Customer Connect @ App Connect

Kick Off our new Quarterly Newsletter

A big thanks to all our customers

This is the first of a regular newsletters that we will be posting each quarter. We want to thank all of you for your continued support of IBM Integration. We hope you find the information on our latest features and investments to be of value and look forward to sharing more with you in future updates.

In this first newsletter, we share some exciting news about a significant leap forward in simplifying how you build integration flows with Mapping Assist, a new Weather Company connector and recap our latest releases and fix packs.

Tony Curcio
Director, IBM Cloud Integration

A lot has happened!

Let's start with a quick recap of App Integration and all the great work that the IBM App Connect Product team have been doing.

For many years IBM Integration Bus has been the market leader in Enterprise Integration. Since we evolved the offering to IBM App Connect there have been several announcements and changes to the structure of the offering, here is a brief summary.

IBM App Connect Enterprise V11 is the same integration product you know and love today, however we have extended its capabilities and given you even greater deployment flexibility to support your digital transformation projects.

Along with your existing deployment patterns you can also choose to deploy your integrations in cloud-native microservices architecture, that ACE v11 supports natively.

We introduced a completely new award winning integration authoring experience called Designer that allows you to create integrations to the most popular SaaS Applications and integrate Cloud and On-premise together without having to write any code. Our pre-built smart connectors make it incredibly easy to connect and integrate the most popular SaaS applications.

All these capabilities are available as a Managed Service on IBM Cloud, and as a Certified Container which is available to run stand-alone or within Cloud Pak for Integration.

We have released several Fix packs that bring V11 functionality in-line with previous releases. A full list of fixes can be found here.

Quick Highlights

New IBM Cloud Pak for Integration release now GA

We have just released v1.0 of the IBM App Connect Operator. This is a major step forward from our previous offering which was based on helm technology. We now have a single operator that is able to create resources for both App Connect Enterprise customers (trial and production) as well as Cloud Pak for Integration.

Moving to an operator-based offering provides a consistent, easy to use interface for installing, creating and editing resources. It enables customers to use their standard Kubernetes tools to interface with the components, via the Kube API, with all the App Connect resources acting just like the built-in, native Kubernetes objects.

For more details on Operator support, refer to the link here.

CP4i 2020.2.1 Highlights

- Based on ACE v11.0.0.9
- First release of our AI-driven Mapping Assist capability
- A unified 'create experience' in the UI for management of Integration Servers and Designer instances
- A new UI-based experience for configuration management when creating Integration Servers
- 19 new connectors (including Callable Flow) running locally within the Cloud Pak. See full list here
- The ability to view test-flow results in the UI console
- Performance improvements for Designer flows running in the Cloud Pak
- Enablement of the Siemens-Maximo use-cases
- Support for Red Hat Openshift Container Platform v4.4
- Added Support for Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform 4.3, and Red Hat OpenShift Kubernetes Services in the cloud. This release also adds support for Red Hat OpenShift Container Storage.

Link to announcement details:

Weather Company – Availability of a new Weather Connector in IBM App Connect

IBM Weather Company Data enables users to gain accurate insights and make informed decisions based on weather forecasts.

The new Weather Connector in IBM App Connect provides users with point-and-click access to this Weather Company data.

Together, these capabilities simplify the integration of weather intelligence into core enterprise applications to increase business resiliency. Customer Relationship Management, Supply Chain Management, Enterprise Asset Management and Business Insights applications can now more easily access Weather Company Data and leverage IBM Cloud Pak for Integration connectivity and event flow services to react to weather in real-time.

We encourage you to take advantage of this new capability to make your business more weather resilient. To get started, request your weather data access key here.

You can learn more by exploring an example scenario where the Weather Connector is used in this blog.

Mapping Assist

IBM App Connect now includes AI-powered Mapping Assist to automatically provide users with smart, customized data mapping suggestions at the point of building integrations.

Mapping Assist's algorithm is pre-trained and curated to provide suggestions not just on flat structures but also on complex nested mapping fields. This dramatically accelerates the speed of development, shortens time to value, and improves the overall user experience.

IBM App Connect Mapping Assist is available in IBM Cloud Pak for Integration 2020.2.1 and IBM App Connect Enterprise for Certified Containers.

To learn more about Mapping Assist, visit the "How To" blog here.

App Connect Enterprise

IBM App Connect Enterprise v11.0.0.10 is the tenth fix pack released for App Connect Enterprise software. We provide regular fix packs, approximately once per quarter, which we intend to continue throughout the year. Fix packs provide both regular maintenance for the product, and also new functional content. This blog summarizes all the latest and greatest capabilities:

- A new Welcome!
- A new Administration Log in the Web UI and to file for audit purposes
- Enhanced protection against excessive authentication requests
- ODM message flow node dynamic responses to rule changes
- ACE and IBM MQ Uniform Clusters
- Support for using IBM MQ replicated data queue managers (RDQM) for ACE High Availability
- Kafka - wait for message offset commit on Kafka Consumer
- New Data Studio drivers for graphical data mapper DB2 database discovery
- Dynamic HTTP URL Redirection

To learn in more detail – here is a link to update details: ACE blog

Healthcare Pack v5.0.0.1 GA

IBM App Connect for Healthcare V5.0 is an add-on to App Connect Enterprise V11.0 that provides clinical application integration among healthcare systems. This offering builds on the functions offered by App Connect Enterprise, adding content to provide faster integration among a range of clinical systems. These include HL7-based and FHIR-based clinical applications, electronic medical systems, medical imaging systems, and PACS, both inside and outside the hospital.

V5.0.0.1 Released on 1st July Highlights:

- Custom Profiles with FHIR Validate node
- Custom profiles with FHIR Validation pattern, including OOTB support for common profiles
- Enhanced FHIR Generate Example Data pattern
- Improved mappings in HL7 to FHIR pattern
- Enhancements for DICOMInput node

To Learn more please read our blog, here

App Connect for Manufacturing v2.0.0.3 GA

App Connect for Manufacturing helps manufacturers sense, share, visualize, and explore the factory data across enterprise and mobile applications. It also helps manufacturing companies implement shop floor automation to comply with Industry 4.0 initiatives that are enabled by the Open Platform Communications Unified Architecture (OPC UA) interoperability standards.

v2.0.0.3 Released on 30th June Highlights:

- Support for adding multiple client items to the input node from the toolkit. This will help improve usability greatly, when a large number of items are to be added to the node.
- Read historical data for a node by specifying a longer date range. Use the Continuation Point to get next set of data from the next page till all the data is read.
- Validate the OPC Server Certificate before establishing connection with the server.

To Learn more please click, here

Useful Links

Knowledge Center
IBM App Connect
IBM App Connect Enterprise
IBM App Connect Professional

Blog
App Connect blog

Fix Packs
ACE V11 Release notes

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