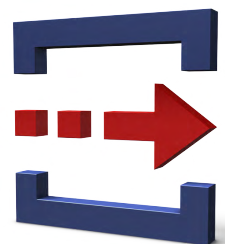


[mySPAD]

Output Device Administrator for SAP® – Short Description



Output Device Administrator for SAP®

Background

Companies as users of SAP® systems operate a number of systems in parallel; big companies with many branches or offices often operate hundreds of SAP systems and must administrate thousands of printers and their systems definitions.

SAP R/3® has an integrated spooling system. Printers are configured in the SAP system via the SPAD transaction. To do this, the user must log in to the respective SAP R/3 system and needs suitable access rights for the R/3 spool administration. Frequently, devices are to be used in several SAP systems and must therefore be defined in those systems.

Even if only few SAP systems are operated in parallel, further problems will arise just because printers and output channels must, in addition to the SAP system, also be defined in the output management or spooling systems of the operating system, and the definitions must be synchronized.

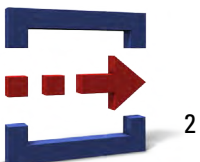
All this causes a high administration and maintenance effort for the administrator.

mySPAD: Definition and Task

mySPAD is a software product residing on the SAP Web Application Server. Centrally, via its web browser GUI, it administrates the printer definitions for several SAP systems and – optionally – at the same time the also required printer definitions in the output management or print spooling system.

So if you use mySPAD in connection with, for example, OM Plus – also by DETEC – as your output management system, mySPAD will export the printer configurations to OM Plus and synchronize them with the SAP systems.

mySPAD can also be configured for interaction with other output management or basic print spooling systems such as CUPS under Linux or the AIX spooling system.



Overview of Functions

- mySPAD centrally administrates the printer definitions of several SAP and output management systems.
- With mySPAD, the printer settings for all SAP systems accessible via RFC can be performed via suitable shell calls included in the product delivery.
- Printers can be marked as “centrally administrated” by mySPAD in the SAP and output management systems. In this case, they will exclusively be administrated in mySPAD till this mark is revoked.
- When importing new printer definitions from SAP, mySPAD suggests an assignment to existing printers in the OMS or a redefinition under the printer name newly imported from SAP.
- Printer definitions directly created in mySPAD are in principle distributed to the specified SAP target system after backing up and then optionally created in the OMS. In both systems, they are marked as “centrally administrated”.

Communication

The connection to the SAP R/3 computers is established by providing RFC connections. mySPAD communicates with the SAP systems via RFC and can therefore configure all printers of the SAP systems available via RFC.

Connection to OMS / Spooling Systems

mySPAD can be configured for interaction with other output management or basic print spooling systems such as CUPS under Linux or the AIX spooling system. Connection scripts / batches are communicated to R/3 via the transaction SM69.

“Centrally Administrated” Mark

Printers can be marked as “centrally administrated” by mySPAD in the SAP and output management systems; in this case, they will exclusively be administrated in mySPAD till this mark is revoked. The mark can be revoked for a printer or group of printers at any time. From that time on, the local printer definition in the SAP or output management system will be administrated and edited again as without mySPAD.

Should an ad hoc change to a “centrally administrated” printer in the SAP area be required, then this is possible within the framework of the still valid SAP rights concept. This means flexibility and security for the user if mySPAD should be unavailable some time.

Versioning of Definitions

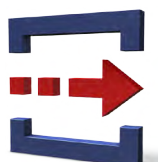
mySPAD can version its printer definitions. If configured in this way, a new version of the printer definition is created and the latest version is backed up when a printer is changed. You can view and reactivate each version. Strict use of mySPAD will, starting from versioned printer definitions, cause synchronization of all systems: SAP, OMS and mySPAD.

System-Alignment

For automated import of printers from an SAP system, an alignment with the printers already existing in mySPAD can be performed.

Specification and Development of mySPAD

mySPAD was specified in cooperation between a big, internationally operating company and DETEC. It was realized in cooperation with Softway AG as SAP development partner. The first product version created in this way was then revised and extended according to the requirements of a standard application system. Meanwhile, mySPAD has proved successful at various users in different branches of industry.



Benefit

- In mySPAD, even the definition and regular maintenance of the printer network of few SAP systems in a company is centralized, browser-based, and easier than via the printer definition maintenance in the base system.
- A definition of the printer network in the SAP system is mandatory – mySPAD, however, automates this definition from a central instance. And instead of having to maintain additional printer definitions in several systems when using an output management system (OMS), the central mySPAD definitions radiate to all systems: the SAP systems and the OMS.
- Versioning and synchronization of the printer definitions of various systems are an enormous gain in security and flexibility for every company.