

Federated Portal Network – an Inside Look: Part III

Applies to:

SAP Enterprise Portal 7.0

Summary

This is a continuation from my previous two articles [Federated Portal Network – an inside Look: Part I](#) & [Federated Portal Network – an inside Look: Part II](#) with our quest to understand Federated Portal Network. Here we discuss the common enquiries and things to remember facts about Federated Portal Network & WSRP, and how content is shared between the portals in the network.

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Recalling Federated Portal Network and WSRP

Federated Portal provides for an abstract Distributed Portal environment to the end users without the need of overloading a single Portal with contents & resources thus improving decoupling of resources and reducing maintenance cost. WSRP is the protocol designed for accessing remote Portlets in a standard manner and displaying the content sources.

FPN & WSRP: Things to Remember

- Federated portal network is a feature of **SAP NetWeaver 2004s**, with Remote Role Assignment and Remote Delta Links available from releases **SPS09 & SPS10** respectively. Hence it is required to keep in mind the compatibility issue while using contents from releases **SAP NetWeaver 2004** or lower.
- SAP NetWeaver Portal can serve as a consumer of **WSRP 1.0** compliant content and can serve as a producer of **WSRP 1.0** content for Non-SAP portals since **SAP NetWeaver 2004s, SPS06 & SAP NetWeaver 2004s, SPS09** respectively.
- JSR -168 and WSRP are not competing technologies. Whereas JSR defines the portlet & portlet containers interoperability, WSRP is a protocol designed to remote Portlets in a standard manner.
- In a producer – consumer portal network while the producer is the hub of the remote applications and portlets, the consumer consumes the exposed content via WSRP. Hence it is necessary for the producer portal to be up and running (like the server-client architecture). Even contents exposed via WSRP to the SAP NetWeaver Portal, still needs to run the producing portal as the runtime execution of the shared content remains on the producer portal.
- SAP Business Packages cannot be consumed by Non-SAP portals using WSRP due to its noncompliance with WSRP standard.
- Since **SAP NetWeaver 2004s, SPS11** when a role is deleted on the producer portal it gets unassigned on the consumer portal automatically. . In order to use this feature setting up a two way producer/consumer trust relationship is required.
- Since **SAP NetWeaver 2004s, SPS 10** it is possible to integrate iViews and pages from the Portal Content Directory (pcd) of a producer into the local pcd by using Remote Delta Links. Remote Delta Links are available for worksets and roles with **SAP NetWeaver 2004s, SPS 11** and later versions. However the WSRP 1.0 standard supports sharing portlets / iViews, thus no pages, worksets, roles can be shared from SAP Enterprise Portal to other Non-SAP Portals. The standard WSRP 2.0 is currently in the definition phase.
- SSO (Single Sign-On) is supported by Federated Portal Network; however both the consumer portal and producer portal must reside on the same domain. A reverse proxy needs to be set up if there is requirement to use different domain. Support information is available on SAP Developer Network at sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/howtoguides → *NW2004s* → *User Productivity Enablement* → *Running an Enterprise Portal* → *How To Set up Federated Portal Network Scenarios with Reverse Proxies* guide

- A Federated Portal Network can have multiple producers and multiple consumers, however transitive content sharing is not supported. **Fig 1.1** depicts a transitive relation which is not allowed in current FPN. **Fig 1.2** and **Fig 1.3** describes some Federated Portal Network structures that are permitted.

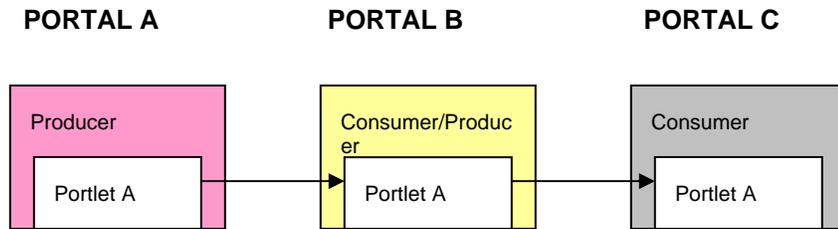


Fig 1.1

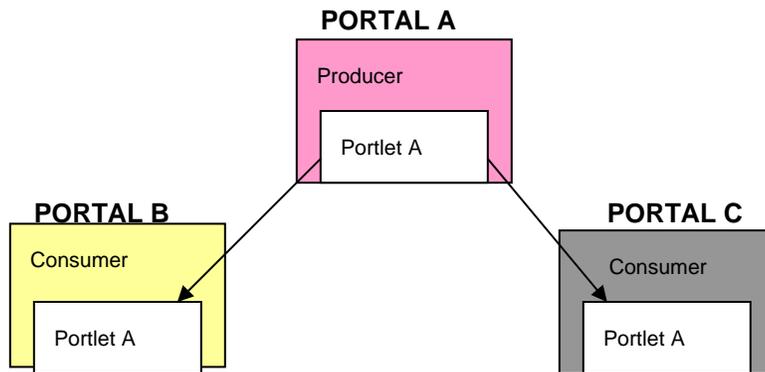


Fig 1.2

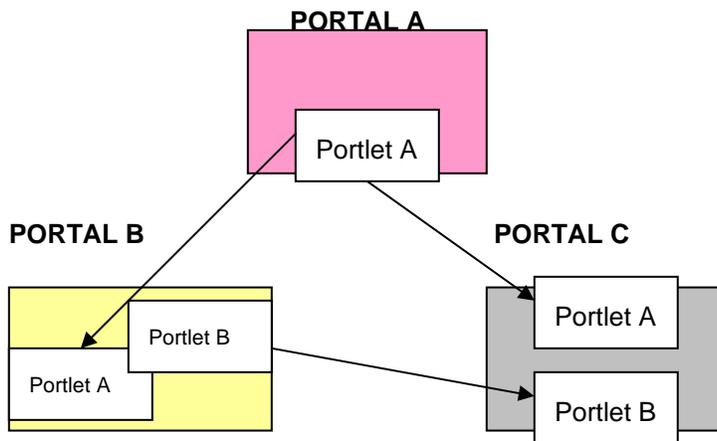


Fig 1.3

Content sharing in Federated Portal Network

In my first article I have touched the concept of dataflow between the consumer and the producer which mainly happens in either of the two ways.

- with Remote Role Assignment and Remote Delta Link/Copy :
Logon tickets and trust configurations the seamless flow of data between the client's browser, the consumer portal, and the producer portal at runtime. **(Fig 2.1)**
- with WSRP (Web Service for Remote Portlets) Application Sharing :
The client's browser never accesses the producer portal directly in this. It allows the sharing of WSRP-supported applications between WSRP-compliant portals within the network, including SAP NetWeaver and non-SAP vendors. **(Fig 2.2)**

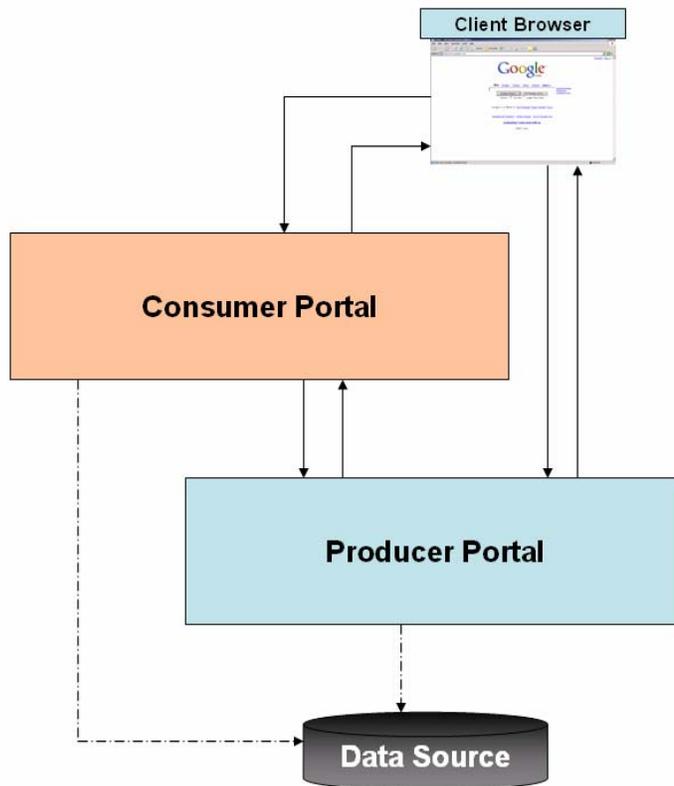


Fig 2.1

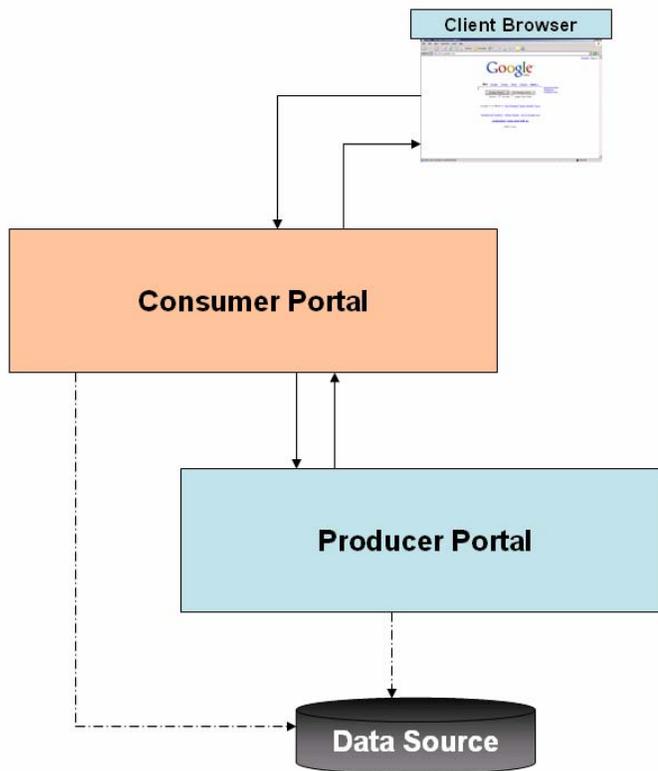


Fig 2.2

In both the methods of content sharing the client's browser contacts the consumer portal assuming that the user has already logged on to the portal, based on any form of authentication.

For content sharing with Remote Role Assignment and Remote Delta Link/Copy, the consumer portal requests the navigation structure and framework for the remote role from the producer portal (there is already a trust configuration enabled between the consumer and producer). The consumer portal then acquires the navigation properties and builds a navigation structure and creates new URLs for content assigned to the role. The consumer portal then sends the role navigation structure and the redirected URL to the client's browser. The browser requests the producer portal directly for the content, and at runtime the rendered iView markups are sent by the producer to the browser to be displayed.

For content sharing with WSRP, the consumer portal processes its local proxy-to-portlet iViews and sends requests to the producer portal for all corresponding applications rendered by iViews send (likewise here also there is already a trust configuration enabled between the consumer and producer). The rendered iViews are thus send back to the consumer portal, which then generates and renders the navigation structure as well the iView markups, consequently sending them to the client's browser that requested it.

Note: In cases where an iView or application retrieves its data from a data source, such as a back-end system or the Web, the type of iView determines if the client accesses the data source directly (for example: SAP application iViews, URL iViews, and Web Dynpro ABAP iViews) or through the producer portal (for example: Web Dynpro Java iViews).

Related Content

- Implementing a Federated Portal Network
<https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/go/portal/prtroot/docs/library/uuid/3eea14b9-0a01-0010-06b9-8410ab7675f6>
- http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=wsrp
- Web Services for Remote Portlets 1.0 Primer
<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/21178/wsrp-primer-1.0.html>
- http://help.sap.com/saphelp_nw04s/helpdata/en/43/2232900bb93fece10000000a11466f/content.htm

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