



SharePoint – New Business Data List Connector for External Lists in MOSS 2007 and WSS 3.0

Layer2, the SharePoint Experts from Hamburg (Germany) announced a new Microsoft SharePoint extension to unlock the value of enterprise data for SharePoint 2007 based portals. The Business Data List Connector (BDLC) for SharePoint directly connects SharePoint lists with external LOB data sources. Almost any data from databases, Office or even text data can be displayed in SharePoint lists without any programming. Workflows can be used to start business actions in SharePoint, if external data records are changed.

Hamburg, 2009-11-03 – Microsoft SharePoint technology is increasingly used in SMBs and larger companies as a business collaboration platform for the enterprise and the web, to connect and empower people, to cut costs with a unified infrastructure and rapidly response to business needs. The free Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 or – depending on requirements – the Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 are used to implement business solutions for collaboration, document management, enterprise content and records management, business intelligence, forms service and company-wide search. The fast, easy and complete integration of external LOB data, e.g. from databases or Office files, is a common requirement in the use of Microsoft SharePoint technology. While traditional legacy applications often lack in user experience, existing data integration solutions for SharePoint - such as the Business Data Catalog (BDC) - are often complex at the facility, require additional tools, bring with them limitations or they are available for certain SharePoint editions only.

Connect business data to MOSS and WSS lists without any programming or tools

The Business Data List Connector (BDLC) offers a "SharePoint External List" by connecting a real SharePoint list (no Web Part) to external business back-end data, using a very simple web-based list settings dialogue. No



programming or additional tools are required. The BDLC can be configured easily with a few simple list settings only directly in the browser. The desired data can be populated to the list and presented with the familiar UI and navigation features of common SharePoint lists made available: Views, sorting and grouping, filters, calculated fields. Lookup features can be created as usual for presentation of and interaction with external data in SharePoint lists. The Business Data List Connector extends the SharePoint collaboration and search capabilities as well as the Office user experience to include external business data and the processes that are associated with that data.

Start workflows in SharePoint to take business actions if external LOB data changes

The list data can be updated manually or automatically in background, using a timer service. List workflows and notifications per RSS or email can be used out-of-the-box, to take business actions in SharePoint, if external LOB data records are changed. For example the Business Data List Connector can be used to implement a sales dashboard application, which empowers end users to gain insight into the underlying data in a reusable way, e.g. with aggregations and transformations and quickly being notified in case of changes.

Download and evaluate the SharePoint Business Data List Connector today

The new SharePoint add-on comes with a robust installer to allow it to be easily deployed within any SharePoint environment, including farms. It currently is available for SharePoint starting with WSS 3.0 and MOSS 2007. You can download it directly on the vendor's product pages at www.layer2.de/en/products. A completely free to use shareware version is also available.



FREE to use for SharePoint User Groups (SPUG)

All components offered by Layer2 are completely FREE to use within a registered SharePoint User Group web site (back-link and logo required).

Cost-free partner program for implementers and affiliates

A cost-free partner program was launched to support companies that are interested to sell and implement Layer2 products around the world. Registered affiliates can market Layer2 products by placing links on their web sites to the relevant product pages of the Layer2 web shop on www.share-it.com. They will receive a 20% commission for each sale of these products via their web site. Additionally implementers receive qualified leads to make use of Layer2 solutions in their own projects. Please register and join today!

You will find further information and press releases about Layer2 at: <http://www.layer2.de/en/> (press section). Voucher copy kindly requested.

Keywords: SharePoint, external data, SQL, database, list, integration, Business Data Catalog, BDC, Business Connectivity Services, BCS, External List, MOSS, WSS, 2007, 2010, Microsoft

About Layer2:

Layer 2 GmbH is a specialist for creating custom components and solutions for Microsoft SharePoint Products and Technologies. Based in Germany, Layer2 offers products and solutions that add additional features to portals based on Microsoft SharePoint technology, e.g. Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS), Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010 or the free Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 / 4.0 (WSS). The products – SharePoint web parts, features and solutions - are completely based on the Microsoft .NET Framework and especially designed to run on top of SharePoint technology and to integrate fluently into the SharePoint user interface. The solutions are sold directly to end-customers or distributed via a worldwide fast growing partner network of resellers and implementers.

For almost 20 years Layer2 has been known as a reliable partner to customers in Central Europe, offering additional consulting and services in the fields of SharePoint, .NET-programming and IT-



Infrastructure. As a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, Layer2 offers a broad variety of deep technical knowledge as well as a focus on end users and customers.

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