



Stefan Schnell

SAP Application Server RFC Connection with UiPath



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Document History

Version	Name	Date	Description
1.00	Stefan Schnell	01.11.2020	Initial document creation
1.01	Stefan Schnell	12.12.2020	Table with ABAP data types added
1.02	Stefan Schnell	22.03.2020	BAPI Source and explanation about DATS added
1.03	Stefan Schnell	03.04.2021	Restructuring, explanation about leading zeros and how to find an RFM added
1.04	Stefan Schnell	04.04.2021	ABAP example in Search via Description added, remove information about the Data Modeller because it is obsolete and new links in the List of References added
1.05	Stefan Schnell	01.05.2021	List of interesting transaction codes, tables, RFMs and programs added, Using System Trace to Monitor RFC Activities added, Debug ABAP Code from BAPI corrected, Modify XAML to use Installed NCo added
1.06	Stefan Schnell	11.06.2022	Deleted the description how to build a NuGet package with NCo, because this approach is obsolete. Advanced parameter AbapDebug correction and how to use SAP GUI from BAPI Activity added.



Abstract

This document describes various technical communication possibilities between an SAP back-end system and UiPath. The calls are based on the RFC interface of the SAP system. It describes the direct use of RFC calls as well as BAPI and ABAP usage. The calls to the SAP system are made by UiPath and the results of the function calls are used in UiPath further more. This is illustrated by some examples, also in comparison to the calls that are executed directly in the SAP system.

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to an SAP ERP system, which bases on RFC interface, especially the BAPI, are stable in a normal case. They are subject to a defined technical documentation, change guidelines and a versioning. In comparison to a graphical UI, the execution speed is very fast, too. These can be very good reasons for a possible using. However, precise knowledge of the technical interface, fields and data types is required for this kind of using.

Target Audience

The target audience of this document are Citizen Developer and RPA Developer who needs to connect to SAP back-end via RFC.

Software Requirements

The necessary software requirements are an installed SAP GUI for Windows, at least version 7.60, and an installed UiPath Studio. If you want to use the BAPI activity it is necessary to install SAP dotNET Connector x86 NCo too. In the SAP system you need the necessary rights to call the transaction codes and, for the use of ABAP, a developer key.

Important Hint

Do not experiment in production systems. Develop and test only in the designated development systems.

About the Author

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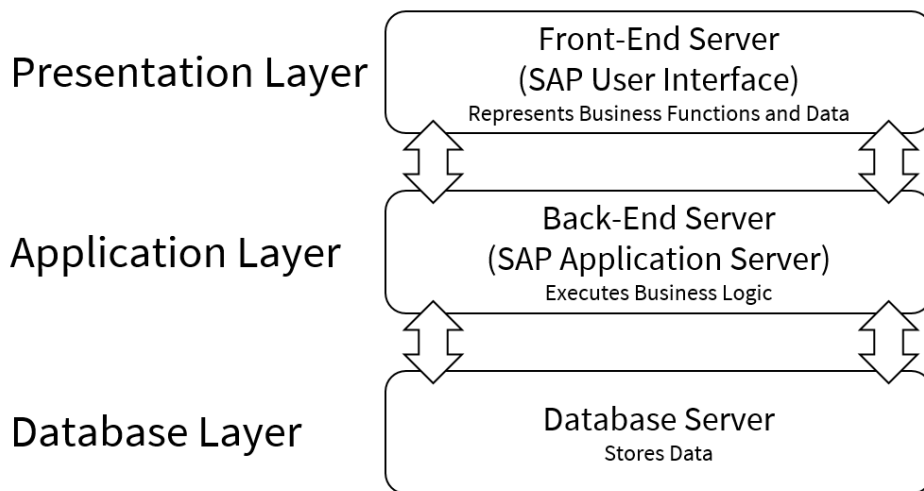
Meet me at: [UiPath Forum](#)
[SAP Community](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Private Site](#)



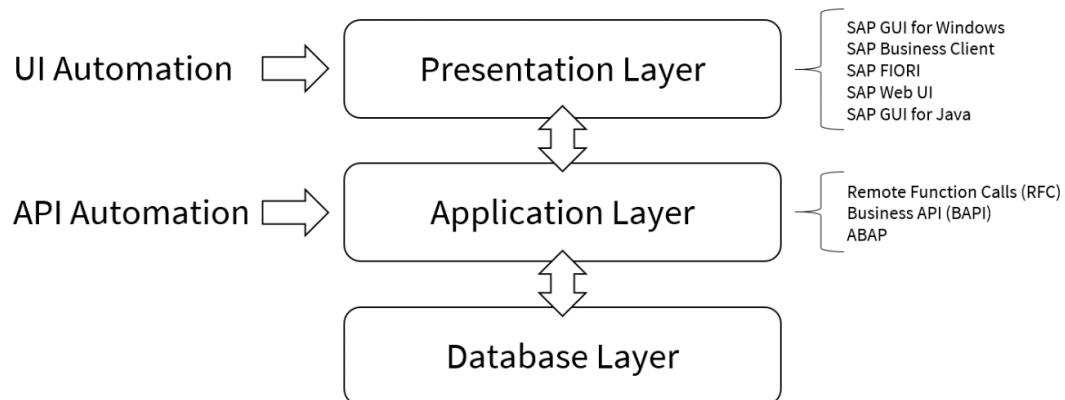
Three-Tier Architecture and its Automation Approaches

The multitier architecture is a client-server architecture which is split into multiple physically separated layers. This reduces the complexity of dependencies within a system. This has advantages, on the one hand for the understanding and the other hand for the maintenance of the system. Individual layers can be easily exchanged, without having effects to the whole system.

One approach is the Three-Tier Architecture, which is used by SAP. The presentation layer is the front-end, where the user works with. The application layer, also known as back-end server, contains the business logic. The database layer, also known as database server, stores the information and delivers the data to the business logic on demand.



Robotic Process Automation (RPA), as a non-invasive technology, works primarily with the presentation layer, based on the User Interface (UI). But there is also the possibility to communicate with the application layer via an Application Programming Interface (API).



The communication with the application layer is realized via a technical interface.



SFLIGHT Example

Demo Data Model SFLIGHT

The SAP data model SFLIGHT is for training purposes. It is an ideal playground for any kinds of experiments. All examples in this document use this data model. The development objects are in the packages SAPBC_DATAMODEL and SAPBC_BOR, among others. You can open one of these packages in the Object Navigator, with the transaction code (TAC) SE80, to have a closer look at the development objects. Here a few data tables:

The screenshot shows the SAP Object Navigator interface. At the top, the 'Package' dropdown is set to 'SAPBC_DATAMODEL'. Below this is a toolbar with navigation icons. The main area displays a table with two columns: 'Object Name' and 'Description'. A tree view on the left shows 'Database Tables' expanded. The table lists various database tables with their descriptions.

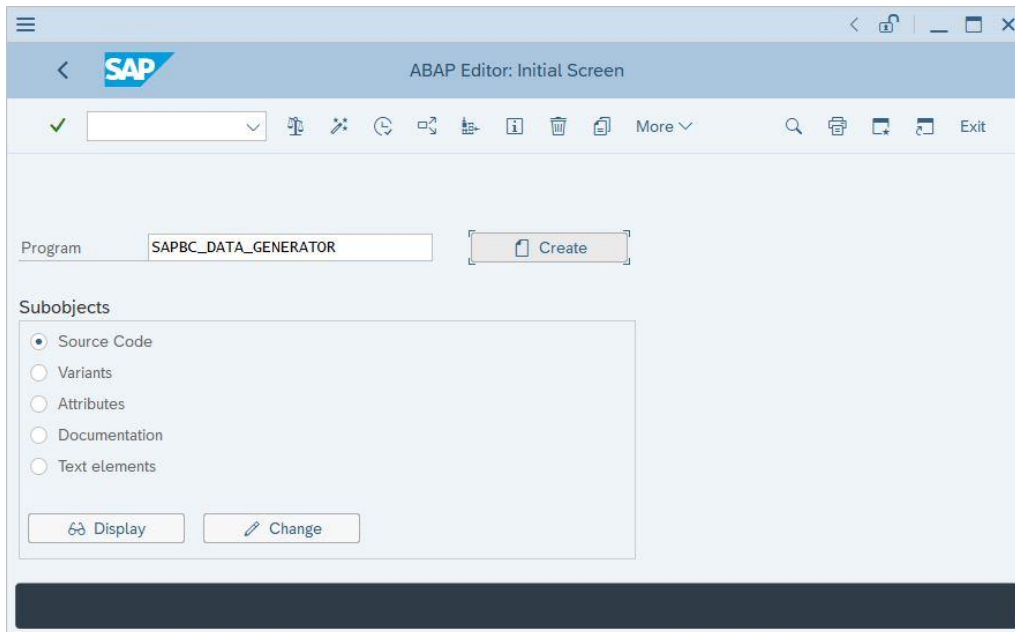
Object Name	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Database Tables
<input type="checkbox"/> SAIRPORT	Airports
<input type="checkbox"/> SAPLANE	Plane
<input type="checkbox"/> SBOOK	Single Flight Booking
<input type="checkbox"/> SBUSPART	Airline Partner
<input type="checkbox"/> SCARPLAN	Plane-airline assignment
<input type="checkbox"/> SCARR	Airline
<input type="checkbox"/> SCITAIRP	City-Airport assignment
<input type="checkbox"/> SCOUNTER	Sales counter
<input type="checkbox"/> SCPLANE	Cargo Plane
<input type="checkbox"/> SCURR	Exchange rates for Workbench traini
<input type="checkbox"/> SCURX	Currency for Workbench training dat
<input type="checkbox"/> SCUSTOM	Flight customers
<input type="checkbox"/> SDESSERT	Inflight meal/Dessert
<input type="checkbox"/> SFLIGHT	Flight

Hint: The Data Modeller (TAC SD11) is obsolete.

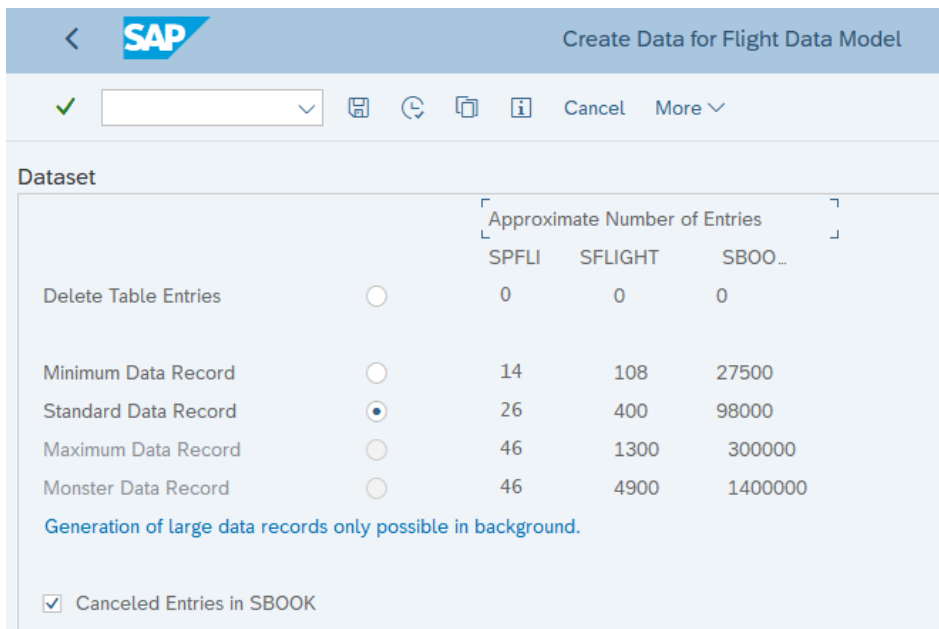


Generate Data in SFLIGHT Tables

In a normal case contains the table of the SFLIGHT data model no data. To create data, call with the ABAP Editor (TAC SE38) the report SAPBC_DATA_GENERATOR.



Press the Execute button in the toolbar, or the key F8.



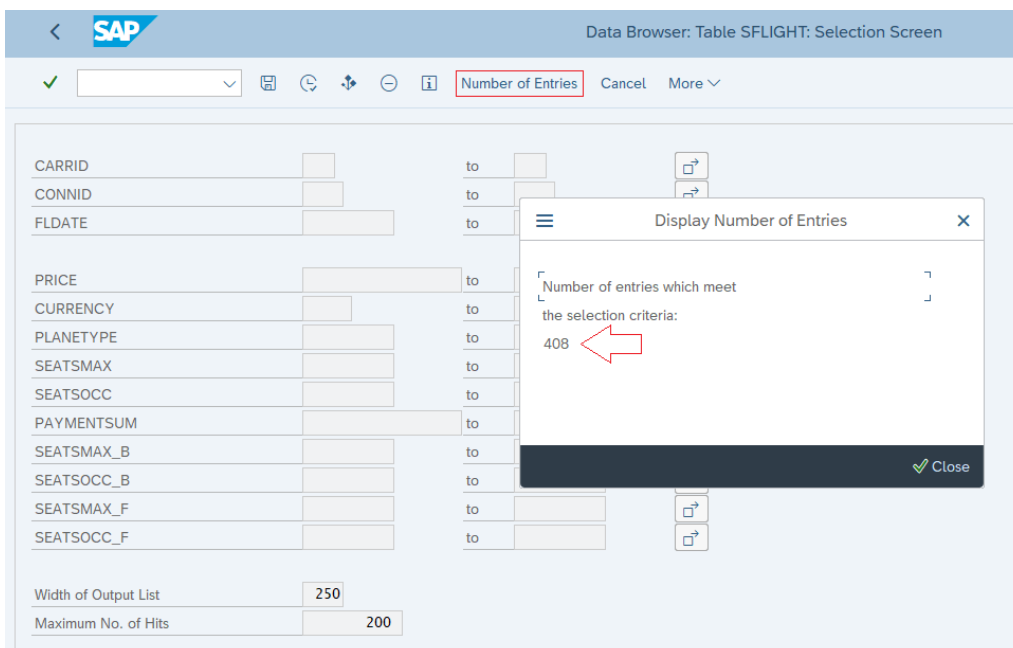
Press Execute again to create data.



Press Yes button to accept the deletion of existing data.



Check with Data Browser (TAC SE16) the number of entries in table SFLIGHT.



Each SAP ABAP system contains the SFLIGHT demo model for experimental purposes. It includes a wide area of different development objects which can be used for this, e.g. like tables, function modules, reports, UIs etc. This offers an optimal basis.

Hint: In some cases, special authorization objects are required. If the desired result is not achieved, then the Authorization Check (TAC SU53) can be used to determine whether missing authorizations are the reason.



Different SAP Application Layer Automation Approaches

The following automation approaches uses one technical method, RFC.

RFC

Remote Function Calls (RFC), also known as Remote Procedure Calls (RPC) or Remote-Enabled Function Modules (RFM), is the standard SAP interface for technical communication between SAP systems. RFC calls a function to be executed in a remote system. RFC is an SAP specific protocol and bases on CPI-C (Common Programming Interface for Communication), developed by IBM.

RFC is used with UiPath via a library called SAP dotNET Connector NCo with the Invoke Code activity.

[Execute Remote-Enabled Function Modules from UiPath](#)

BAPI

The Business Application Programming Interface (BAPI) is a formal defined interface to the business object model and uses RFC. In comparison to the RFM there are some implementation restrictions for BAPI function modules, e.g.:

- BAPIs must not execute 'COMMIT WORK' commands.
- BAPIs must not produce any screen output.
- No exceptions are used in BAPIs, all error messages must be returned in BAPIRET structure.
- [How to Read BAPIRET2 Structure Easily](#)
- ...

BAPI is used with UiPath via an activity called UiPath.SAP.BAPI.Activities.

[Execute BAPI Function Modules from UiPath](#)

ABAP

Advanced **B**usiness **A**pplication **P**rogramming language (ABAP, formerly known as **A**llgemeiner **B**erichts-**A**ufbereitungs-**P**rozesor) is the programming language in SAP environments. The interface to use ABAP with UiPath is the RFM RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN.

ABAP is used with UiPath via an activity called ABAPRunner.Activities.

[Execute ABAP Code from UiPath](#)



Execute Remote-Enabled Function Modules from UiPath

Function modules are modularization elements in the ABAP programming language. They encapsulate some functions that can be reused. They provide an interface to pass data to and from the function module. Remote function enabled modules are special flagged function modules which can be called and executed from outside of the application server.

The screenshot shows the SAP Function Module configuration for 'FLIGHT_LIST'. The 'Processing Type' section is highlighted with a red box, showing 'Remote-Enabled Module' selected. The 'General Data' section contains the following information:

Field	Value
Person Responsible	SAP
Last Changed By	SAP
Changed on	28.05.2009
Package	SWDP_DEMO
Program Name	SAPLWDR_DEMOS
INCLUDE Name	LWDR_DEMOSU01
Original Language	DE
Not released	<input type="checkbox"/> Edit Lock <input type="checkbox"/> Global

To communicate with the SAP Application Server via RFC you can use the [SAP dotNETConnector \(NCo\)](#). You can find a description how to install NCo in the post [BAPI Functionality in UiPath](#).

Hint: It could be possible that it is necessary to install the Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributables.

Hint: If you do not have access to the SAP Support Portal you can collect the necessary files manually. With the standard installation of the SAP GUI for Windows you can find the NCo libraries in the Global Assembly Cache (GAC). Look in the directory C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\assembly\GAC_32 and here you can find the libraries sapnco and sapnco_utils. The additional library libicudecnumber.dll is in the path C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files\SAP Shared\Kernel_753 and rscp4n.dll is also in the GAC C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\assembly\GAC_32\rscp4n.

Hint: If you collect the libraries from an SAP GUI for Windows installation, it is not necessary to install an additional Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable. The necessary Redistributable is available with the installation of the SAP GUI for Windows. In this case it is absolutely necessary to install an SAP GUI for Windows on each target system.

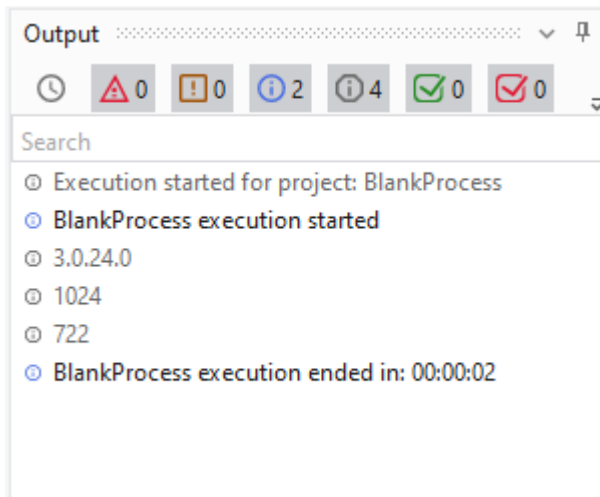
After the installation of the NCo [modify the XAML file](#) of your project. Add a variable from the type `SAP.Middleware.Connector.SAPConnectorInfo` to your project.



Add an Invoke Code activity to the workflow and try the following VB.NET code ...

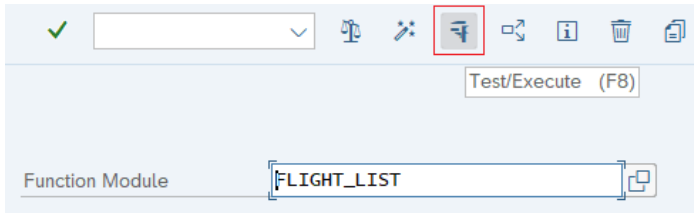
```
'-Begin-----  
  
Dim Version As String  
Dim PatchLevel As Integer  
Dim Release As String  
  
Version = SAP.Middleware.Connector.SAPConnectorInfo.Version  
PatchLevel = SAP.Middleware.Connector.SAPConnectorInfo.KernelPatchLevel  
Release = SAP.Middleware.Connector.SAPConnectorInfo.KernelRelease  
  
Console.WriteLine(Version)  
Console.WriteLine(PatchLevel.ToString())  
Console.WriteLine(Release)  
  
'-End-----
```

... and you should see in the output window this result, when you execute the workflow.

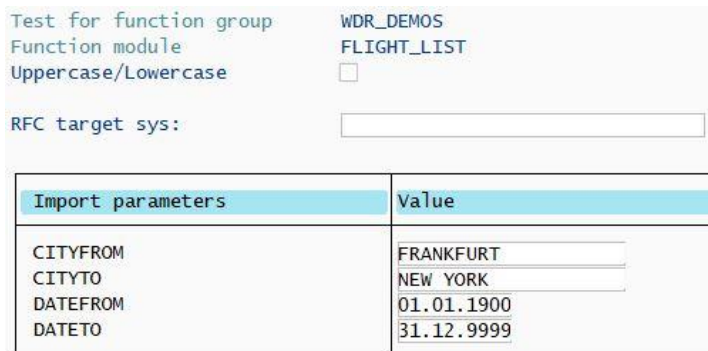




Now we try in the Function Builder (TAC SE37) the RFM FLIGHT_LIST. Press button Execute in the toolbar, or key F8.



Add in the import parameters the necessary entries and press button Execute in the toolbar, or key F8.



Double click in the table FLIGHT_LIST the result entries ...

Tables	Value
FLIGHT_LIST Result:	0 Entries 51 Entries

... to see the delivered data.

MAN	CAR	CONN	COU	CITYFROM	AIR	COU	CITYTO	AIR	FLTIME	DEPTIME	ARRTIME	DISTANCE	DIS	F	PER	FLDATE
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	18.04.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	16.05.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	13.06.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	11.07.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	08.08.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	05.09.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	28.09.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	03.10.2020
001	LH	0400	DE	FRANKFURT	FRA	US	NEW YORK	JFK	7:24	10:10:00	11:34:00	6.162,0000	KM		0	28.10.2020

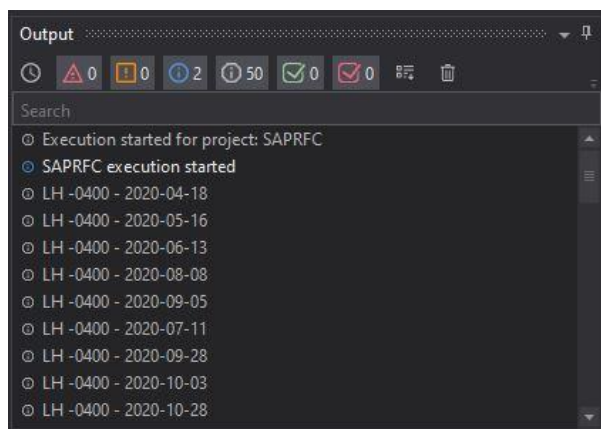
Now we want to do the same with UiPath.



To do the same in UiPath use an Invoke Code activity with the following VB.NET code ...

```
'-Begin-----  
  
Dim cfgParams As SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters  
Dim destination As SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcDestination  
Dim rfcFunction As SAP.Middleware.Connector.IRfcFunction  
Dim FlightList As SAP.Middleware.Connector.IRfcTable  
Dim Line As SAP.Middleware.Connector.IRfcStructure  
  
cfgParams = New SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.Name, "Test" )  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.AppServerHost, _  
    "ABAP702")  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.SystemNumber, "00")  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.Client, "001")  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.User, "BCUSER")  
cfgParams.Add(SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcConfigParameters.Password, "minisap")  
  
destination =  
SAP.Middleware.Connector.RfcDestinationManager.GetDestination(cfgParams)  
  
rfcFunction = destination.Repository.CreateFunction("FLIGHT_LIST")  
rfcFunction.SetValue("CITYFROM", "FRANKFURT")  
rfcFunction.SetValue("CITYTO", "NEW YORK")  
rfcFunction.SetValue("DATEFROM", "19000101")  
rfcFunction.SetValue("DATETO", "99991231")  
rfcFunction.Invoke(destination)  
FlightList = rfcFunction.GetTable("FLIGHT_LIST")  
  
For Each Line In FlightList  
    Console.WriteLine( _  
        Line.GetValue("CARRID").ToString.Trim & " - " & _  
        Line.GetValue("CONNID").ToString.Trim & " - " & _  
        Line.GetValue("FLDATE").ToString.Trim _  
    )  
Next  
  
'-End-----
```

... to see this result, when you execute the workflow.





How to Find an RFM

Open the Data Browser (TAC SE16) and open table TFDIR. This table contains all function modules of an SAP system.

Table Name	TFDIR
------------	-------

In the selection screen type in field FMODE (Type of Function Module) an R, which means this function module is remote enabled.

FUNCNAME	
PNAME	
INCLUDE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FREEDATE	
APPL	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAND	<input type="checkbox"/>
FMODE	R
HOST	
UTASK	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNAME_MAIN	

Add the information you know in the available fields to find the RFM you are searching for.

Search via Description

Open the Data Browser (TAC SE16) and open table TFTIT. This table contains from all function modules the short text.

Table Name	TFTIT
------------	-------

In the selection screen you have the possibility to add the language key (SPRAS) and text, text fragments and wildcards (STEXT). On this way a function module can be found via the description. But in a second step, via table TFDIR, it is necessary to detect if the function module is remote enabled, as described above.

SPRAS	EN
FUNCNAME	
STEXT	<input type="checkbox"/> *ard*



Here an approach how to realize a search via short description, on remote enabled function modules, in ABAP:

```
TYPES: BEGIN OF ty_FuncMod,
      FUNCNAME TYPE RS38L_FNAM,
      STEXT    TYPE RS38L_FTXT,
      END OF ty_FuncMod.

DATA:
      lt_FuncMod TYPE STANDARD TABLE OF ty_FuncMod
      .

SELECT ShortText~FUNCNAME ShortText~STEXT
      FROM TFTIT AS ShortText
      INNER JOIN TFDIR AS FuncMod ON ShortText~FUNCNAME = FuncMod~FUNCNAME
      INTO CORRESPONDING FIELDS OF TABLE lt_FuncMod
      WHERE FuncMod~FMODE = 'R' AND
            ShortText~SPRAS = 'E' AND
            ShortText~STEXT LIKE '%ard%'.
```

The result is available in the internal table lt_FuncMod and each short text contains *ard*, e.g. as Card, Hardware, Dashboard or Wizard.

Row	FUNCNAME [C(30)]	STEXT [C(74)]
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	BAPI_PCA_MASTER_CREATE	Create Payment Card
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	BAPI_PCA_MASTER_EXISTCHECK	Existence Check of Payment Card
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	BAPI_PCA_MASTER_GETDETAIL	Read Payment Card
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	BDL_SMON_READ_HARDW_DESCR_FILE	Delivers Hardwareconfiguration
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	BICS_CONS_GET_XCLS	Get Xcelsius Dashboard
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	BICS_CONS_SAVE_XCLS	Save Xcelsius Dashboard
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	RSOS_INIT_AND_DELTA_INDEXING	Executes initial and delta indexing with standard settings
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	RS_DME_UI_WIZARD_PROCESS	WF: Wizard ausführen
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	RS_DME_UI_WIZ_PROCESS_INTERNAL	WF: Wizard ausführen (intern)
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	SAP_WAPI_FORWARD_WORKITEM	Workflow Interfaces: Forward Work Item

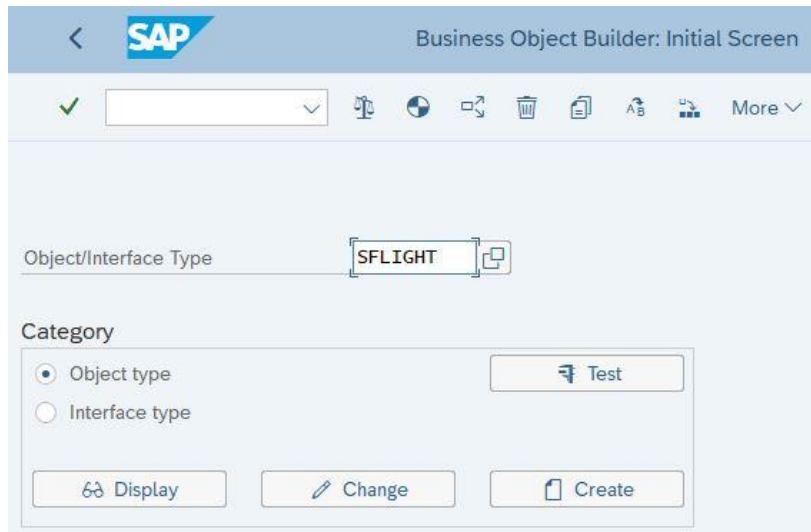
Hint: This kind of search is case sensitive, %card% and %Card% are different and delivers different results.



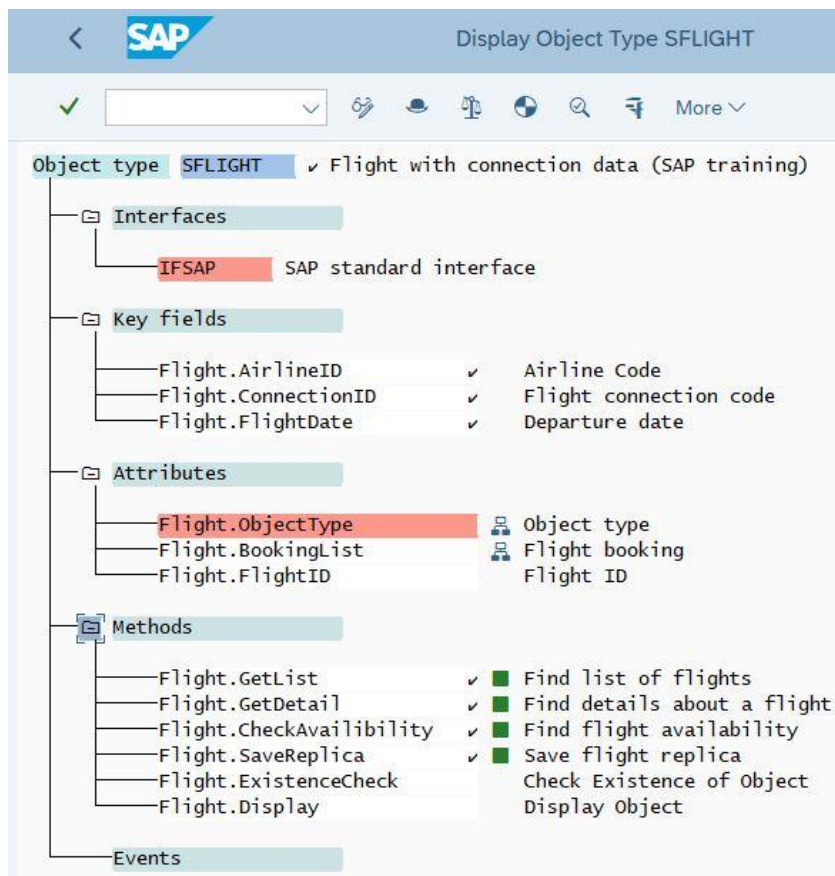
Execute BAPI Function Modules from UiPath

BAPI is a standardized programming interfaces enabling external applications to access business processes and data in SAP systems. BAPIs are defined in the Business Object Repository (BOR). You can find more information in the [BAPI Programming Guide \(CA-BFA\)](#) at SAP Help Portal.

Open in the Business Object Builder (TAC SWO1) the Business Object (BO) SFLIGHT.



Now you can view e.g. all attributes and methods etc.





Open in the BAPI Explorer (TAC BAPI) with the object Flight.

The screenshot shows the SAP BAPI Explorer interface. On the left, a hierarchical tree view is displayed with 'Flight' selected under 'ABAP Workbench, Java IDE and In'. The main area shows the 'Object' details for 'Flight':

- Object Name: Flight
- Short description: Flight with connection data (SAP train...)
- Object type: SFLIGHT
- Pack: SAPBC_IBF... Component: BC-DWB
- Person responsible: SAP
- Created on: 31.07.1997 Release: 40A

The 'Status' section shows:

- Release status: Released
- Last changed by: SAP Changed on: 19.10.2001

Now you can view all information in a clear structure.

The screenshot shows the SAP BAPI Explorer interface with the 'Method (BAPI)' details for 'GetDetail' selected. The left tree view shows 'GetDetail' selected under 'Flight'. The main area displays the following information:

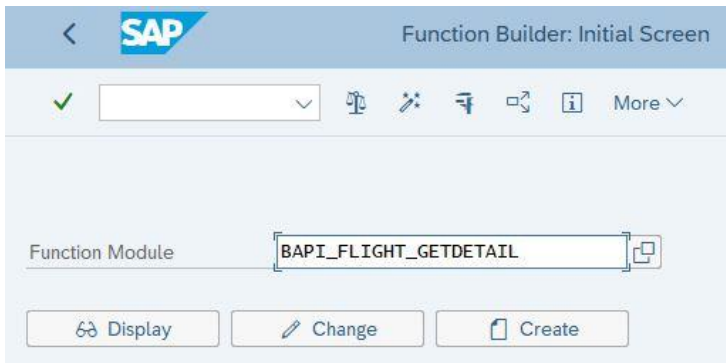
- Method: GetDetail
- Business object: Flight
- Short description: Find details about a flight
- New in Release: 610
- Function module: BAPI_FLIGHT_GETDETAIL
- ALE message type: Does not exist
- Instance-depend: Dialog

The 'Status' section shows:

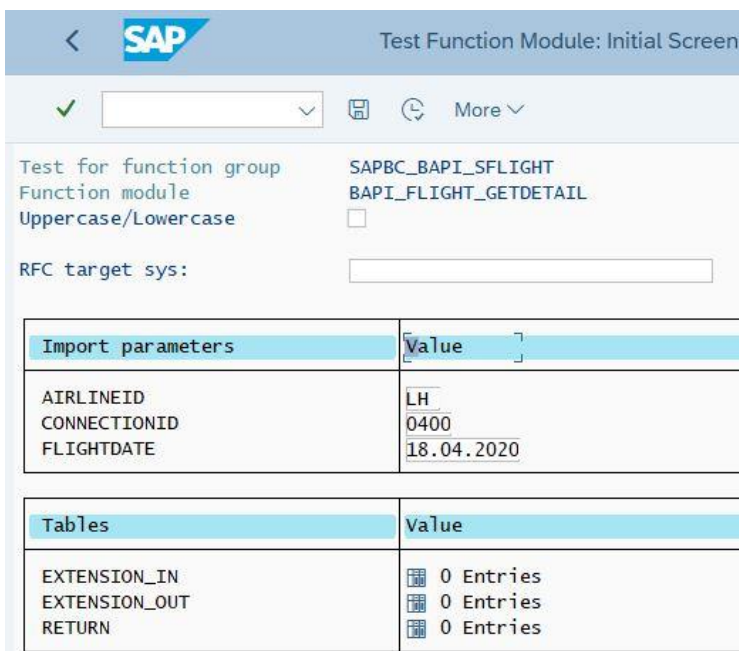
- Release status: Released



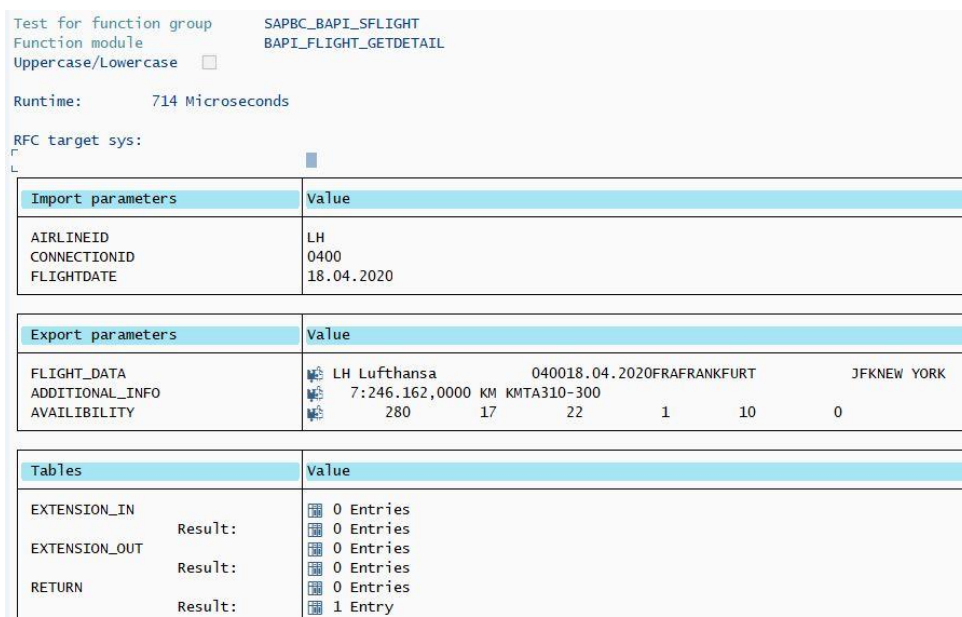
Open in the Function Builder (TAC SE37) the function module BAPI_FLIGHT_GETDETAIL and press Execute button in the toolbar.



Add the necessary values ...

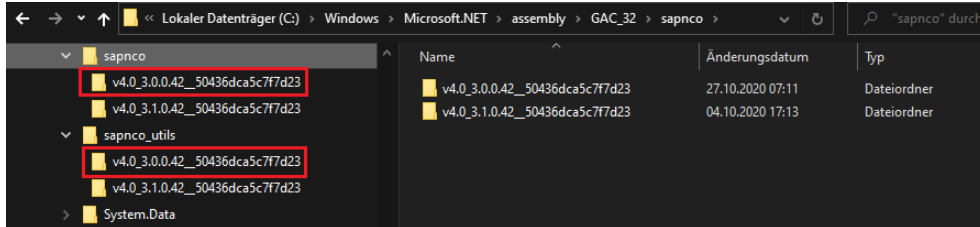


... and look at the results.

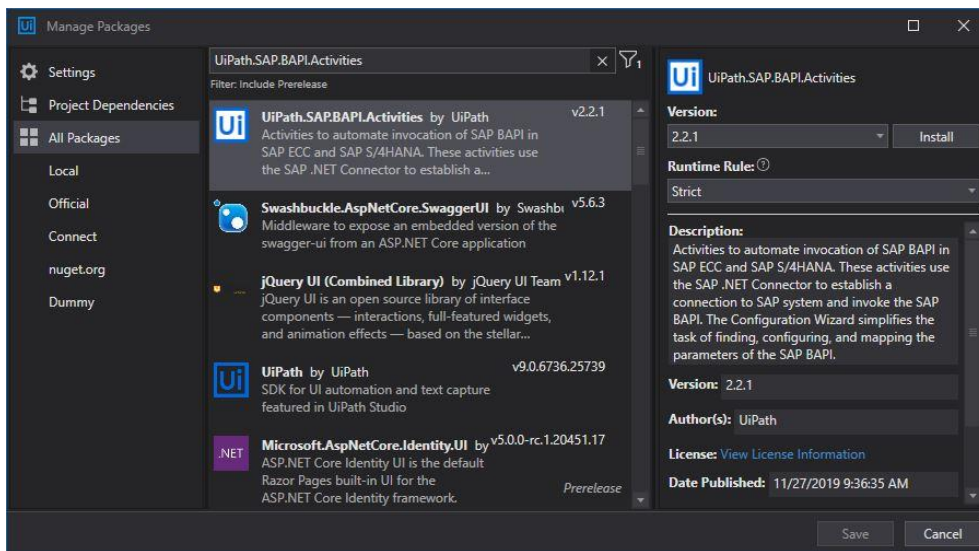




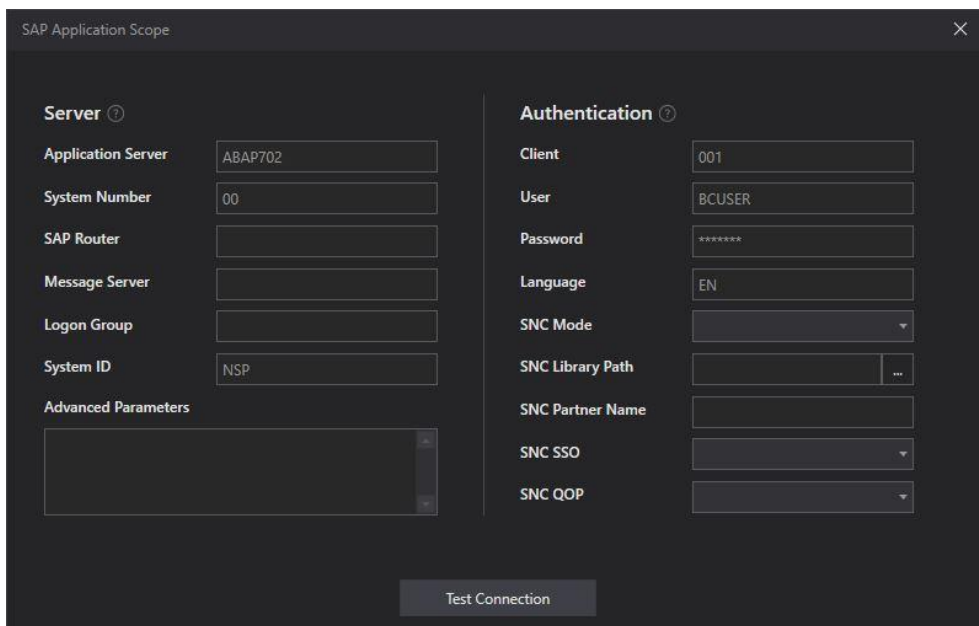
Hint: To use the BAPI Activity it is necessary to install SAP dotNET Connector NCo. If you don't have access to the SAP Support Portal to download the NCo and you have installed an SAP GUI for Windows you can use the available installation, with a small adjustment in the Global Assembly Cache (GAC). Duplicate in the GAC, in the subdirectories sapnco and sapnco_utils, the existing directories and change the version number from 3.1.0.42 to 3.0.0.42. The installation of the BAPI activity and its operation works perfectly without additional NCo installation. But for this operation you need administration rights.

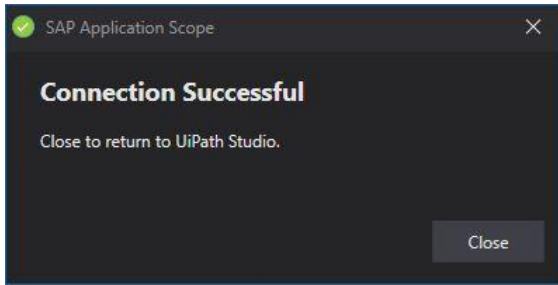


Install the BAPI Package.

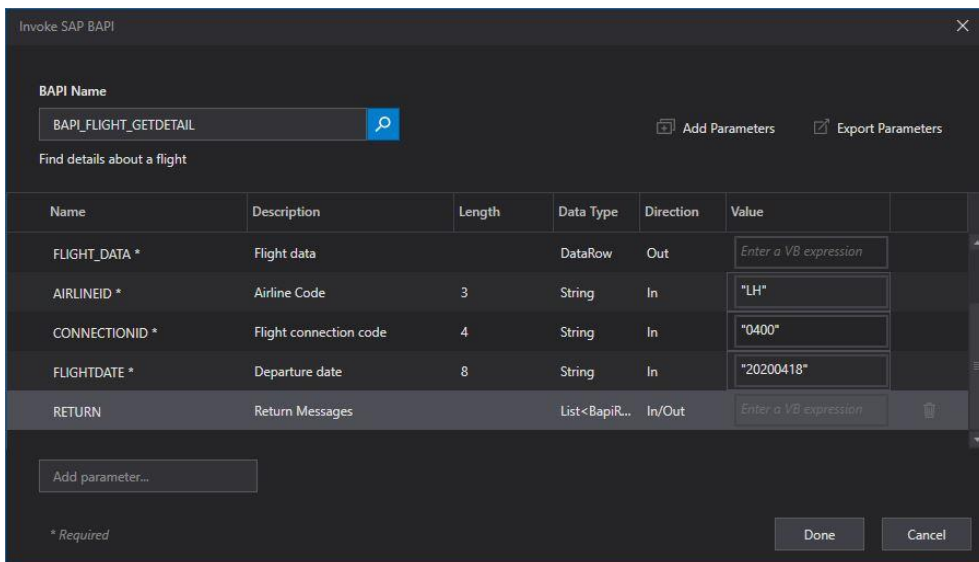
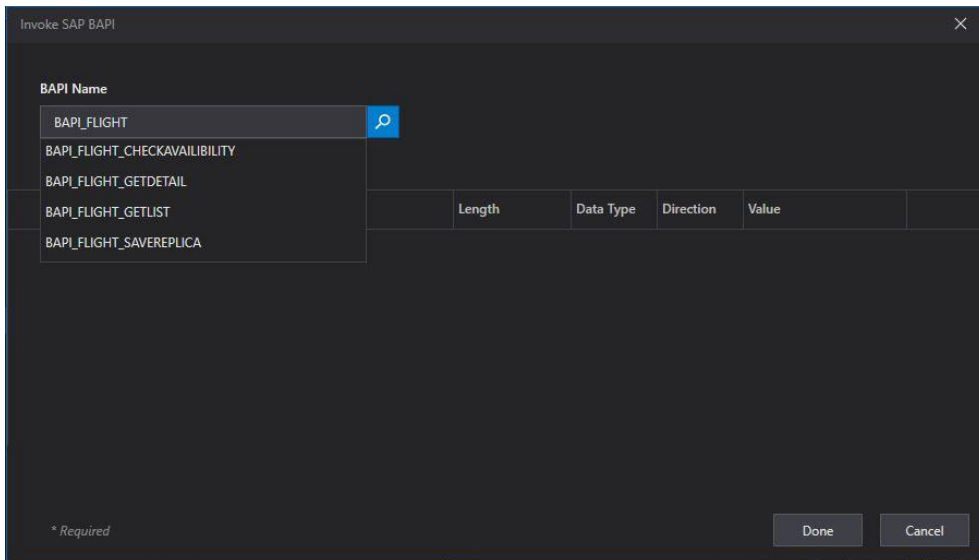


Define your application scope.



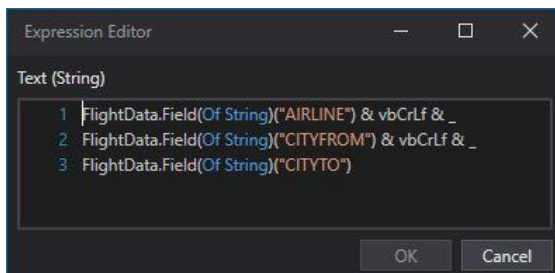
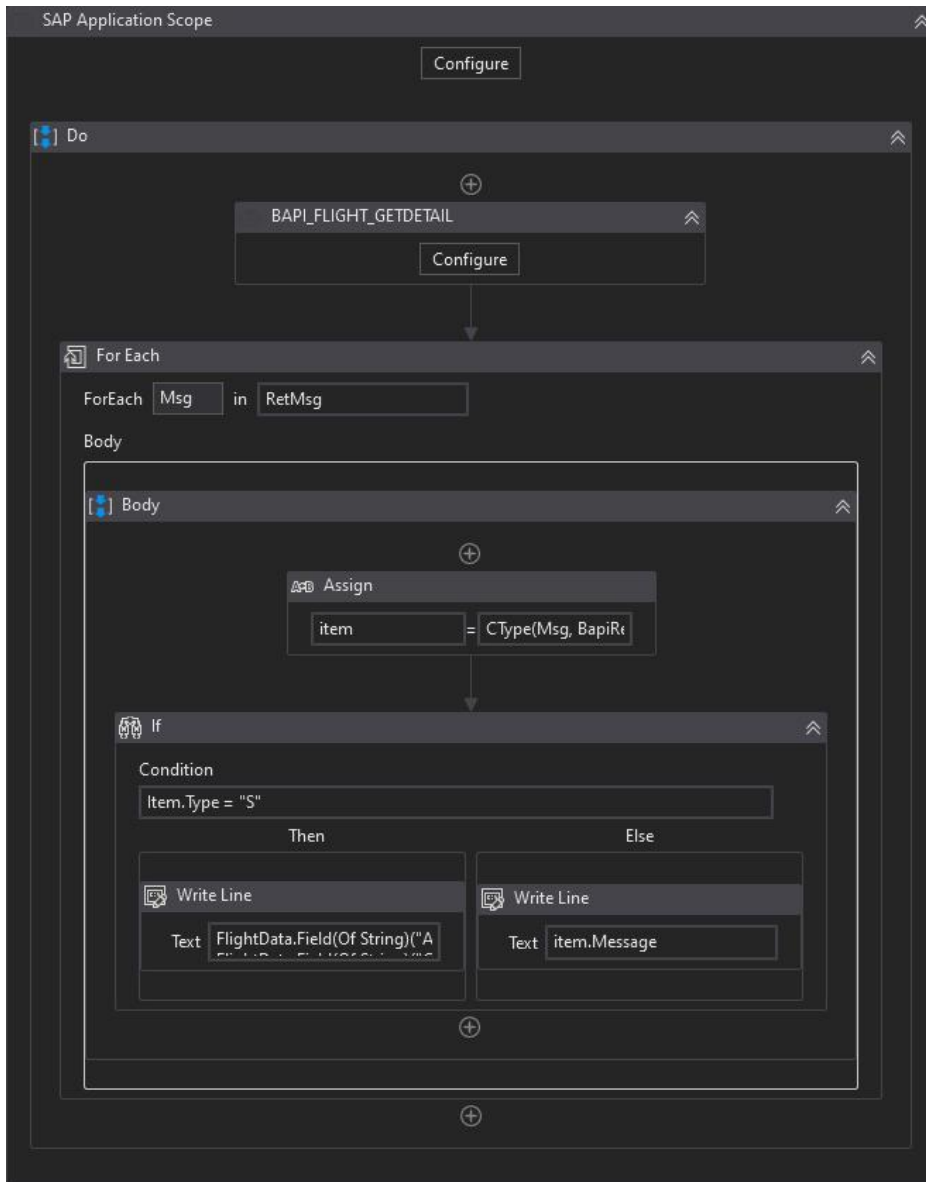


Invoke the BAPI method BAPI_FLIGHT_GETDETAIL.

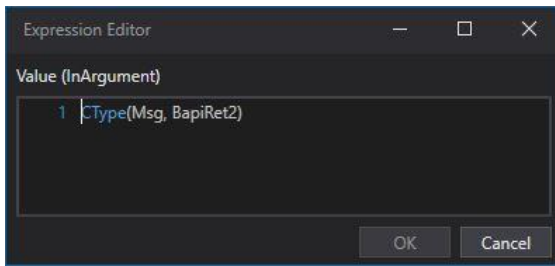




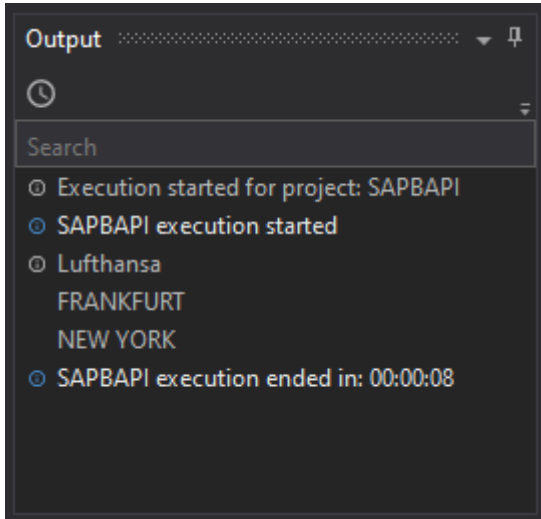
Build the workflow and run it ...



```
FlightData("AIRLINE").ToString & vbCrLf & _  
FlightData("CITYFROM").ToString & vbCrLf & _  
FlightData("CITYTO").ToString
```



... and look at the results.



Here for comparison the same result displayed in the SAP system.

AIR	AIRLINE	CONN	FLIGHTDATE	AIR	CITYFROM	AIR	CITYTO	DEPTIME	ARRTIME	ARRDATE	PRICE	CURR	CUR
LH	Lufthansa	0400	18.04.2020	FRA	FRANKFURT	JFK	NEW YORK	10:10:00	11:34:00	18.04.2020	666,0000	EUR	EUR



Data Type DATS

The data type DATS describes objects of the type CHAR with a length of 8 characters. It is designed for calendar dates in the format YYYYMMDD. DATS is assigned to the [internal ABAP data type D](#).

In our example the flight date is from the type DATS.

The screenshot shows the configuration for the data type S_DATE. It is an elementary type of domain type. The domain is S_DATE, which is a DATE field (YYYYMMDD) stored as char(8). The length is 8.

In the SE37 it is necessary to type DD.MM.YYYY ...

Import parameters	Value
AIRLINEID	LH
CONNECTIONID	0400
FLIGHTDATE	18.04.2020

... but in the BAPI activity it is necessary to type YYYYMMDD.

Name	Description	Length	Data Type	Direction	Value
FLIGHT_DATA *	Flight data		DataRow	Out	FlightData
AIRLINEID *	Airline Code	3	String	In	"LH"
CONNECTIONID *	Flight connection code	4	String	In	"0400"
FLIGHTDATE *	Departure date	8	String	In	"20200418"
RETURN	Return Messages		List<BapiR...	In/Out	Enter a VB expression

Leading Zeros

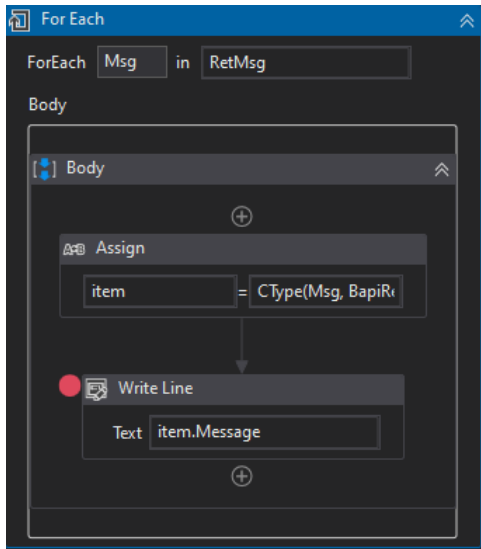
In many character fields of the SAP tables, e.g. like table KNA1 General Data in Customer Master and the field KUNNR customer number, leading zeros are also stored. Your customer number 4711, which can be seen in the UI, is in the table 0000004711. The field KUNNR is a character field with the length of ten characters. When using BAPI functions, it may therefore be necessary to include the leading zeros.



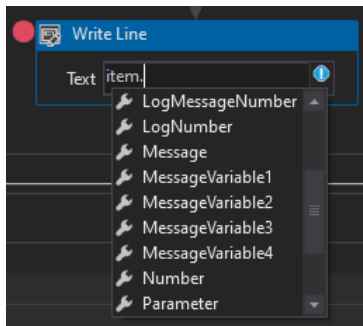
How to Read BAPIRET2 Structure Easily

BAPIRET2 is a list of structure. With a For Each activity you can loop over the records. To get access to the single entries of the structure you can use the VB.NET CType command, to convert the object type to BapiRet2.

```
CType(Msg, BapiRet2)
```



With this step you have easy access to any element of the structure.



Structure: BAPIRET2 Active
Short Description: Return Parameter

Attributes Components Entry help/check Currency/quantity fields

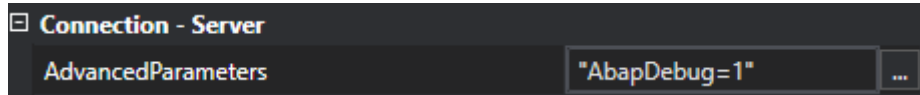
Component	Typing Method	Component Type	Data Type	Length	Deci...	Short Description
<input type="checkbox"/> TYPE	1 Types	▼ BAPT_MTYPE	CHAR	1		0 Message type: S Success, E Error, W Warning, I Info, A Abort
<input type="checkbox"/> ID	1 Types	▼ SYMSGID	CHAR	20		0 Message Class
<input type="checkbox"/> NUMBER	1 Types	▼ SYMSGNO	NUMC	3		0 Message Number
<input type="checkbox"/> MESSAGE	1 Types	▼ BAPT_MSG	CHAR	220		0 Message Text
<input type="checkbox"/> LOG_NO	1 Types	▼ BALOGNR	CHAR	20		0 Application log: log number
<input type="checkbox"/> LOG_MSG_NO	1 Types	▼ BALMNR	NUMC	6		0 Application log: Internal message serial number
<input type="checkbox"/> MESSAGE_V1	1 Types	▼ SYMSGV	CHAR	50		0 Message Variable
<input type="checkbox"/> MESSAGE_V2	1 Types	▼ SYMSGV	CHAR	50		0 Message Variable
<input type="checkbox"/> MESSAGE_V3	1 Types	▼ SYMSGV	CHAR	50		0 Message Variable
<input type="checkbox"/> MESSAGE_V4	1 Types	▼ SYMSGV	CHAR	50		0 Message Variable
<input type="checkbox"/> PARAMETER	1 Types	▼ BAPT_PARAM	CHAR	32		0 Parameter Name
<input type="checkbox"/> ROW	1 Types	▼ BAPT_LINE	INT4	10		0 Lines in parameter
<input type="checkbox"/> FFIELD	1 Types	▼ BAPT_FLD	CHAR	30		0 Field in parameter
<input type="checkbox"/> SYSTEM	1 Types	▼ BAPISYS	CHAR	10		0 Logical system from which message originates



How to Debug ABAP Code from BAPI Activity

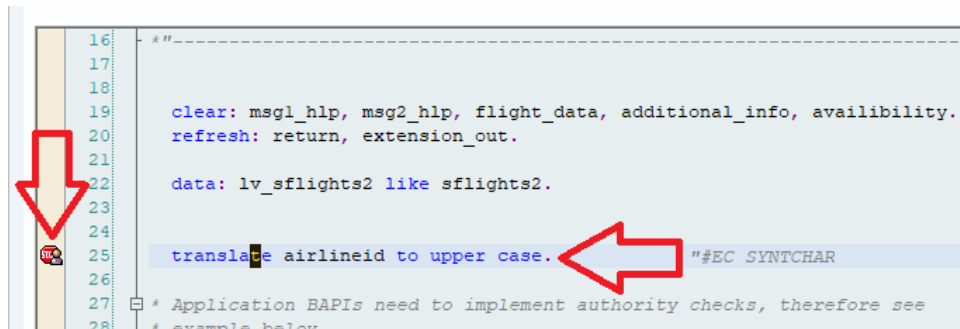
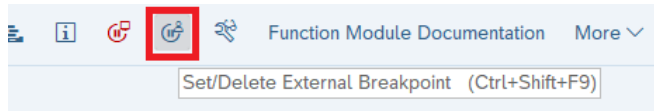
Sometimes it could be very informative to know what a BAPI function module (FM) is doing. With a tiny trick it is very easy to do that. Add in the AdvancedParameters field of the Connection - Server section in the properties of the SAP Application Scope the entry:

```
"AbapDebug=1"
```

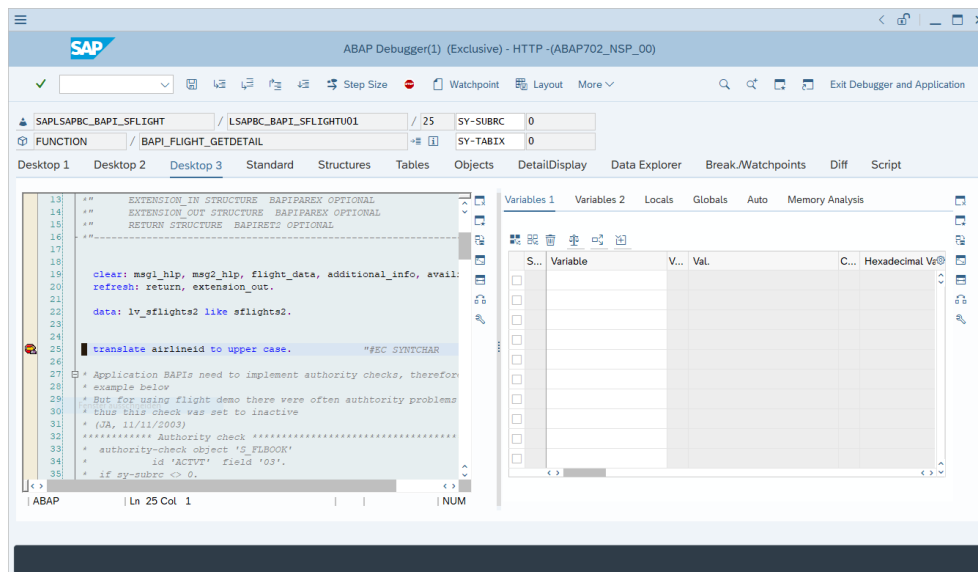


Hint: If several parameters are to be added, they must be separated by a semicolon.

Open the BAPI FM with the Function Builder (TAC SE37) and set an external breakpoint at the first possible ABAP code line.



With the execution of the workflow in UiPath Studio opens the ABAP Debugger ...



... and parameters and processing can be examined in detail.



Variables 1 Variables 2 Locals Globals Auto Memory Analysis

S...	Variable	V...	Val.	C...	Hexadecimal Va
<input type="checkbox"/>	AIRLINEID		LH		4C0048002000
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONNECTIONID		0400		3000340030003
<input type="checkbox"/>	FLIGHTDATE		20200418		3200300032003

Invoke SAP BAPI

BAPI Name: BAPI_FLIGHT_GETDETAIL Add Parameters Export Parameters

Find details about a flight

Name	Description	Length	Data Type	Direction	Value
FLIGHT_DATA *	Flight data		DataRow	Out	<input type="text" value="Enter a VB expression"/>
AIRLINEID *	Airline Code	3	String	In	<input type="text" value="LH"/>
CONNECTIONID *	Flight connection code	4	String	In	<input type="text" value="0400"/>
FLIGHTDATE *	Departure date	8	String	In	<input type="text" value="20200418"/>
RETURN	Return Messages		List<BapiR...	In/Out	<input type="text" value="RetMsg"/>

* Required Done Cancel

How to use SAP GUI from BAPI Activity

Some (old) BAPIs need an SAP GUI attached to the connection, because they try to send screen output to the client while executing. To handle this requirement, add in the AdvancedParameters field of the Connection - Server section in the properties of the SAP Application Scope the entry:

```
"UseSAPGui=1"
```

Connection - Server

AdvancedParameters

Possible values are:

- 0 = No SAP GUI (default)
- 1 = Use SAP GUI
- 2 = Use hidden (black) SAP GUI

Hint: If several parameters are to be added, they must be separated by a semicolon.



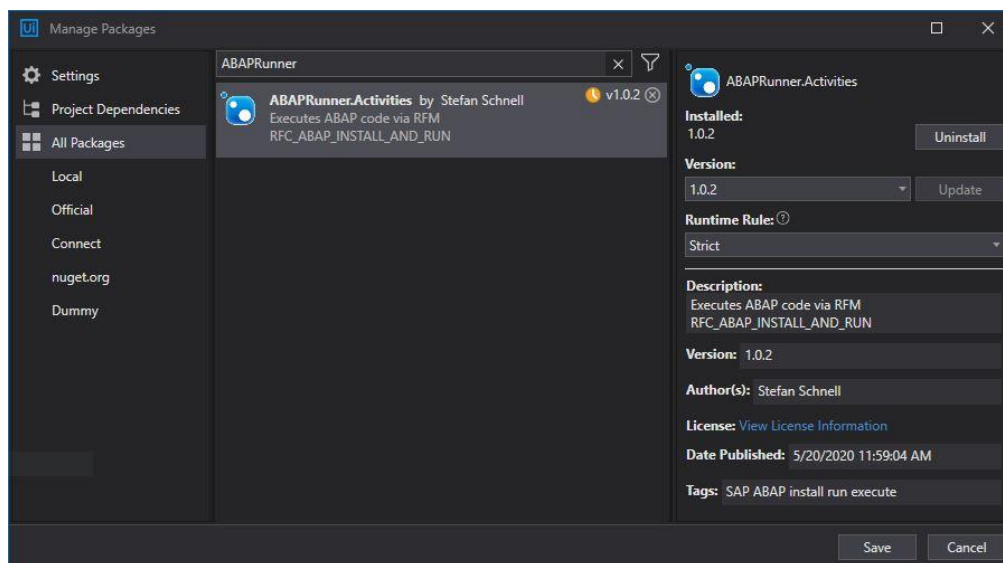
Execute ABAP Code from UiPath

Advanced Business Application Programming language, or ABAP in short form, is used in SAP environments. ABAP programming language is used to get or processing information in an SAP ERP or ECC system. It is only available in SAP application server back-end systems. You can't use ABAP outside an SAP system.

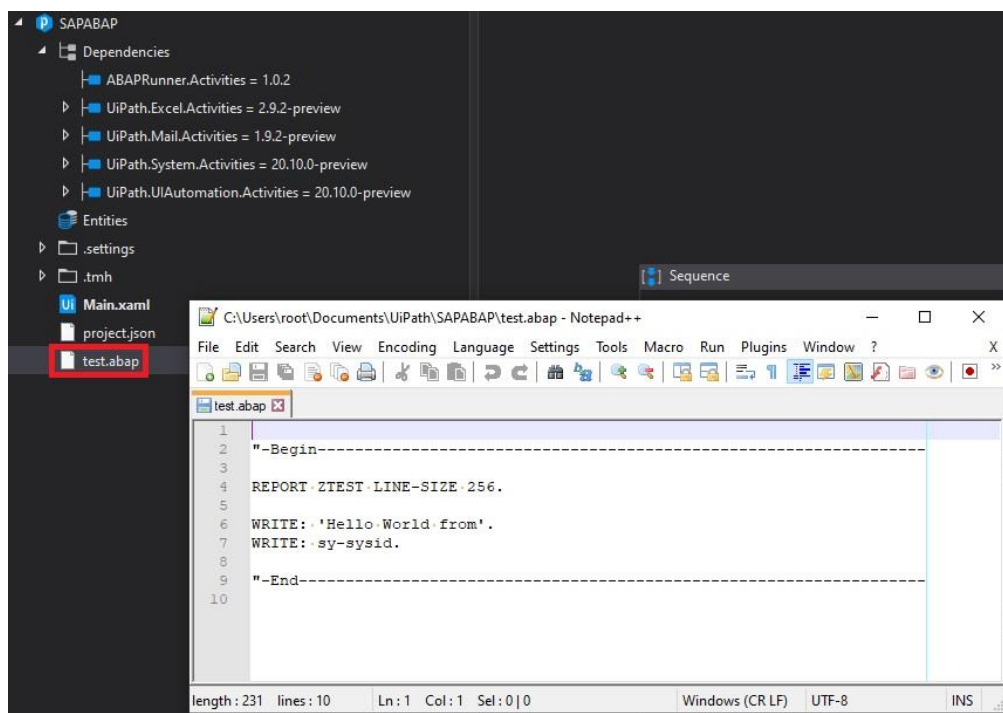
ABAPRunner uses the RFM RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN to execute ABAP programs from outside an SAP system. ABAPRunner needs SAP NetWeaver RFC library, which comes with the SAP GUI for Windows installation.

Important hint: The RFM RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN is available on any SAP system, but you can use it only in development and quality assurance systems.

Install the ABAPRunner Package.



Store the ABAP code in your project directory.





```
*-Begin-----  
  
Report zTest Line-Size 256.  
  
Write: 'Hello World from'.  
Write: sy-sysid.  
  
*-End-----
```

Configure the ABAP_Install_and_Run activity.

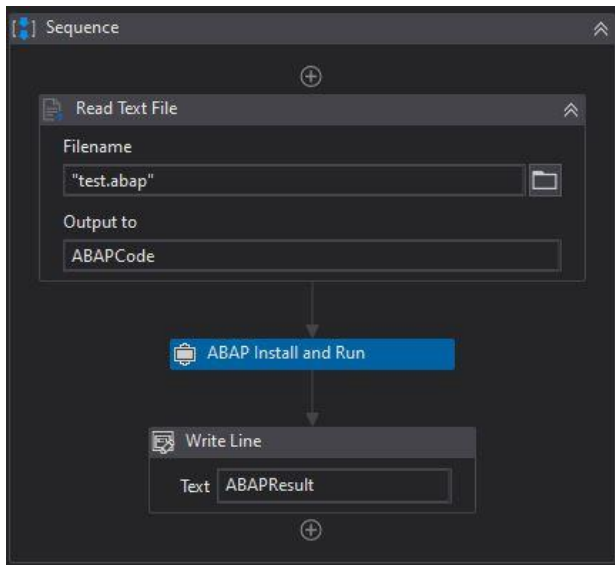
Section	Property	Value	Description
ABAP	ABAPCode	ABAPCode	
ABAP - Control			
Common	ContinueOnError		Specifies to continue executing the remaining activities even if the current activity fails
Common	DisplayName	ABAP Install and Run	
Connection - Authentication	Client	"001"	
Connection - Authentication	Language	"EN"	
Connection - Authentication	Password	(new System.Net.NetworkCredential("", "minisap")).SecurePassword	
Connection - Authentication	User	"BCUSER"	
Connection - Security Network (SNC)			
Connection - Server	AdvancedParameters	Semi-colon separated list of name value pairs for additional parameters, e.g. GWHt	
Connection - Server	AppServer	"ABAP702"	
Connection - Server	LogonGroup	Group name where the message server selects an application server	
Connection - Server	MessageServer	Hostname of the SAP Message Server	
Connection - Server	SAPRouter	SAP Router through which to make connection	
Connection - Server	SystemID	"NSP"	
Connection - Server	SystemNumber	"00"	
Misc			
Output	ErrorReturn	In case of error explanatory text	
Output	Output	ABAPResult	

Hint: To set the password, you must use a secure string. Use the following pattern:

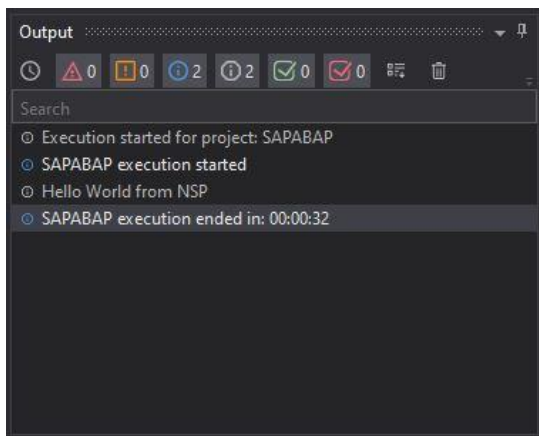
```
(new System.Net.NetworkCredential("", "myPassword")).SecurePassword
```




Build the workflow and run it ...



... and look at the results.



The direct use of ABAP can be applied to many use cases ...

- Generating test data with all possibilities of the ABAP language.
- Execution of non-remote enabled function modules.
- Check data with SAP Open SQL statements.
- ...

Especially in the field of test automation this approach can be used very profitably.



Here for comparison the same result displayed in the SAP system with the Function Builder (TAC SE37).

Test for function group SUTL
Function module RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN
Uppercase/Lowercase

Runtime: 34.535 Microseconds

RFC target sys:

Import parameters	Value
MODE	F
PROGRAMNAME	<<RFC1>>

Export parameters	Value
ERRORMESSAGE	

Tables	Value
PROGRAM	3 Entries
WRITES	3 Entries
WRITES	0 Entries
WRITES	1 Entry

Here the import in the table PROGRAM.

3 Entries

LINE
REPORT ZTEST.
WRITE: 'HELLO WORLD FROM'.
WRITE: SY-SYSID.

And here the result in the table WRITES.

1 Entry

ZEILE
HELLO WORLD FROM NSP



A Few Restrictions of RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN

The RFM RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN has some restrictions, which have to be considered.

Parameter Name	Typing	Associated Type	Optional	Short text
PROGRAM	LIKE	PROGTAB	<input type="checkbox"/>	ABAP-Source Coding
WRITES	LIKE	LISTZEILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The import of the program lines is stored in the PROGRAM table in the component LINE. The data type of LINE is CHAR with a length of 72 characters. No ABAP code line may be longer than 72 characters.

Component	Typing Method	Component Type	Data Type	Length	Deci...	Short Description
<input type="checkbox"/> LINE	1 Types	EDPLINE	CHAR	72		0 EDIC: Program editor line

The return values are stored in the WRITES table in the component ZEILE. The data type of ZEILE is CHAR with a length of 256 characters. That is the reason why the report option LINE-SIZE is set to 256. It determines the number of characters in the line buffer as well as the number of columns in the list displayed.

Component	Typing Method	Component Type	Data Type	Length	Deci...	Short Description
<input type="checkbox"/> ZEILE	1 Types	LISTLINE_D	CHAR	256		0 List line



How to Debug ABAP Code from ABAPRunner

To debug your ABAP code in the context of the SAP application server it is necessary to set 1 in the ABAPDebug field of the ABAP – Control section in the properties of ABAP_Install_and_Run.

ABAP - Control	
ABAPDebug	1
Trace	Information level about execution, valid values are 0: off, 1: brief, 2: verbos
UseSAPGUI	Should an SAP GUI be attached, valid values are 0: no, 1: hidden, 2: visible

Add in the code the command ...

Break-Point.

```
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro
ABAPRunner.Test1.abap
1 Report zTest Line-Size 256.
2 Break-Point.
3 Write: 'Hello World from'.
4 Write: sy-sysid.
```

If the workflow is now executed, the ABAP Debugger opens and the code can be examined step by step.

The screenshot shows the SAP ABAP Debugger interface. At the top, the SAP logo and 'ABAP Debugger' are visible. Below the menu bar, there are tabs for 'Fields', 'Table', 'Breakpoints', 'Watchpoints', 'Calls', 'Overview', and 'Settings'. The 'Main Program' and 'Source code of' fields both show 'Z\$\$\$XRFC'. The 'EVENT START-OF-SELECTION' section displays the source code with the current step highlighted as 'Break-Point.'. Below this, the 'Field names' section shows 'sy-sysid' with a value of 'NSP'. At the bottom, system fields are listed: SY-SUBRC 0, SY-TABIX 5, SY-DBCNT 0, and SY-DYNNR 1000.



Internal ABAP Data Types

Value range of domain INTTYPE with description and dotNET data type mapping		
8	Integer number (8-byte integer)	long (System.Long)
C	Character string	string (System.String)
D	Date (Date: YYYYMMDD)	string (System.String)
F	Floating point number to accuracy of 8 bytes	double (System.Double)
I	Integer number (4-byte integer with sign)	int (System.Int32)
L		
N	Character string with digits only	string (System.String)
P	Packed number	decimal (System.Decimal)
T	Time (Time: HHMMSS)	string (System.String)
V	Character string (old Dictionary type VARC)	
X	Byte sequence (hexadecimal)	byte[] (Array of System.Byte)
a	Decimal floating point number, 16 digits	decimal (System.Decimal)
b	Integer number (1-byte integer, integer number <= 254)	Byte (System.Byte)
e	Decimal floating point number, 34 digits	decimal (System.Decimal)
g	Character string with variable length (ABAP type STRING)	string (System.String)
h	Table type (Internal table)	IRfcTable
j	Static boxed components	
k	Generic boxed components (Enumerated type)	
l	Reference to data object (Data reference)	
r	Reference to class/interface (Object reference)	
s	Integer number (2-byte integer, integer number <= 65535, only for length field before LCHR or LRAW)	Short (System.Short)
u	Structured type, flat	IRfcStructure
v	Structured type, deep	
y	Byte sequence with variable length (ABAP type XSTRING)	byte[] (Array of System.Byte)



Modify XAML to use Installed NCo

To use RFC calls it is necessary to add a few lines in the XAML file of your project.

Add in the Activity tag the following attributes:

```
xmlns:smc="clr-
namespace:SAP.Middleware.Connector;assembly=sapnco_utils"
xmlns:smc1="clr-namespace:SAP.Middleware.Connector;assembly=sapnco"
```

Add at the end of the TextExpression.NamespacesForImplementation tag in the sco:Collection the line:

```
<x:String>SAP.Middleware.Connector</x:String>
```

Add at the end of the TextExpression.ReferencesForImplementation tag in the sco:Collection the lines:

```
<AssemblyReference>sapnco</AssemblyReference>
<AssemblyReference>sapnco_utils</AssemblyReference>
```

```
1 <Activity mc:Ignorable="sap sap2010" x:Class="Main" mva:VisualBasic.Settings="{x:Null}" sap:VirtualizedContainerService.HintSize="728, 650"
  sap2010:WorkflowViewState.IdRef="ActivityBuilder_1" xmlns="http://schemas.microsoft.com/netfx/2009/xaml/activities" xmlns:smc=
  "http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/markup-compatibility/2006" xmlns:mva=
  "clr-namespace:Microsoft.VisualBasic.Activities;assembly=System.Activities" xmlns:sap=
  "http://schemas.microsoft.com/netfx/2009/xaml/activities/presentation" xmlns:sap2010=
  "http://schemas.microsoft.com/netfx/2010/xaml/activities/presentation" xmlns:scg="clr-namespace:System.Collections.Generic;assembly=mscorlib"
  xmlns:sco="clr-namespace:System.Collections.ObjectModel;assembly=mscorlib" xmlns:smc1="clr-namespace:SAP.Middleware.Connector;assembly=sapnco"
  xmlns:ui="http://schemas.uipath.com/workflow/activities" xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2006/xaml">
2   <TextExpression.NamespacesForImplementation>
3     <sco:Collection x:TypeArguments="x:String">
4       <x:String>System.Activities</x:String>
5       <x:String>System.Activities.Statements</x:String>
6       <x:String>System.Activities.Expressions</x:String>
7       <x:String>System.Activities.Validation</x:String>
8       <x:String>System.Activities.XamlIntegration</x:String>
9       <x:String>Microsoft.VisualBasic</x:String>
10      <x:String>Microsoft.VisualBasic.Activities</x:String>
11      <x:String>System</x:String>
12      ...
13      <x:String>UiPath.Core</x:String>
14      <x:String>UiPath.Core.Activities</x:String>
15      <x:String>System.Windows.Markup</x:String>
16      <x:String>System.Activities.DynamicUpdate</x:String>
17      <x:String>SAP.Middleware.Connector</x:String>
18    </sco:Collection>
19  </TextExpression.NamespacesForImplementation>
20  <TextExpression.ReferencesForImplementation>
21    <sco:Collection x:TypeArguments="AssemblyReference">
22      <AssemblyReference>System.Activities</AssemblyReference>
23      <AssemblyReference>Microsoft.VisualBasic</AssemblyReference>
24      <AssemblyReference>mscorlib</AssemblyReference>
25      <AssemblyReference>System.Data</AssemblyReference>
26      <AssemblyReference>System</AssemblyReference>
27      ...
28      <AssemblyReference>UiPath.System.Activities</AssemblyReference>
29      <AssemblyReference>UiPath.UIAutomation.Activities</AssemblyReference>
30      <AssemblyReference>System.Data.DataSetExtensions</AssemblyReference>
31      <AssemblyReference>sapnco</AssemblyReference>
32      <AssemblyReference>sapnco_utils</AssemblyReference>
33    </sco:Collection>
34  </TextExpression.ReferencesForImplementation>
```

It is necessary to create two dummy variables, one with a type from the library sapnco and one with a type from the library sapnco_utils.

Name	Variable type	Scope	Default
variable1	SAPConnectorInfo	Sequence	Enter a VB expression
variable2	SapLogonIniConfiguration	Sequence	Enter a VB expression

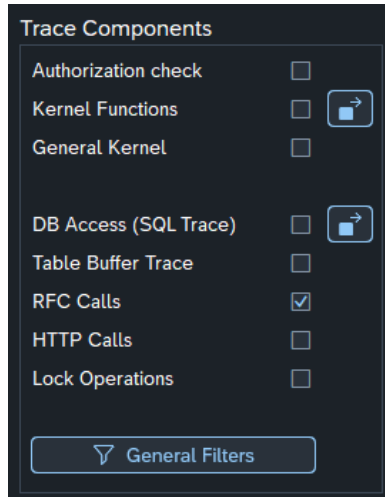
Create Variable

Now you can use SAP NCo in your code activity.

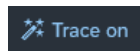


Using System Trace to Monitor RFC Activities

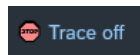
To record the internal SAP activities, it is possible to use the System Trace with the TAC ST01. You can record e.g. authorization, SQL and RFC activities. What should be monitored can be selected easily.



Activate the trace with the Trace on button in the toolbar.



Execute your RFC activities, e.g. call a function with the BAPI activity. After this has been done, the trace can be deactivated again with the Trace off button.



Now press the button Analysis to see the recorded activities.



Choose in the upcoming selection screen what you want to see in detail and start the Reporting.



In the Trace Display you can find now in detail all RFC activities. It becomes visible which RFM was called by which external program.

```
Client: 001 User: BCUSER Transaction: Trans ID: CE00A0EBDD11F17DB82900C29ADD3ED
Start: 18.04.2021 06:44:49,281474 Finish: 18.04.2021 06:44:49,795465 No. of Records: 4 File Version: 2
EPP Full Context ID: EPP Connection ID: EPP Call Counter: 0
Block Version: 4.764 First Block of Dialog Step Last Block in Dialog Step
Work Process: 4 Process ID: 1.668
```

hh:mm:ss.ms	Type	Lasts(us)	Object	Text
06:44:49,283	RFC	1522	RFCPING	Server : Prog: SAPLSYST Row: 197
06:44:49,283	RFC	1522	C:\Users\root\Ap	Server Destination: Prog: C:\Users\root\AppData\Local\UiPath\app-21

With a double click in one line you can display even more details. What is the name of the caller, which ABAP program is executed, how much time was needed etc.

With the system trace you can track very precisely which RFMs are called. To see even more details the SQL trace can be added. Then all used tables and SQL clauses can be seen.



List of Interesting Transaction Codes

Transaction Code	Description
SE16 / SE16N	Data Browser to view tables
SE37	Function Builder to execute function modules
SA38 / SE38	ABAP Editor to execute programs
SE84	Repository Information System
SE80	ABAP Workbench
BAPI	BAPI Explorer
SU53	Display Authorization Data
ST01	System Trace to monitor RFC, SQL and other activities
ST05	Display performance trace
SM50	Process overview
SM66	Global process overview
SM37	Job overview
SM04	User list
SLG1	Application Log
SM21	System Log
ST22	ABAP Runtime Error

List of Interesting Tables

Table	Description
TSTC	SAP Transaction Codes
TSTCT	Transaction Code Texts
TFDIR	Function Modules
TFTIT	Function Modules Texts
FUPARAREF	Parameters of Function Modules
TADIR	Directory of Repository Objects
DD02L	SAP Tables
DD02T	SAP Table Texts
DD03L	Table Fields
DD03T	Table Fields Texts
CVERS	Release Status of Software Components in System
PAT03	Patch Directory
RFCDES	Destination table for Remote Function Call
REPOSRC	Report Source Code



List of Interesting RFMs

RFM	Description
RFC_PING	Pings an SAP systems
RFC_SYSTEM_INFO	Delivers different information about the SAP system
RFC_READ_TABLE	External access to SAP tables to read the content
GET_SYSTEM_NUMBER	Delivers double digit instance number
GET_SYSTEM_NAME	Delivers the system ID (SID)
RFC_CLIENT_INFO	Find information on RFC client (Server Function)
RFC_LOGIN_INFO	Returns system information
RFC_ABAP_INSTALL_AND_RUN	Installation and execution of an ABAP program

List of Interesting Programs

Program	Description
RSPARAM	Displays all profile parameter
RSRFCCHK	RFC destinations with logon data
RS_ABAP_SOURCE_SCAN	Source scan ABAP report



Conclusion

These approaches to use RFM, BAPI and ABAP with UiPath offers a wide range of possibilities to execute functions or programs in an SAP back-end system. That allows a very high degree of integration. With the BAPI activity, the functions of the business objects can be used. With the NCo activity, which allows to use RFMs, all remote functions can be used. And the ABAPRunner activity offers the possibility to use ABAP code seamlessly in development and quality assurance systems. This allows SAP automation on a technical level via RFC calls to be easily implemented, for many use cases with high performance.

List of References

No.	Title	Reference
1	SAP .NET Connector 3.0 Overview	Link
2	SAP .NET Connector 3.0 Programming Guide	Link
3	SAP .NET Connector 3.0 Tutorial	Download link
4	Tutorials on SAP, C# and more	Link
5	How to Patch UiPath.SAP.BAPI to use it without additional SAP NCo installation	Link

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