client use or plan to use?
  - iPlanet Directory Server
  - Novell NDS eDirectory
  - Microsoft Active Directory Service
  - Other
Blueprinting

- Are roles already defined in the corporate LDAP?
- Will the client integrate user management with SAP systems?
- Does the client currently use SAP Central User Administration (CUA)?
- Will the client use CUA and its LDAP synchronization function?
- Is a self-registration function for users needed? If so, will users be able to decide whether (and when) they want to become registered portal users with personalized content?

Branding and Personalization

Every client wants the SAP NetWeaver Portal to be branded to align with their corporate standards. In this regard, you will need to acquire the following information from the client:

- Can the client provide visuals and examples of the branding for the portal (such as screenshots)?
- Does a website (intranet or extranet) exist to be used as a template or guide for branding the portal?
- Describe the requirements for look and feel. Are these consistent across users, or will the client require a different look and feel depending upon the user, project phase, and so on?
- Will the client require one consistent header or multiple headers? What determines multiple headers?

Content Integration

As the name suggests, content integration defines what content will be integrated into SAP NetWeaver Portal. Existing web content from other systems can be consumed inside the SAP NetWeaver Portal so that the latter becomes the central point of entry for all of the systems. Custom applications can also be developed and deployed on SAP NetWeaver Portal. In order to develop the content integration plan, you will need to know the following:

- Will the client develop custom iViews? If so, what type(s) (URL-based, Java, etc.)?
- Will the content be accessed from disparate systems?
Does the client plan to develop Web Dynpro applications?
Does the client plan to use Visual Composer to create applications for the portal?
Does the client have an existing intranet that needs to be integrated with the SAP NetWeaver Portal?
Which content management systems that the client already has will need to be integrated?
  - Interwoven
  - Documentum
  - Convera

Knowledge Management (KM)

Knowledge management refers to the management of structured and unstructured knowledge available within an enterprise. Knowledge Management (KM) can be configured to give a structured view for the unstructured knowledge available. To assess the KM requirements of the client, you need to get answers to the following questions:

- What document management systems does the use client currently?
  Based on this, you will need to start looking into the integration options with SAP NetWeaver Portal. You might want to discuss with the client the feasibility of replacing the client’s existing document management system with KM.
- What content management systems does the client currently use?
  Based on this, you may want to talk to the client about centralizing the content management with SAP NetWeaver Portal or integrating with the existing content management system
- Does the client use a search engine?
  If the client currently uses a search engine, you may want to make use of that search engine within SAP NetWeaver Portal if an integration is possible. Or you may want to discuss using an SAP TREX (Text Search and Classification Engine) system implementation if search functionality is needed.
- What KM components will the client use?
  This answer will help you plan your KM folder structure and taxonomies.
Does the client want to support collaborative authoring scenarios?
This will help you understand what kind of workflows will be needed for document publishing.

Does the client have existing document management guidelines (naming conventions, documentation duties, etc.)?

Does the client want to replicate metadata or content from external repositories to the web content management system?
If the client wants to replicate content or metadata from external repositories to the content management system, you will need to start looking into content replication tools and options.

What other services and features does the client want to use from KM (retrieval, classification, web authoring, version control, workflow, etc.)?
This will help you analyze the scope of the KM implementation for the project.

Collaboration
The collaboration features of SAP NetWeaver Portal enable users to collaborate with others by means of virtual rooms, groupware integration, real-time collaboration (RTC), and other resources. During the blueprinting process, you should gather information about the following:

Does the client use company-wide instant messaging?
If yes, find out which instant messaging tool is used.

Does the client want to integrate instant messaging with SAP NetWeaver Portal?
In this case, you will need to look at the feasibility of integrating the instant messaging tool with SAP NetWeaver Portal.

Does the client want to integrate groupware (Microsoft Outlook, Lotus Notes, etc.) with SAP NetWeaver Portal?

Components
Because SAP NetWeaver Portal is typically the gateway to a host of backend systems, it is important to determine both the SAP and non-SAP systems that need to be integrated by asking the following questions:
Implementation Planning

- Which SAP systems does the client plan to integrate? For example, SAP ERP, SAP Customer Relationship Management (SAP CRM), or SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse (SAP NetWeaver BW)?
- Which non-SAP systems, for example, a .NET system or a J2EE system, does the client plan to integrate with SAP NetWeaver Portal?
- Are all of the external systems in the client’s intranet, or are some of them on the Internet?

Content–Business Packages

SAP NetWeaver Portal provides business packages, which are predefined portal content with access to backend SAP business functions. The following are examples of some of the business packages provided by SAP:

- Employee Self-Service (ESS)
- Manager Self-Service (MSS)
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM)
- Supplier Relationship Management (SRM)

Implementation of each of these business packages is a project in itself and is outside the scope for this discussion. However, it’s important to identify how much customization will be needed in the delivered business package to meet the customer’s requirements.

Internationalization and Languages

In any global project involving users in multiple countries, you need to support multiple languages. Gather answers to the following questions:

- What languages would your client like the portal to support?
- What languages do your client’s browsers support?
- What languages does your client prefer for the administration of the portal?
- Does your client have portal users in different time zones?

In this section, we have discussed the important points that need to be considered during the blueprinting for an SAP NetWeaver Portal project. Appendix A offers a sample spreadsheet of these questions (which is also available for download from
the book’s website at www.sap-press.com). This should serve as a guideline for a consultant working on any SAP NetWeaver Portal implementation project.

5.1.2 Sizing

Sizing is the task of determining how much hardware capacity is needed to satisfy the load requirements of your software implementation project. Hardware capacity is usually defined by characteristics of the server landscape configuration, such as the following:

- Number of computers
- Type and number of CPUs
- Clock rates
- Amount of RAM
- Amount of hard disk or other external storage
- Network interface bandwidth

Depending on the kind of software application, there are different ways to define sizing requirements. Different approaches for hardware sizing directly lead to the different ways to define requirements for your load tests:

- **Based on transaction volume**
  This approach is mostly used for SAP ERP applications, where the term “transaction” is clearly defined.

- **Based on number of concurrent users**
  This approach is also used for SAP ERP applications when you know how many people are using a software application but not how many transactions are carried out.

- **Based on number of requests/hour**
  This approach is traditionally used for web applications. Because HTTP is stateless by nature, the transaction and concurrent user are hard to define. Measurements such as requests/second, however, are easy to measure on the web server or application server.

Because SAP NetWeaver Portal is a web-based application, the requirements for your load tests are best defined with the requests/hour (req/h) approach, which has the following advantages:
Requests/hour requirements are more web-like and intuitive.

Requests/hour requirements can be directly measured on legacy systems based on a web server. This information can be very valuable when defining requirements for a new SAP enterprise portal landscape.

No think time and concurrent user requirement definitions are needed.

Goals and requirements become somewhat independent of the special scenario definitions.

Requests/hour load is always directly proportional to CPU load.

After obtaining information about their users, consultants can generate initial sizing information using SAP's online sizing tool, the Quick Sizer, which is available at http://service.sap.com/quicksizer. The Quick Sizer tool calculates the sizing and hardware configuration based on customer input. It provides an estimated hardware requirement to match the business needs of the portal users.

In the Quick Sizer tool, you need to create a project to start sizing for your project. If you have already created a project, you can display or change the project, or you can see a list of projects (Figure 5.1).

![Quick Sizer Landing Screen](image)

After you select the project, you will come to the customer information section where you will fill in a questionnaire. For SAP NetWeaver Portal implementations, you will be asked questions such as average number of users, peak number of users, peak load time, and so on. Information such as number of iViews, pages,
roles, and so on are also needed to do the sizing. Figure 5.2 shows an example questionnaire.

![Blueprinting](image)

After you have filled in the questionnaire, you can click the **Calculate Result** button to get the sizing results. This gives you the recommended sizing results according to the answers you entered in the questionnaire. The results screen looks like Figure 5.3.

![Quick Sizing Result](image)

Because CPU consumption is highly dependent on the chosen platform, SAP created SAPS—a hardware-independent unit used to describe the CPU-related performance characteristics of a given hardware configuration. A detailed discussion of SAPS is
beyond the scope of this book; for more information, go to www.sap.com/benchmark, and choose Measuring in SAPS.

### 5.2 Choosing the Technology

In the previous sections, we saw how to gather requirements from the client regarding your SAP NetWeaver Portal implementation. Your next step in the implementation is to see what technologies to consider for implementing any custom UI that needs to be developed. In this section, we will discuss the options available and the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

#### 5.2.1 Custom Development

Various options need to be considered for custom development of applications to be deployed in SAP NetWeaver Portal. In general, the following UI options are available to the implementation team:

- Web Dynpro Java
- Web Dynpro ABAP
- Portal Development Kit (PDK) portal components
- Business Server Pages (BSPs)

The following are important factors that should be considered before arriving at the preferred UI development technology for SAP NetWeaver Portal:

- **Availability of skilled resources**
  - The development of applications in the chosen platform requires the availability of developers skilled in that platform.

- **Development time**
  - Some platforms provide tools and wizards that reduce the development time. These options should be evaluated before choosing the development technology.

- **Maintenance**
  - Because the maintenance after implementation continues for many years, we recommend that you choose a platform that provides for easy and cheap maintenance.
Choosing the Technology

**Infrastructure setup**

Consider how much time and effort it takes to set up the development infrastructure.

Of course, the decision to use a particular technology is never an isolated one, and most often it also needs to be aligned with the rest of the project. The next section elaborates on the pros and cons of each UI option.

**Web Dynpro Java**

Web Dynpro Java is a programming model of the SAP NetWeaver platform for designing UIs for business applications. It is based on the model view controller programming paradigm that separates the presentation logic from business logic. The development for Web Dynpro applications is done in the Web Dynpro perspective of SAP NetWeaver Developer Studio (NWDS), as shown in Figure 5.4.

![Web Dynpro Java Perspective](image)

*Figure 5.4  Web Dynpro Java Perspective*

The following are the advantages of Web Dynpro Java:

- Ensures platform independence with the meta-model approach. When the application is designed, the Web Dynpro framework generates the metadata in the form of XML files, and the system then creates classes at runtime based on the XML.
Minimizes the implementation effort through the declarative programming approach, in which the application can be designed by using drag and drop and configurations of the UI elements, thereby reducing the development time.

Supports a structured design process by applying the model view controller paradigm. Web Dynpro Java enforces the model view controller approach by way of views, controllers, and models.

Easily componentizes and reuses Web Dynpro applications, which leads to a better design and architecture of the overall application.

Provides graphical tools for designing the whole application, including components, applications, windows, views, and other elements.

Provides SAP NetWeaver Developer Infrastructure (NWDI), which acts as the source code repository and build and change management system for Web Dynpro Java code.

Web Dynpro Java was initially hugely successful because of the advantages it offered. However, Web Dynpro Java also has a few disadvantages:

- Requires that users have a separate NWDI set up to maintain and build the Web Dynpro Java code. In comparison, the rest of the project’s ABAP code is maintained on the ABAP system.
- Requires that clients maintain ABAP transports as well as the NWDI transports.
- Not integrated with the ABAP Workbench. Consequently, every backend call to the SAP system needs development of a remote function call (RFC).
- Does not provide some of the ABAP features, such as ABAP List Viewer (ALV).

**Web Dynpro ABAP**

Web Dynpro ABAP is the standard SAP UI for developing web applications in the ABAP environment. It provides graphical tools for developing applications and is integrated with the ABAP Workbench (Transaction SE80), as shown in Figure 5.5. Conceptually, Web Dynpro ABAP is similar to Web Dynpro Java and provides similar tools and functions.
Choosing the Technology | 5.2

Web Dynpro ABAP is the strategic UI technology of SAP. Because Web Dynpro ABAP came after Web Dynpro Java, it has addressed some of the latter's pain points. The following are advantages of using Web Dynpro ABAP:

- The use of declarative and graphical tools significantly reduces the implementation effort. The tools are similar to Web Dynpro Java but are integrated with the ABAP Workbench (Transaction SE80).
- There is strict separation between layout and business data because Web Dynpro ABAP follows the model-view-controller (MVC) design pattern.
- Like Web Dynpro Java, Web Dynpro ABAP applications can be divided into reusable components, which aids in better application design.
- The layout and navigation are easily changed using the Web Dynpro tools.
- Stateful applications are supported—that is, if the page is changed, the required data remains intact so that you can access it at any time throughout the entire application context.
- Stateless applications are not possible.
Automatic data transport between multiple views and components can be done using the data binding concept.

Many utilities that reduce the development time, such as automatic input check and table filtering and sorting, are provided by the Web Dynpro framework.

Full integration with the ABAP Workbench and ABAP transports means easier maintenance of code.

However, there are some disadvantages of Web Dynpro ABAP, not compared to Web Dynpro Java, but to other Web UI technologies:

- The look and feel of a Web Dynpro application is a little restrictive, and it does not allow building a rich UI application. Because Web Dynpro does not allow HTML editing for layout, it’s sometimes difficult to achieve an application that appears smooth.

- It does not allow for JavaScript support. Because Web Dynpro does not support client-side scripting, client-side validations cannot be done.

### Business Server Pages

The Business Server Pages (BSPs) server-side scripting technology is provided by SAP Web AS. BSP is like any other server page technology such as Java Server Pages (JSPs) and Active Server Pages (ASPs). HTML code is written to render the view, and server-side scripting is done in ABAP to make use of the SAP function modules, dictionary objects, and other modules. BSP development tools are integrated with the ABAP Workbench (Transaction SE80), as shown in Figure 5.6.

BSP provides the following advantages over other UI technology that SAP provides, such as Web Dynpro Java, Web Dynpro ABAP, and others:

- Fully integrated into the ABAP Workbench, which ensures that a BSP application has access to all of the ABAP objects (such as function modules, dictionary objects, etc.).

- Fully integrated into ABAP transports. Transport of BSP objects is done along with the other ABAP objects using the Change and Transport System (CTS/CTS+). This means that no separated infrastructure is needed for BSP development.

- Provides a MVC framework that the developer can use.

- Provides the ability to develop both stateful and stateless applications, which the Web Dynpro technology cannot. Using Web Dynpro, you can only create a stateful application.
Choosing the Technology

5.2 BSP Development Workbench

Provides better control to the developer over the look and feel of the application due to required HTML development.

Allows client-side scripting using JavaScript. This provides the ability to do client-side validations, which is not possible in Web Dynpro.

The following are disadvantages related to BSP:

- Lacks a graphical tool for automatic code generation. All of the code needs to be written by the developer.
- No drag and drop mechanism for developing the UI.
- Longer development time in comparison with Web Dynpro because BSP’s lack of tools and wizards.

PDK-Based Components

PDK-based portal components are based on Java and provide an HTML-based UI on the web browser. PDK-based portal components are based on the Java servlet and JSP programming models, and are deployed on the portal as enterprise archive (EAR) files.
PDK-based components were earlier deployed as portal archive (PAR) files instead of EAR files. However, beginning with SAP NetWeaver Portal 7.3, all Java-based applications are deployed as EAR files.

PDK-based portal components are developed using NWDS in the Enterprise Portal perspective, as shown in Figure 5.7.

**Figure 5.7** PDK-Based Portal Development

The following are advantages of PDK-based portal development:

- Follows well established Java servlet and JSP-based development, providing for MVC-based development.
- Provides the developer with full control over the UI look and feel because the UI is generated from the HTML code written in the servlets and JSPs.
- Allows client-side scripting, such as JavaScript, to be used for client-side validations.
- Integrates well into the Portal Runtime (PRT), so you can access the Portal Runtime Container.
Choosing the Technology

5.2

Easier to integrate with third-party and open-source libraries and applications because it is based on Java.

The following are disadvantages of PDK-based portal development:

- More difficult and time consuming to call the backend ABAP functions because there is no direct integration with the ABAP Workbench.
- NWID is needed for code maintenance and versioning because it's Java code, and no integration with CTS/CTS+ for transporting code. Transport has to be done either manually or by using NWID.
- Development times are usually longer compared to Web Dynpro applications because there are no tools and wizards available for automatic generation of code.

5.2.2 Maintenance and Supportability

When making any decision regarding technology and architecture, keep maintenance and supportability of the implementation in mind. For example, if considering Web Dynpro Java for a new development, remember that it requires maintaining NWID, which involves a considerable amount of effort.

Also consider the support from SAP for a particular technology. From time to time, SAP phases out technologies that have completed their lifecycles, so customers should be careful of using technologies that are not in SAP's long-term support plan. For example, SAP has said that Web Dynpro Java has reached its maturity level and in future no more features will be added to Web Dynpro Java. This raises questions of long-term supportability from SAP, even though SAP has not confirmed anything about long-term support for Web Dynpro Java. Web Dynpro ABAP, on the other hand, currently has full commitment from SAP and will have more chances for long-term support and future additions of new features from SAP. If you follow the trend within SAP, you will find that most of the products that were earlier based on Web Dynpro Java are being converted to Web Dynpro ABAP. As a general rule, it's always better to take the direction in which SAP is moving.

5.2.3 Designing the Solution

So far, we have discussed the blueprinting requirements and weighed the options for development technology for any custom application. At the end of the blueprinting process, you should understand the overall portal implementation architecture
and be able to identify the various integrations needed with the SAP NetWeaver Portal. Figure 5.8 provides a sample of such architecture.

In Figure 5.8, the SAP NetWeaver Portal connects to SAP ERP and SAP NetWeaver BW for SAP content. It uses an LDAP as the UME store, integrates with a Microsoft Exchange server, and makes use of SSO across all of these systems. After a user logs on to the portal, he can access all of the other systems seamlessly without authenticating again. An important end result of the blueprinting process is the arrival at one such architecture for your implementation.

5.3 Summary

This chapter was dedicated to learning the blueprinting process for an SAP NetWeaver Portal implementation, which complements the discussions of portal architecture, installation, and configuration in previous chapters. You now understand all of the basic information you need to know for implementing a SAP NetWeaver Portal solution. The next chapters will build on this foundation and jump in to actual implementation steps.
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