

Siamease⁵

SAP TRANSACTION ASSISTANT



SIAMEASE 5 TURNPAPER 2012

THE PRODUCT

INTRODUCTION

SIAMEASE⁵™ - An assistant to SAP transactions - automating data capture into the transaction via the GUI frontend. Executed and integrated as a SAP transaction code within SAP, Siamease manages the transaction and provides comprehensive data management and audit control. Mostly Siamease assists the Business Analyst supporting the functional SAP application module providing focus on the business process and the tasks at hand without technical complexity nor requiring a different skillset for the job at hand. Geared towards the tasks that Support and Implementation Teams perform, Siamease makes loading and maintaining data in SAP very easy and is a natural extension of SAP to all members of your team.

This document outlines in detail the benefits of using Siamease and why it is critical to your SAP Implementation.

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KEY FEATURES

TRANSACTION ASSISTANT

Siamease has several components for different facets of the migration process. A TASK BUILDER for transactions, a SCRIPT BUILDER for business processes.

A task represents a single transaction of which Siamease is highly capable of automating even the most complex of transactions. Including migration of Configuration, Master Data and especially suited to Transaction data. Complex data can be broken down to logical steps. Siamease can manage the data for each step and ensure the process flows correctly.

Siamease handles a variety of transaction data demands. Some transactions capture a single row of data per transaction; others capture multiple rows of data per transaction. Siamease even handles transactions where screens vary based on your data. Tasks can be merged to create composite tasks. Each task represents a unique business scenario. Merging scenarios provides a single migration task that is capable of managing complex screens.

Scripts - chains multiple tasks together. Data generated by a task is saved and reused as mapping data or capture data in subsequent tasks. Results can also be tested for accuracy against predefined outcomes. Scripting also allows complete business processes to be automated with scenario data; facilitating integration-testing across applications.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Data in SAP is complex, as is needed to manage the data demands of modern business. Complexity often equates to technicality but with Siamease complex processes are simplified to smaller manageable tasks. This allows the Analyst to focus on sub-tasks but still has the tools to manage the full complexity of the business process at hand. Siamease manages both the business process and the data within that process. Data from one task can be used in subsequent tasks and input and output data is auditable.

Data can be stored in Siamease. This allows data to be converted, validated and audited without stopping the process. The Siamease conversion layer can check data and enhance data with intuitive and simple user functionality. For instance the validation layer can attempt to auto-correct data that is incorrect for the transaction. A simple example of this is where a code with leading zeros is captured, but leading zeroes have accidentally been dropped. Where more complex conversions are required, a built in function builder allows user driven functions to be coded and assigned to fields in the data capture process. This allows an injection of ABAP into the process without changing any ABAP program.

PERFORMANCE

Siamease is an automation over the SAP transaction. This ensures that all transaction validations are applied. It also means that validation errors can be addressed in the SAP transaction and not at a technical level. Postings to SAP are status managed with errors and successes tracked, allowing a user to reprocess all or specific errors. Traditionally posting via the SAP transaction is seen as slow. Siamease posts bulk data using multi-thread technology, simplistically, behaving as if a number of users are capturing data. This makes it 4 to 5 times faster than normal screen automation tools. This is transparent to the user as real-time results are consolidated providing a single view of the migration. Even complete business processes can be executed this way and when executed in a controlled loop it provides a realistic stress test for Basis.

APPLICATION OF THE PRODUCT

DATA MIGRATION

Siamease is an advanced Data migration tool. It manages the transaction capture process, the data and the results of the migration. As a transaction assistant it automates the SAP transaction to the analyst's requirements. Errors and deviations from the norm are managed within the SAP transaction and not at a technical level. This allows the analyst to understand and deal with the errors without having to learn another tool or skillset.

Siamease is capable of managing the data migration process. Complex processes can be simplified to smaller tasks and these are combined into a script. Data generated by the SAP transaction can be audited and reused in subsequent steps. For instance, an initial step may be to create Sales Orders. Thereafter some sales orders may require delivery. The Sales order numbers can easily be transferred from the 1st step into the 2nd step, even at a later stage.

TEST TOOL

As a transaction assistant, Siamease not only lends itself to Data migration, but testing as well. Scenario data can be saved into Siamease. Along with the business process automation, Siamease can then capture complex transaction flows and test that the outcome is as expected with auditable results. Once established that the transaction is indeed working as expected the test can be replicated to simulate a number of users logging on to perform a basis Stress Test. The key advantage is that once the test data has been stored and the business process identified, Siamease can be executed by anyone on the team to perform complex integration and unit testing.

TRAINING

As with testing, Siamease can store training data that can prepare data for training classes. With this the Trainer can stop a business process at a point and train from that point onwards.

INTERFACING

Interfacing is usually seen as a technical task. Siamease simplifies interfacing into SAP by allowing the analyst to define how data is captured into a SAP transaction. Although non-technical, Siamease generates ABAP code that is easily called or embedded into other ABAP programs. Each Siamease task that is created is automatically interface ready and can be called by Interfaces, User exits and standard transactions. This allows standard processes to be extended by the analyst supporting the process.

TRANSACTION ASSISTANT

Siamease tasks can be flagged as Assistant Tasks. These tasks are then accessible directly from the SAP Transaction. A suite of tailored tasks can be defined for your users to assist them with complex or laborious routine capture. Exercises such as posting journals, goods movement or even routine authorization tasks can be automated via the *Siamease Transaction Assistant*.

DIFFERENTIATORS

EASY OF USE

Many products say this, but Siamease is geared towards non-technical analysts. With single click options to create, setup and deploy solutions.

Data upload, for instance, can be done via the windows clipboard. Data can be prepared in a spreadsheet, highlighted and Siamease will load the data without further preparation. Spreadsheet templates are a single click away and spreadsheet data can be just as easily stored in Siamease as Scenario data for subsequent loading or for repetitive loading.

USER DRIVEN

Siamease is designed with the analyst in mind. The skillset to run Siamease is really the SAP transaction being automated. This is critical as many tools and products require lengthy training or a specialist consultant to assist. Siamease is often driven by non IT staff members.

COMPREHENSIVE

Siamease does not just automate a transaction in a simple way. It is capable of capturing different screens in different ways within a transaction. It is capable of capturing multi row transactions that could capture hundreds of line items to a transaction e.g. Goods Movement, Financial Journals etc.

PROCESS ORIENTED

Siamease not only manages a transaction, but the entire business process. Data is managed within the process as well as results from the process.

EMBEDDED SOLUTIONS

Siamease runs in SAP. It can be called from other ABAP programs, integrated into User Exits, Interfaces, Dashboards and even assists directly from the SAP transaction.

SCENARIO DRIVEN

Siamease has a focus on business scenarios within the capture process as well as scenario data. Altogether this provides you with a tool that is capable of managing the simple tasks and complex processes.

FLEXIBLE

Functionality rich and offers users the ability to perform mass data maintenance. This is especially useful for keeping master and transaction data in sync with business changes. The ability for a computer system to adapt allows the business to take advantage of business events when they occur without restricting or delaying the business.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Siamease provides a benefit from the first day and is not restricted to any phase in the project. As time progresses the use of Siamease widens and the cost effectiveness of the product increases. Being an intelligent tool between the functional team and the technical team, Siamease allows both teams to operate at their own pace and reduces the delays that one team may have on another. The development time is extremely quick and hence data migration activities can be defined up to the last minute.

METHODOLOGY APPROACH

THE APPROACH

Traditional methods see Data migration as a technical project. Siamease hands the reigns to the function team with technical assistance. This is a critical difference in the approach since it is only the functional team, configuring SAP, that understand not only the legacy system but the vision going forward in SAP. They also own the process for capturing data into the SAP system. It is also critical that the analyst in each business area has full control over their portion of the project. Siamease fits perfectly into this mind set allowing them to build their migration when they are ready, eliminating the need to document and train a technical team on the migration requirements.

DATA PREPARATION

As soon as a SAP transaction is ready for capture, Siamease can automate the transaction. The analyst captures an example of the transaction and using this Siamease builds a template spreadsheet that documents the transaction data requirements for the business. The template can be altered and enriched. Data can be prepared in any medium as long as the fields are in the correct order. The simplest is to populate a spreadsheet then copy the data into the windows clipboard. Siamease then imports this data directly from the clipboard and can either capture the data or can save it for processing at a later stage.

RULE BASED

Siamease automatically validates input data. It also allows data to be converted and mapped according to data rules. Siamease can capture the SAP transaction differently based on these rules. So where a transaction has diverse fields for different business scenarios the data preparation and data capture are clearly documented and visible with Siamease.

AUDIT AND MAPPING

As data is posted into SAP, input and output data for the transaction can be saved into a results folder. These results are used for audit purposes as well as subsequent data capture. For instance, the first transaction might create a customer master with a new SAP customer number. Siamease can store the legacy customer along with the SAP customer number into a result set. Subsequent data loads need only refer to the legacy code and Siamease will map the legacy code to the SAP code. Eliminating the need to manually download and map subsequent data before loading. Where the mapping is more complicated, simple functions calling ABAP routines can be developed and assigned to the task at hand. Since data mapping is done in SAP, the data can be fully prepared and signed off before the data migration starts. Traditional methods often see the process halt midway for mapping and signoff.

PROCESS ORIENTED

As soon as a process flow emerges, the Siamease Script builder can be used to build the process flow. Siamease scripting identifies the transactions in the process, the input and output data requirements and any test rules required for audit.

DATA ADMINISTRATION

Scripting also allows complex processes to be executed and managed. It also serves to document the process and provides a central view of a process. This allows a central data administrator to monitor and control the data migration project. Siamease even provides project tools and status management on each task. If a Data Administrator is involved then functional teams can build their own portion of the process and allow the administrator to co-ordinate the data collection from the business.

ADVANTAGES

- Ease of Use. Data and transaction capture process are completely transparent to user.
- Less Technical bottlenecks as whole team participates in Data migration Activities.
- Frees Development team to focus on mission critical developments
- Time Saving
- Single tool for Migration, testing and interfacing.
- Easy data preparation and deployment.
- Operates within SAP, integrated as a layer over standard transactions. No SAP standard programs or processes are modified, merely assisted.

DISADVANTAGES TO STANDARD TECHNIQUES

- Dedicated technical resources required to manage all migration efforts.
- Complex tools with complex data preparation.
- Time consuming mapping exercises involved before and during migration process.
- Validations are often developed as external to the process.
- Expensive effort involved to test a small batch is the same effort for large batches.
- Resistance is met when trying to justify small migration.

CLIENTELE

CLIENT LIST

"Our clients realize that the solutions implemented today must be effective immediately and must sustain the business tomorrow. - They chose Siamease! "

<p>electronics</p> <p>NVIDIA CONLOG</p> <p>financial</p> <p>NEDBANK BOE UNITED BANK OF AFRICA</p> <p>medical</p> <p>SANBS (blood transfusion)</p> <p>construction and sugar</p> <p>CSR</p> <p>gaming</p> <p>GOLD CIRCLE</p> <p>textile</p> <p>MOOI RIVER TEXTILES GELVENOR PUMA</p> <p>tobacco</p> <p>B.A.T. (British American Tobacco AUS)</p> <p>sap</p> <p>SAP AUSTRALIA Connect n Go</p>	<p>food services</p> <p>BURGER KING</p> <p>IT services</p> <p>PEAK CONSULTING</p> <p>media</p> <p>NATION NEWSPAPER</p> <p>Steel</p> <p>HADEED (Saudi Arabia)</p> <p>fmcg</p> <p>UNILEVER OLA UNIFOODS AMKA ROBERTSONS</p> <p>chemical</p> <p>BORREGAARD (Norway)</p> <p>mining</p> <p>CAPRAL BHP ALUSAF (Hillside and Bayside)</p> <p>petrochemical</p> <p>CALTEX ENGEN</p>	
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COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

nVIDIA
USA



"...When asked about successes in our implementation methodology, Siamease was placed at the top of the list. Allowing our staff to operate autonomously, saved us the cost of an additional employee. ..."

CSR
Australia



"...Our company is always taking advantage of new business and this is apparent in our product offering. Siamease has been used over the last 6 years to help us keep our master data in line with real world business changes. Using Siamease we automate end to end business process testing reducing our upgrade risk..."

ROBERTSONS
South Africa



"...Our implementation was primarily configured and driven by SAP Africa. We felt that Siamease had a stronger fit with the consultants and our staff than the standard tools..."

NEDBANK
South Africa



"...As a Corporate Bank we require a tool to be flexible enough to deal with legislative changes imposed in the financial industry. The financial applications used in Banking require a high skill level. Our SAP IT team has used Siamease with confidence for 10 years. Besides our interfaces and migrations, Siamease is used almost daily to roll out simplified solutions to intricate financial processes..."

CONLOG
South Africa



"...Siamease is an extension of our non IT users. We prototype in QA, Siamease allows us to make radical changes to our Bills of Material and Material masters to test our prototype..."

UNITED BANK OF AFRICA
Nigeria



"...When we implemented SAP there was not an abundance of SAP skill in Nigeria. We had a tight skilled implementation team and were able to achieve our goals with Siamease using our own resources..."

NATION NEWSPAPER
Kenya



"...As a primary Newspaper in Kenya we have extremely high demands on delivering our business within a 24 hour window. We were equally impressed when 2 South African Consultants migrated all our data in 2 days using Siamease..."

SAP AUSTRALIA
Australia



"...We were building a new initiative in SAP called CONNECT 'n GO whereby a potential customer could log onto a web based system, answer a series of questions and we would configure a SAP system from these answers. We found that Siamease worked intuitively with our product development and direction allowing us to prototype and test..."

LICENSING

LICENSING

Siamease License is per Development Server. As solutions are developed in a Development environment, Siamease creates transport requests that are migrated to QA and Production. Siamease tasks contain ABAP code in the customer's namespace (Z) and hence can be freely changed, used and enhanced.

TRIAL

We offer Siamease on a trial basis. Implementation of the trial is via a transport request into the SAP Development environment. The first run of Siamease prompts for an activation key that we supply. This activation key enables Siamease for an agreed time period. The trial is a full version of Siamease not crippled version.

Try it out and see why so many people still use Siamease years after their implementation has gone live.

COST

The cost of a consultant for a month. If you are considering your IT strategy you should be considering Siamease. Its impact on the project extends far beyond your data migration project.

SUPPORT

We do charge a support maintenance cost of 14% of List Price. This ensures that you receive bug fixes, upgrades and online support.

TRAINING

Beginner training is included in the price, but advanced workshop training carries a discretionary cost. Online Training material is available as well as video examples of each facet of Siamease.

SUPPORT

Support is typically done via the internet. We have online training material and forums where questions can be asked and answered. Our latest support mechanism provides webcam, voice and screen-cam sharing. Visit www.sy-datum.com for more information.

CLOSING

Traditional data migration tools are technical and require previous-working-knowledge to be truly successful. Data formatting and mapping is a tedious and onerous task with time wasted learning functionality that is never reused after the project implementation. Valuable time is wasted documenting specifications and training technical staff to perform tasks that the analyst can do with ease - using Siamease. With Siamease, users and consultants have a clear understanding of their data and the process in which it will be loaded. As an assistant layer above the SAP Transaction Frontend, the investment into Siamease is not a distraction from SAP but a clear enrichment. The Siamease Transaction Assistant is a product that benefits from Data Migration to End User Support.



Siamease now in its 5th release has over 15 years history to adapt, enrich and progress. Our primary goal is always to provide simple yet effective functionality to the entire SAP team. With this focus on SAP functionality we know that Siamease should be the product of choice for every SAP implementation. Many of our customers agree, talk to them today, talk to us today.

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