Support of JSR 168 – Java Portlet Specification Version 1.0 in SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment

Applies to:
The information below is relevant both to SAP NetWeaver CE and SAP NetWeaver 7.1.

Summary
This article provides information about the Portlet support availability in SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1 edition. It explains in brief what users can expect to find in NetWeaver CE regarding support of JSR 168 and what are the future plans about support of Portlet 2.0 specification.

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Author Bio
My name is Diyan Yordanov. I am working for SAP Labs Bulgaria. For the last three and a half years I am working in the Web Container team where I’ve implemented the Portlet Container. As part of the web team I am also responsible for the Servlet Container.
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Introduction and Overview
The JSR 168 Portlet Specification defines the Portlet API, i.e. it standardizes the portlets as Java Technology based web components. They can be used by Portals as pluggable user interface components. The Portlet Container on the other side provides runtime environment for portlets and invokes them using the API defined by the specification.

Providing support for JSR 168 ensures compatibility between portlets irrespective of their vendors.

The intended audience for this topic includes the following groups:

- Portal content developers that want to provide applications that conform to the specification
- ECO system groups that want to keep track with the new features coming up with SAP NetWeaver CE
- ISVs that want to provide portlet applications running in the CE portal

Support of JSR 168 – Java Portlet Specification Version 1.0

- **Support of JSR 168** is available with SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1. It includes a Portlet Container (implementation of JSR 168) and it is possible to deploy web applications with JSR 186 compliant portlets.

  The Portlet Container is integrated with the portal platform. The deployed portlets are exposed as regular content (iViews) in the content catalog and this content can be used to construct pages in the portal using the Admin Studio.

- **IDE support**: At the moment there is no explicit support for JSR-168 in the SAP IDE – there are no dedicated wizards and editors for portlet entities. However it is possible to generate *portlet.xml* and portlet classes manually. The portlet entities later can be packed and deployed on the engine using the standard wizards.

- **Documentation** about the Portlet Container can be found in the IDE that comes with the installation. Additional information about developing portlets can be found on the SDN:
  [https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/go/portal/prtroot/docs/library/uuid/14b5d01e-0e01-0010-24aa-f12ee5940060](https://www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/go/portal/prtroot/docs/library/uuid/14b5d01e-0e01-0010-24aa-f12ee5940060)
Future Plans

JSR 286 Portlet Specification 2.0 first public draft is now available for review. This JSR tries to align with J2EE 1.4, integrate other new JSRs relevant for the portlet, and align with the WSRP specification 2.0. The new Portlet Specification adds functionality that was not addressed in the first version specification. The new major additions in JSR 286 that were missing in JSR 168 are:

1. Server-side coordination
2. Integration with web frameworks e.g.: JSF, Spring, Struts, etc.
3. Alignment with WSRP 20.

SAP supports and actively participates in this new standard as EG member. As this specification is in draft version, it is not supported in NW CE.

Note: WSRP 1.0 is supported in both SAP NetWeaver 7.0 (2004s) and SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment 7.1.

FAQ

1) Is it possible to deploy JSR168 compliant portlets in SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1?

Yes it is supported.

2) Is SAP Portal already JSR168 compliant and its possible to deploy JSR168 compliant portlets in SAP EP?

In NW 2004s - no. SAP Enterprise Portal 7.0 (Netweaver 2004s), which is the current SAP Portal release, is not compliant with JSR 168. Portal content (iViews) currently delivered by SAP with Business packages does not follow Portlet API specifications.

In CE 7.1 - yes. Implementation of Portlet Container and JSR 168 compliancy for iViews is introduced in SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1 and the portal that comes with it.

3) Is it possible to have a live ‘preview’ of JSR168 compliant portlets inside NetWeaver development Studio?

Not at the moment. But you can use the Portlet Browser application to get a live “preview” of deployed application that contains JSR 168 compliant portlets.

The Portlet Browser application that comes with SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1 example is accessible via http://<host>:<port>/portletbrowser/index.jsp. PortletBrowser application can render all portlets, which are deployed on the SAP NetWeaver CE 7.1 Engine.

If the Portal application is installed on you engine it is also possible to browse deployed portlet applications through the Portal Content view in Content Administration.

Related Content

Some useful links:

- SAP NetWeaver Application Server, Java EE 5 Edition - Developing Portlets
- SAP Enterpise Portal- Integration using JSR 168 and WSRP
- JSR 168 and WSRP
• SAP NetWeaver Composition Environment 7.1