

Statoil: Learning about SAP XI with SDN

Applies to:

SAP Exchange Infrastructure

Summary

Statoil ASA is an integrated international oil and gas company based in Norway. With more than 25,000 employees, the company is the leading operator on the Norwegian continental shelf and is also experiencing strong growth in its international production.

Represented in 34 countries, Statoil has exploration and production activities in 15 of these. Moreover, the company operates 1,800 service stations in Scandinavia, Poland, the Baltic states and Russia.

Catherine LaCroix, SDN Contract Writer, recently spoke with Wojciech Gasiorowski, SAP programmer at Statoil, about how he used SDN when working toward an SAP Exchange Infrastructure (XI) certificate.

Author(s): SDN

Company: SAP

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LaCroix: What was the challenge or "pain point" that motivated you to use SDN or BPX?

Gasiorowski: I was looking for answers to my questions on new technologies. It was very hard to find information on the Internet, so I went to SDN. I was using SDN to prepare for my SAP XI certification. There were some very nice blogs for beginners, intermediate-level people, and advanced users that helped me. It was a year and a half ago, in fact, that I started to learn SAP XI, which enables you to integrate various kinds of systems (SAP and non-SAP).

LaCroix: What were you trying to achieve through membership to either SDN or BPX?

Gasiorowski: In all projects, I use SDN how-to guides. Most importantly, I used SDN to improve my knowledge for SAP XI certification.

LaCroix: Can you provide a specific example of a project that you used SDN to accelerate or improve?

Gasiorowski: In the beginning of my work with SAP XI, it was extremely challenging. I had a few days of internal XI training. But there was still a real lack of knowledge and many unanswered questions. I needed to dig more deeply into this technology.

At this stage, I was also participating in a huge SAP project as an XI developer with the support of only one XI guru. There were many integration tasks and a tight schedule. But finally, we managed to deliver everything on time. It was thanks to my colleague's support and the very helpful documents on SDN (such as FAQs and How-to Guides) that the project went well.

LaCroix: Which specific SDN/BPX resources (forums, blogs, Wiki, etc.) did you use?

Gasiorowski: Blogs, forums, and eLearning have helped me a lot.

LaCroix: How does collaboration with other experts on SDN/BPX help you in your daily work?

Gasiorowski: The most valuable thing for me was participating on SDN forums. It's always easier to learn by helping other people than just by reading documentation, especially when you can see the positive impact you have. Also, your knowledge grows and you know exactly where to find specific documents – either on SDN or SAP Help – that relate to the various kinds of problems you're facing. Now, it takes me only a few minutes to find answers on SDN. By participating on SDN, I also learn by reading other colleagues' answers.

With the help of SDN, I passed the XI certificate with distinction. Actually, it gave me much more than passing a certificate. The most important accomplishment is the feeling that you are helping people around the world – developers from the United States, India, Europe, and China.

LaCroix: How has this helped you in your daily work?

Gasiorowski: In our company, competency is very important. When you are an IT specialist, you have to learn all the time. I think that, with SDN as a resource, my company has an employee who is willing to share his knowledge and is able to learning new technologies quickly. Actually, thanks to SDN, our company can increase its level of SAP competence at a much lower cost. It also brings a significant value to our customers

because we are able to develop new solutions faster, with better quality and without delay. In addition, I'm always up-to-date on the new technologies. Now, solving new problems is much easier and I'm able to utilize the newest technologies fully.

LaCroix: What are the most relevant industry trends or challenges that apply to your company?

Gasiorowski: We are integrating systems for retail petrol stations. So we're using XI since it's a robust and stable solution for integration.

LaCroix: What is the overall benefit of SDN or BPX to your business?

Gasiorowski: SDN has increased my technical competence. I can solve problems and issues ten times faster now, mainly because I know where to look for solutions and where to find the information that I need to do my job. My company benefits directly from my contribution to SDN, too. Our industry is very competitive, so it's important for us to save time and increase competence. Using SDN means I'm always up-to-date on current SAP technologies.

LaCroix: What is the key differentiator with SDN or BPX (over other communities)?

Gasiorowski: SDN has a large community out there and I can always find the information that I need. I can always find something or someone to help. I'm able to build good relationships on SDN, too. Recently, I helped someone from India and gave him answers he needed. Together, we solved his problem on XI mapping. That's the kind of real collaboration that SDN enables.

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