



**How-to Guide  
SAP NetWeaver 7.0**

# **How To... Integrate a Forum into a Collaboration Room**

**Version 1.00 – June 2007**

**Applicable Releases:  
SAP NetWeaver 7.0 SP12  
User Productivity Enablement  
Enabling User Collaboration**

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# 1 Scenario

A project group owns a room (virtual working environment) in the 'Employee Portal' and wants to integrate a forum to share open questions regarding a project.

## 2 Introduction

Due to the enormous success of SAP Developer Network (SDN) forums, which have attracted more than 700,000 users to date, SAP has integrated SDN-like forums into the collaboration capabilities of SAP NetWeaver.

Forums allow portal users to share information and opinions about specific subjects or questions. Forums are designed with intuitive user interfaces that enable users to discuss common issues and topics, post questions and announcements for the community, escalate questions by asking experts, and get updates on posted comments.

Forums > SAP NetWeaver > Exchange Infrastructure Control Panel

**Forum: Exchange Infrastructure**

Share your knowledge and questions about the SAP Exchange Infrastructure in this forum.

[Post New Thread](#) [Post Announcement](#) [Create Poll](#) [Watch Forum](#) [Mark All Threads as Read](#) [Back to Forum List](#)

Messages: 17 - Threads: 6 - Filter:

	Thread	Author	Views	Replies	Last Post
	<a href="#">Calling a file channel from the mapping program</a>	<a href="#">Fall, Franco</a>	36	7	Feb 9, 2007 11:36 AM by: <a href="#">Fall, Franco</a>
	<a href="#">How to generate XML file from IDOC</a>	<a href="#">Hicks, Maria</a>	5	1	Feb 9, 2007 11:09 AM by: <a href="#">Stefan, Steven</a>
	<a href="#">Sync - Async Bridge: a Doubt</a>	<a href="#">Winter, Walter</a>	5	1	Feb 9, 2007 11:09 AM by: <a href="#">Stefan, Steven</a>
	<a href="#">Doubts in validating message using BPM</a>	<a href="#">Summer, Susan</a>	4	1	Feb 9, 2007 11:00 AM by: <a href="#">Winter, Walter</a>
	<a href="#">Cannot delete service pack in import queue</a>	<a href="#">Stefan, Steven</a>	4	0	Feb 9, 2007 10:56 AM by: <a href="#">Stefan, Steven</a>
	<a href="#">Where to check the "SAP Notes" -- Is it in search only or some where ?</a>	<a href="#">Winter, Walter</a>	12	1	Feb 9, 2007 10:48 AM by: <a href="#">Stefan, Steven</a>

- New content since your last visit
- Updated content since your last visit
- Answered question
- Unanswered question with helpful or correct distinctions needed
- Unanswered question

**Figure 01: Forum in End User View**

The forums application is delivered with NetWeaver 2004s SP12 and SAP NetWeaver 2004 SPS 20.

It is an alternative solution to the discussion groups that have been available since EP6.0. In comparison with these discussion groups, forums offer an additional moderation function, enhanced subscription configuration, and many other enhancements.

This guide describes how to integrate a forum into an existing room. However, you could also integrate a forum at a higher level (for example, at category level).

Some of the configuration steps, such as the creation of a forum room part, have to be done once. Other configuration steps are required whenever a new forum is needed within a room.

The procedure described here is valid until a generic integration is offered by SAP.

## 3 The Step-By-Step Solution

In the following scenario, we assume that a project room has already been created. Within the lifetime of a room, you add new applications to the room using room parts.

The aim is to offer a generic approach for making forums available within rooms. This is realized using the following steps:

Generic configuration steps that you do only once:

- Create a forum room part that contains a page with a forum iView.
- Define a forum category and enter the basic permission configuration.

Specific configuration for individual rooms:

- Create a forum to be added to a specific room.
- Add a forum room part to the room in question and assign the forum to it.

### 3.1 Generic Configuration

#### 3.1.1 Creating a forum room part

A room part consists of at least one page with one iView. To create a room part, you need to provide content such as iViews, pages, and worksets in the Portal Content Directory. You maintain all other configuration data for the room part in the Room Part Administration iView.

In the following example, one forum iView in one page is provided as a room part. The forum iView references a forum that is accessible using an ID. The parameter for the forum ID in the iView is left empty during the content creation process in the Portal Content Directory.

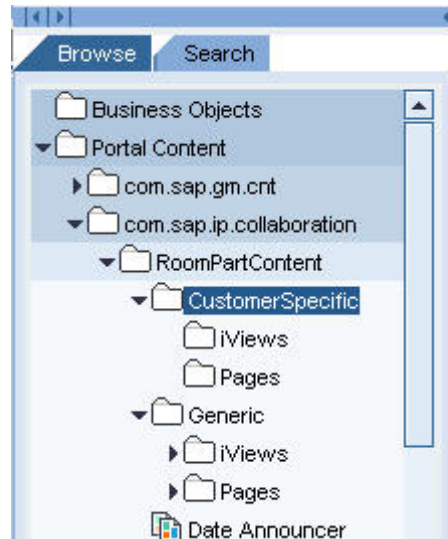
The maintenance of the forum ID parameter is delegated to the room administrator (using an external parameter definition) who adds the room part to the room. This is described in section 3.2.

## Steps in the Portal Content Directory

The admin user who performs the following tasks needs to have the 'Content Administration' role. The Portal Content Directory is located at Content Administration → Portal Content.

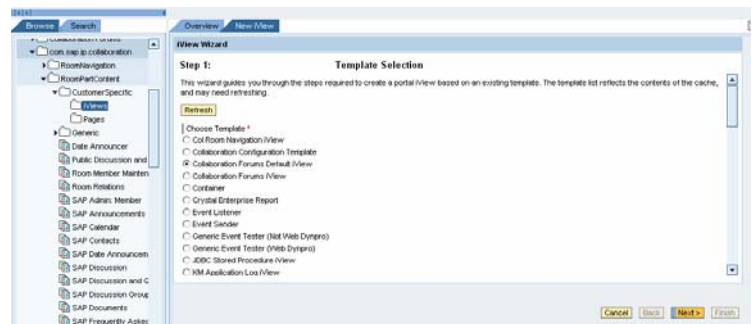
### 1. Create a folder structure in the Portal Content Directory (PCD)

- Create a new subfolder called CustomerSpecific in the com.sap.ip.collaboration → RoomPartContent folder.
- Create two subfolders called iViews and Pages.



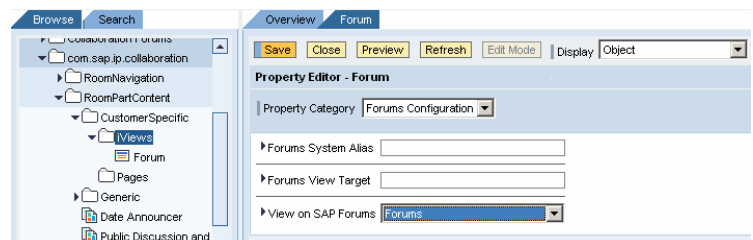
### 2. Create a forum iView

- In the iViews folder, create an iView based on the 'Collaboration Forums Default iView' Template.
- Call it 'Forum'.



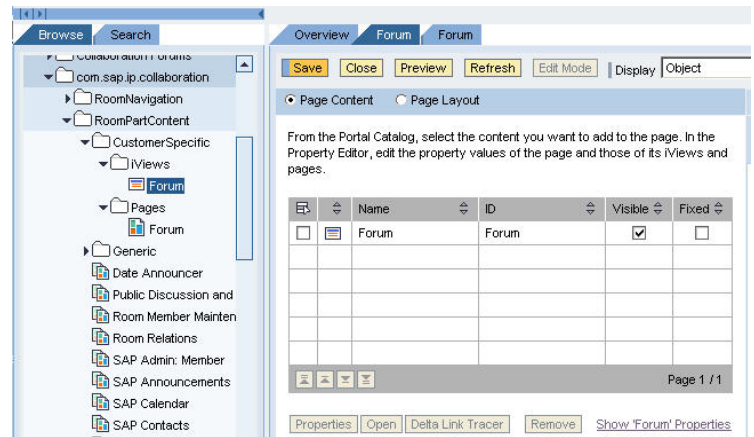
### 3. Configure the forum iView

- Edit the forum iView and define the 'View on SAP Forums' parameter by selecting Forums.
- If you installed the forums application in a two-system setup, you need to add the Forum-specific system alias.
- Leave Forum View Target blank. This entry is filled during the integration of the room part.



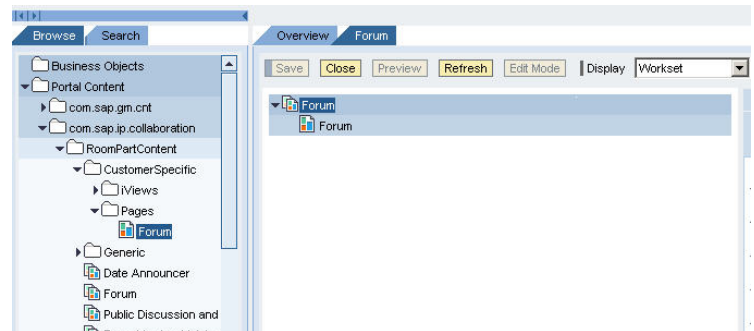
#### 4. Create a page

- In the Pages folder, create a page called 'Forum' and add the forum iView as a delta link.



#### 5. Create a workset

- In the RoomPartContent folder, create a workset and add the page you created in the previous step as a delta link.



## Steps in the Administration of Room Part Templates

The admin user who performs the following tasks needs to have the 'Content Administration' role. The administration of room part templates area is located at Content Administration → Collaboration Content.

1. Create a new room part template
  - Go to 'Administration of Room Part Template'.
  - Choose 'New'.
  - Enter the following parameter/values in the General Properties section:

Name: Forum

Description: See screenshot

Categories: Select one of the available categories

Workset: Forum

Choose 'Next'

2. Create a role and assign permissions
  - Create a member role.
  - Assign the page permission to members.

**Administration of Room Part Templates**

**New Room Part Template**

**Step 1: General Properties**

All room parts created with this template are based on the specified workset. To make a room part template easier to find, assign appropriate categories. The owner is the person responsible for this template.

Name \*

Description \*

Owner

Categories

Assigned		Available
SAP Generic	< >	SAP Organizer SAP Public SAP Room Admin

Workset \*

Cancel < Back Next > Done

**Administration of Room Part Templates**

**New Room Part Template**

**Step 2: Roles and Permissions**

Enter the required room roles, then set the page permissions for each role.

Roles	
Name	Description
Member	Member Role

New Role \*  Description \*  Add

Page Permissions	
Pages	Member
Forum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

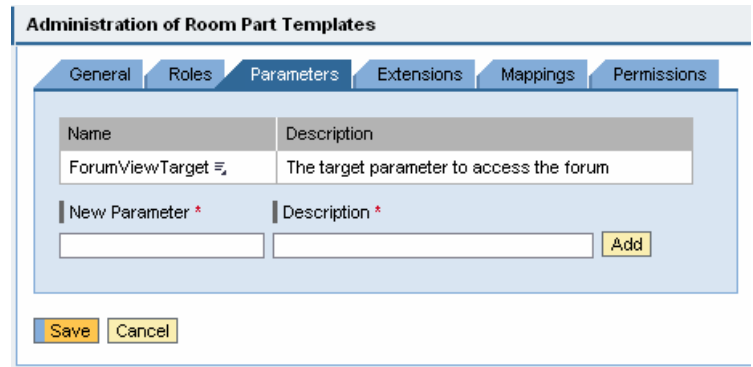
Cancel < Back Next > Done



3. Create an external parameter

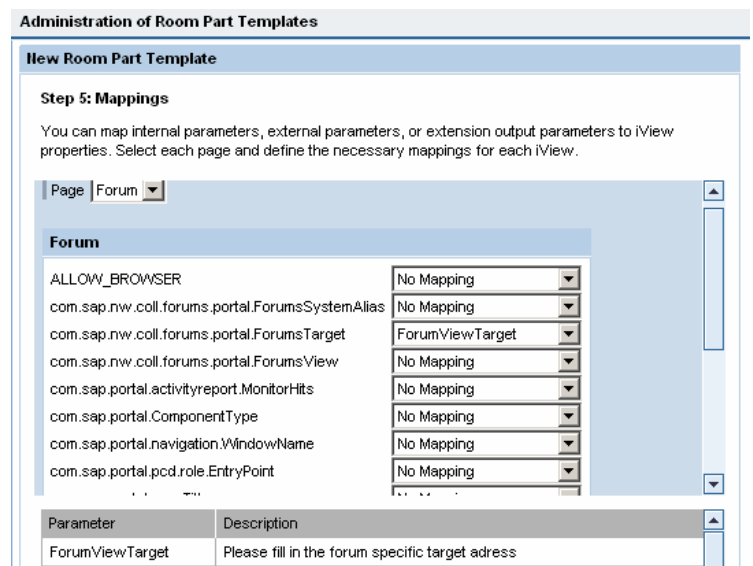
- The new parameter is called 'forumViewTarget'.
- Use the text in the screenshot as the description.

Note: This external parameter will later be mapped with the iView parameter of the forum iView.



4. Complete the room part template

- You do not need to configure an extension in this context.
- For the mapping definition, use the 'forumViewTarget' parameter you defined earlier.
- Add this parameter as the value for `com.sap.nw.forums.portal.ForumsTarget`.
- Choose 'Next'.
- Leave the Template Permission tab as it is.
- Choose 'Done'.



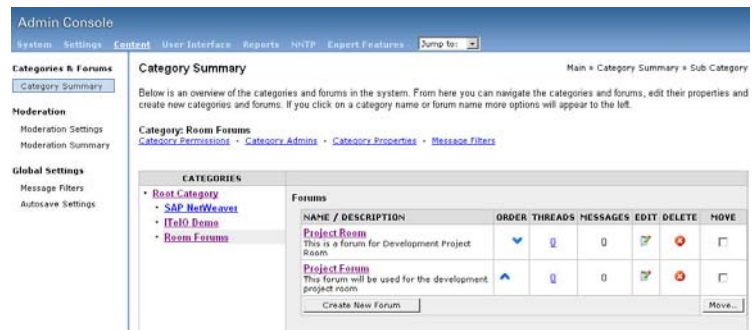
### 3.1.2 Defining a forum workspace for rooms

The admin user who performs the following tasks needs to have access rights for the Forum Administration Console and should be system administrator for the forums application.

You create all forums or subcategories to be used for rooms in the 'Room Forums' category.

#### 1. Add a new category

- Select Content.
- Create a subcategory of the root category called 'Room Forums'.



#### 2. Define general permissions for the room forum category

- Store all forums created in the room context in the 'Room Forums' category.
- The permission definition of a specific room forum should match the room permissions.

Tip: The category permissions are inherited from the global forum permissions (located at Settings -> Global Permissions). If you want different permissions, revoke the inherited permissions.

If the inherited permissions are not displayed, use the following workaround (see right for an example):

- Check the permission settings for the global permissions.
- Navigate back and grant permissions for these users and groups in the category.
- Revoke the inherited permissions.
- You have now revoked all inherited permissions and can add room-specific permissions to room forums.

#### 1. Check for global permissions

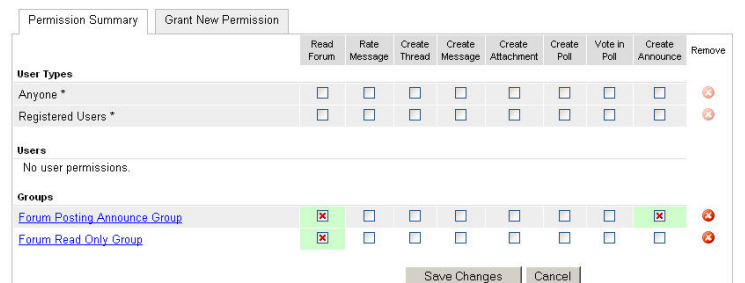


#### 2. The following groups are assigned under Global Forum Permissions

Groups	Read Forum	Rate Message	Create Thread	Create Message	Create Attachment	Create Poll	Vote in Poll	Create Announce	Remove
<a href="#">Forum Posting Announce Group</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Forum Read Only Group</a>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 3. Select Content -> Room Forums (category) ->Category Permissions

4. Assign the two groups using Grant New Permission (for example, add Create Poll as a permission). All permissions inherited from global permissions are displayed. You can now revoke these permissions.



#### Legend

- \* - Special permission type - Anyone and Registered Users cannot be removed, only cleared.
- System admin - do not delete all system admin users. You need at least one to log in to this tool.
- Permission is inherited because it has already been set globally or for a parent forum/category.
- Permission has been explicitly blocked in a parent forum/category.
- Indicates a permission is set.
- Indicates a permission is revoked.
- Indicates a permission is not set.

As a result, the 'Room Forums' category does not inherit any permissions. You can now define room-specific permissions for each forum in the category..

### 3.2 Specific configuration for individual rooms

Once you have configured the forum room part as described in section 3.1, you can use it to add forum functions to an existing room. Before adding the room part to the room, you have to create the room-specific forum to obtain the forum ID. This ID is mapped as a parameter during the room part creation process.

#### 3.2.1 Creating a new forum

You use the Admin Console of the forums application to carry out all tasks described in this section.

##### 1. Create a forum

- Go to Content → 'Room Forums' category.
- Choose 'Create New Forum'.
- Enter a name and a description.
- Select 'Use Global Permissions' for 'Permissions'.
- Choose 'Create Forum'.

**Create Forum** Main > Create Forum

Use the form below to create a forum. The category where the forum will be created is displayed below. There are four permission presets to choose from. By default when you create a forum, permissions will be inherited or will match the system default. After creating the forum you can adjust the forum permissions on a finer-grain level.

Property	Value
Category:	Room Forums
Forum Name:	<input type="text" value="Project Forum"/>
Description (optional):	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;">This forum will be used for the development project room</div>
Locale (optional):	<input type="text" value="Inherit [Englisch]"/>
Permissions:	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Use Global Permissions</b> -- Let the global permission settings dictate the permissions for this forum.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Registered Users Only</b> -- Only registered users can read and post messages.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>Registered Users with Guest Read</b> -- Registered users can read and post messages while guests can only read messages.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> <b>All Access</b> -- Everyone can read and post new messages and threads.</p>

2. Define permissions for the forum
  - Select the forum in question and open the permissions configuration.
  - Grant new permissions for the room member group. Select 'Read Forum' and 'Create Thread'.
  - Note that the 'all member group' for a room has the following syntax:

ROOM\_ID\_of\_Room\_MAIN

Check the room ID of your room on the General tab page of the 'Room Administration' iView.

3. Select the forum ID
  - Select the forum and open it.
  - In the 'Forum Settings', locate the forum ID. You need this information to integrate the forum into the room.

#### Grant New Permissions

Permission Summary

Grant New Permission

Follow the steps below to grant new user or group permissions: (Note, it is not possible to set permissions for "Users" here. To do this, use the Permissions Summary page(s).)

- 1 Choose the permission(s): [\[select all\]](#)
  - Read Forum
  - Rate Message
  - Create Thread
  - Create Message
  - Create Attachment
  - Create Poll
  - Vote in Poll
  - Create Announce
- 2 Choose a user or group to grant the permission(s) to:
  - A Specific User: (enter username - separate multiple usernames with commas)
  - A Specific Group: (enter group name - separate multiple group names with commas)
- 3 Done:

Admin Console

System

Settings

Content

User Interface

Reports

NNTF

Expert Fea

**Categories & Forums**

Category Summary

**Forum Options**

Forum Settings

Manage Content

Archiving Settings

Extended Properties

**Forum Settings: Project Forum**

Below is an overview of the forum. You can edit properties by clicking the "Edit" button below. Click items on the side...

**General Information**

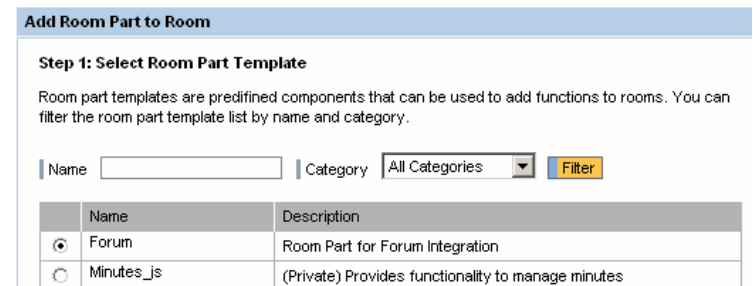
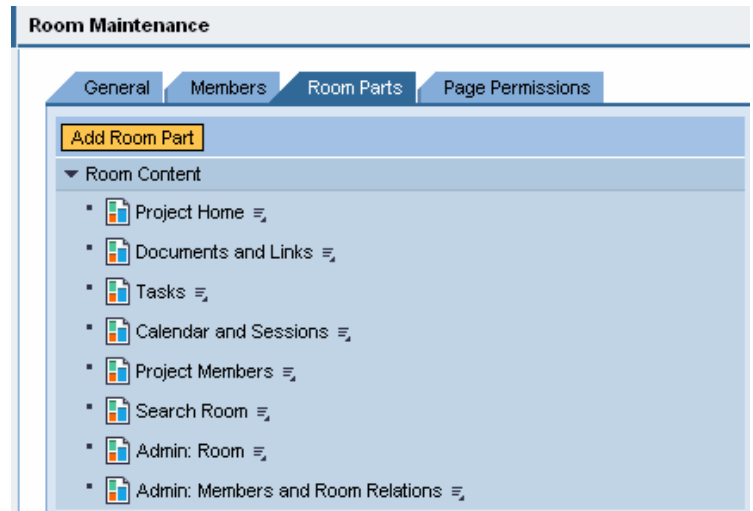
Property	Value
Forum ID:	30

### 3.2.2 Adding the newly created forum to the room using room part integration

You perform the following steps in the room where you want to integrate the forum as a room part.

1. Add the forum room part to the room

- Choose the 'Room Administration' iView for the room.
- Choose 'Add Room Part'.
- Add the 'Forum' room part .

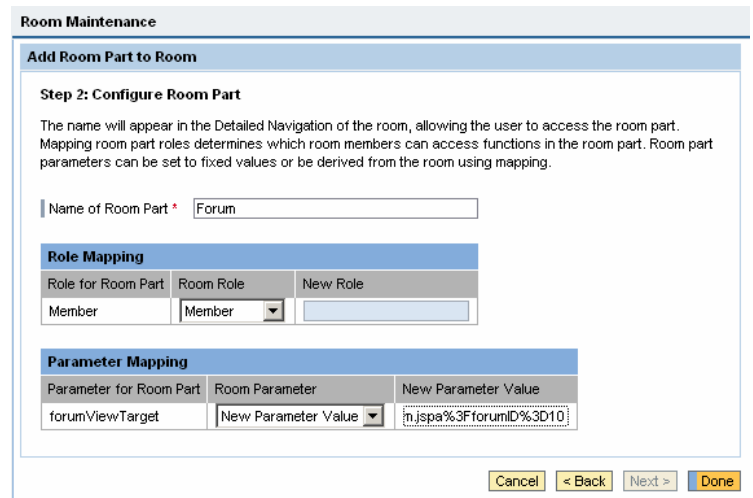


- Define a name for the room part.
- Keep the role mapping if it is suitable.
- Use the following syntax for the parameter for the forumViewTarget:

forum.jspa%3FforumID%3DXX

Replace the XX with the forum ID from 3.3.

- Choose 'Done'.
- Refresh the room



2. Check the forum integration

- If the forum integration was successful, it should look similar to the screenshot.



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