

Forms Lifecycle Manager TM



Build business solutions around SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe better and cheaper with Forms Lifecycle Manager™ (FLM).

ARCH FLM FEATURES

Supports the creation & management of interactive forms and e-documents.

Centralises key form services into the SAP IMG.

Facilitates multi-language and multi-version templates with concurrency.

Centrally manages large inventories of forms and their workflows.

Simplifies data posting effort at design and runtime.

ARCH FLM BENEFITS

Reduces the need for specialist skills in implementation, together with implementation time and risk.

Businesses can easily adapt form templates and logic to changing business requirements.

Easily integrate on- and off-line form scenarios into existing business processes.

Allows you to concentrate your efforts on forms & solution design.

Introduction

Implementing SAP Interactive Forms by Adobe typically requires in-depth and specialist technical expertise in the areas of Netweaver integration and Web Dynpro development. The FLM toolset changes the nature of building business solutions around these technologies from being a major technical challenge to being an exercise in design and imagination as to how best exploit the power of PDF in your business.

FLM allows ABAP trained professionals to set up the system and work with users on forms design so that implementations can be delivered better and cheaper. Maximum use of graphical design tools and wizards for code generation guarantee a robust code base and a supportable solution.

But FLM is more than an acceleration tool. The framework supplies numerous out-of-the-box features that otherwise could require very significant amounts of bespoke development. For example client-side and server-side digital signature handling, form audit trails and attachment handling, as well as indexing for simple form reporting.

FLM Forms are integrated as standard into on-line, off-line and mobile business processes whilst being managed and controlled centrally.

Functions and Benefits

a. Implementation

FLM makes implementing and maintaining SAP Interactive Forms an option to many organisations that previously may have been deterred by the need for a deep skill base in Web Dynpro and other Netweaver Technologies. FLM users work through an extension to the SAP IMG to create and integrate forms with their SAP systems. Clear and structured user exits are generated for any bespoke business logic that allow ABAP-trained resources to complete an implementation more quickly and with less risk than with any bespoke solution. Pre-built adaptors mean that data updates into SAP systems or non-SAP systems is quick and reliable.

b. Benefits in use

FLM centralises into R/3 ABAP many of the services that modern interactive forms require, thus delivering not only a reduced maintenance cost but also the ability to quickly adapt live forms as business needs change. The product delivers a structured environment for the management of forms such that even large form catalogues can be created and deployed with minimal overhead of administration. Finally, FLM includes a standard development toolkit so that customers can easily include the form integration capabilities to non-SAP systems by creating their own adaptors.

c. On-going Maintenance and implementation support

FLM is a software product maintained by Arch from the UK and backed by a programme of development and support services. Product updates and bug fixing support are offered at no charge to contractually maintained customers. Arch offers training in FLM and Consultancy support both directly to clients and through its partners. The latest list of FLM implementation partners can be found on our website www.arch.co.uk/flm/partners.

FLM Components

FLM ships with seven key components to support large catalogues of forms and e-documents:

The **Forms Dashboard** allows forms to be managed centrally, with their statuses and usages shown on a single screen. From the Dashboard the administrator can centrally manage forms that are stalled or that need to be revoked for operational reasons. The **Online Form Portal** enables users to launch and submit new online forms, work with draft forms, access key reports and access their worklist of escalated forms.

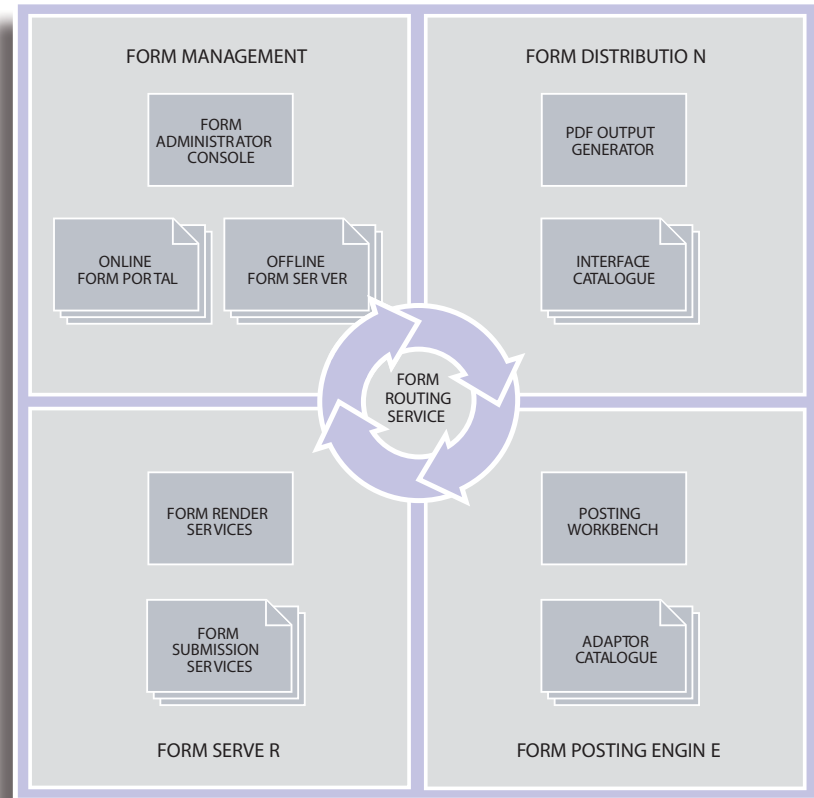
The **Offline Form Server** component enables mass distribution of forms by e-mail, and handles the returned messages through an inbound queue.

The **Mobile Portal** is optional component that integrates FLM-managed Adobe forms via SAP-MI technology with mobile devices.

The **Form Server** is the engine at the heart of FLM. It provides data transport to and from the form template and manages the process of invoking any custom business logic held in the FLM user-exits. In addition, the Form Server is responsible for the application of digital signatures, attachment handling and routing the form around and outside the organisation.

The **Form Posting Engine** and its adaptors handle the update of form data to other SAP and non-SAP repositories. This component provides system administrators with consistent and simplified management screens for all forms deployed in the organisation. Any form posting errors are reported centrally. Restart and record-locking capabilities are included as standard.

The **Reminder and Escalation System** sends out timely e-mails to form users to urge them to process their worklist of forms, or can also escalate a form to a different user in the event that a form is not processed in time.



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System Requirements

An SAP Netweaver Java and ABAP WebAS, with Adobe Document Services installed, is required at basis release 700 or higher.

