SAPRFC – How to Connect to SAP via WebServer using SAPRFC – SAPxPHP

I always had an interest in making a Web Server to communicate / connect with a SAP Server, seeking at least some practical reports that could be very helpful in a Web environment.

Well, after making several researches, I have found at least two basic forms, but well spread:

- SAPConnector and
- SAPRFC

The first one, I did not have a chance to test it yet, but the second one I could test it, and I must say I was very impressed with the result.
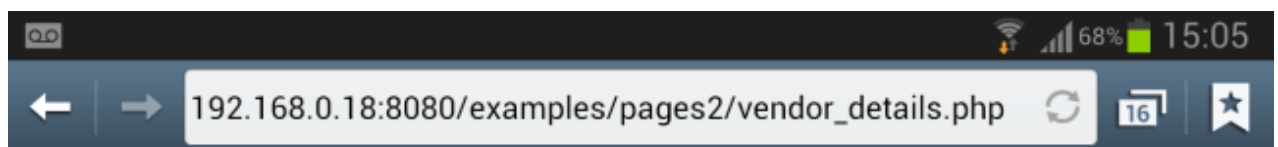
SAPRFC is an open source extension module for PHP5, which it is possible to call Function Modules in SAP through PHP language.

Imagine the possibilities, they are endless. Here are some examples:

- Your customers and suppliers data are in SAP database. Via Web application it is possible to call an RFC to provide a report of Customers or Suppliers directly in your Web Browser.
- Check materials stock levels also can be considered a very useful task.
- Sales Orders or Purchase Orders reports are also very good examples.

That means, with this integration you can perform several tasks using SAP RFCs and Web Server. I would say that imagination is the only limiting factor.

Below is a sample Suppliers / Vendor report extracted from SAP via RFC and Webpage, directly on a mobile phone screen (in this case a SamSung Galaxy SIII):

Relatório de Fornecedores

Vendor Code	Vendor Name	City	Address
0000100263	Stuart Super Dist Ltda	São Paulo	Rua Cornucópia 888
0000100268	Turion Instruments Ltda.	São Paulo	Rua Sbroubaus 987
0000100269	Spartks Enhanced INC	Rio de Janeiro	Rua Gorgonzola 888
0000100270	Abaeté Varejo e Comércio LTDA	São Paulo	Rua das Oliveiras 1000
0000100271	SAPNAT INC - Plant 0200	Niterói	Rua Tiruassu 900
0000100273	REXAM BEVERAGE CAN SOUTH AMERICA SA	Pouso Alegre	Avenida dos Alecrins 1130
FORN-7000	Centro São Paulo	São Paulo	Rua Guararapes 2064
FORN00-01	Fornecedor Referencia POA	PORTO ALEGRE	Rua Caxias 10
FORN00-02	Fornecedor Pessoa Fisica	SAO PAULO	Rua das Nacoes 11
FORN00-03	Fornecedor não industrial	PORTO ALEGRE	Rua Caxias 1000
FORN00-04	Paulista Group	SAO PAULO	Rua Faria Lima 5000
FORN00-05	Fornecedor Impostos Retidos 00	Sao Paulo	Av Paulista 3000
FORN00-20	Fornecedor Nacional / Bradesco	SAO PAULO	Rua 1 1
FORN00-21	Fornecedor Nacional / Banco Itau	SAO PAULO	Rua 2 2

The only question that I was not able to research deeply, is about the possibility of using a SAP communication user (non dialogue) to make the connection between Web server and the SAP server. For example: multiple users using their workstations can access SAP through a web page, which in turn has only one SAP user. In other words, I could not say for sure if multiple connections to SAP with a single user (even in case of SAP communication user) is allowed or not by SAP.

In any case, it remains as an interesting project, because this tool can well meet the needs of **those who can not (or will not) invest in a much more "heavy" and expensive (but more** complete) technology as SAP Portal .

I am not saying that SAPRFC fully replaces SAP Portal (actually there is no comparison between these two), but it can be an extremely lightweight alternative , simple and almost zero cost, because it is open source solution, that can be used in applications where a small Web interface is needed.

Anyone who wants to know more about the project can visit the following page: http://saprfc.sourceforge.net/
There you can find all the documentation and even the files needed to configure your Web Server.

Below is a video where I show how to quickly set up a Web Server including this tool, with some connection to SAP tests and a report run.