



ReadSoft Service Bus 2-4

Product Description

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Overview

ReadSoft Service Bus is an integration platform that extends ReadSoft solutions by providing universal capabilities for integrating and customizing document-driven processes. ReadSoft Service Bus (RSB) adds high customer value to ReadSoft solutions and reduces solution implementation times for custom projects. It is service-orientated, expandable, facilitates easy integration and allows component reuse across multiple systems.

The platform components greatly reduce the work needed to integrate two or more systems and makes process automation easy and flexible. RSB acts as a bridge between systems. It is completely customizable and can be adapted to virtually any system. Typically, RSB handles documents and data between two or more systems. For example, RSB can accept data from INVOICES and transform the invoice information so it is ready for use by INVOICE COCKPIT.



Components

ReadSoft Service Bus is comprised of the following components:

- The **service bus** provides a foundation for integration between systems.
- **Connectors** interface between source and target systems and the service bus. Connectors are comprised of two or more **adapters**; typically one adapter for the source system and one adapter for the target system.
- **Plug-ins** are sometimes installed on source or target systems to enable or improve communication.
- The **Administration application** provides a user-friendly interface for configuring and tracking activities through the bus.
- A **software development kit (SDK)** provides a tool for developing new adapters for the bus.

The service bus

The service bus is the foundation of the platform and must be installed before you install any connectors, adapters or plug-ins. Besides facilitating communication between the systems, it is this portion of the solution that provides an interface for configuring RSB and document tracking.

Connectors

RSB uses connectors to join source and target systems. A connector contains adapters which describe systems, so RSB can send data between the systems in both directions. In other words, a connector enables communication between two systems. Connectors can contain different types of adapters:

- **System integration adapters** - The most common type of adapter. These are used to implement connections between different systems. A system integration adapter can, for example, receive data from a source system in a special format via a custom interface.
- **Workflow adapters** - Provide a special workflow for document transfer.
- **Functionality adapters** - Provide general functionality primarily for system configuration.

Adapters are customizable and often unique to a solution; however, there are several standard adapters for the following systems:

- Crossgate
- DOCUMENTS
- FORMS
- INVOICES
- INVOICE COCKPIT
- OB10
- Open Text
- PROCESS DIRECTOR
- SAP
- SharePoint

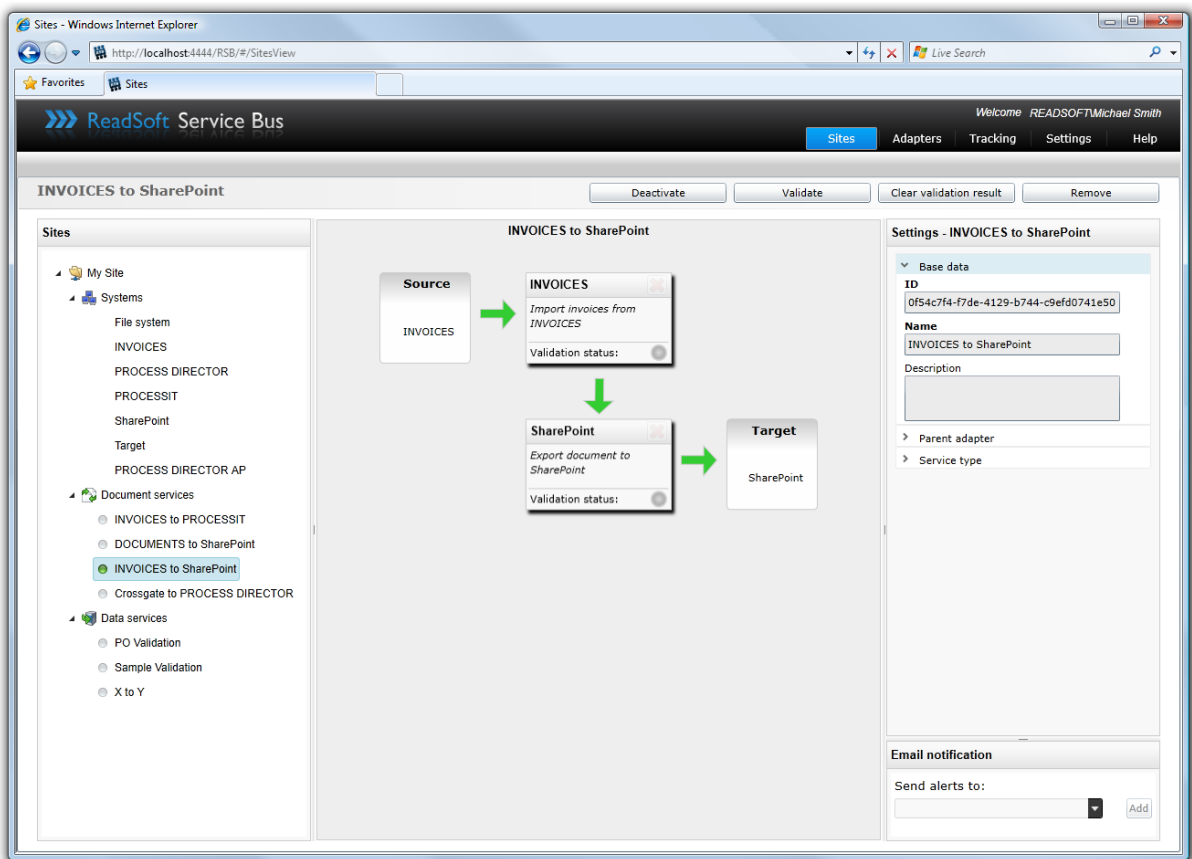
See Help for a complete list of available adapters.

Plug-ins

Some systems, such as INVOICES and DOCUMENTS, require plug-ins to enable communication with RSB. Typically, plug-ins are installed on administrative modules, such as INVOICES' Manager, and modules that send information, like INVOICES' Transfer.

Admin application

Tasks like solution configuration and data tracking are made easy using a web-based application. The administration application runs within a web browser and can be installed to run locally on one computer, or you can host it as a web page that can be accessed anywhere on your network.



SDK

While the bus provides a basic set of services, the actual customer value is delivered through adapters that solve specific customer requirements. Adapters must be easy to develop, and that is why a software development kit (SDK) is included in the platform.

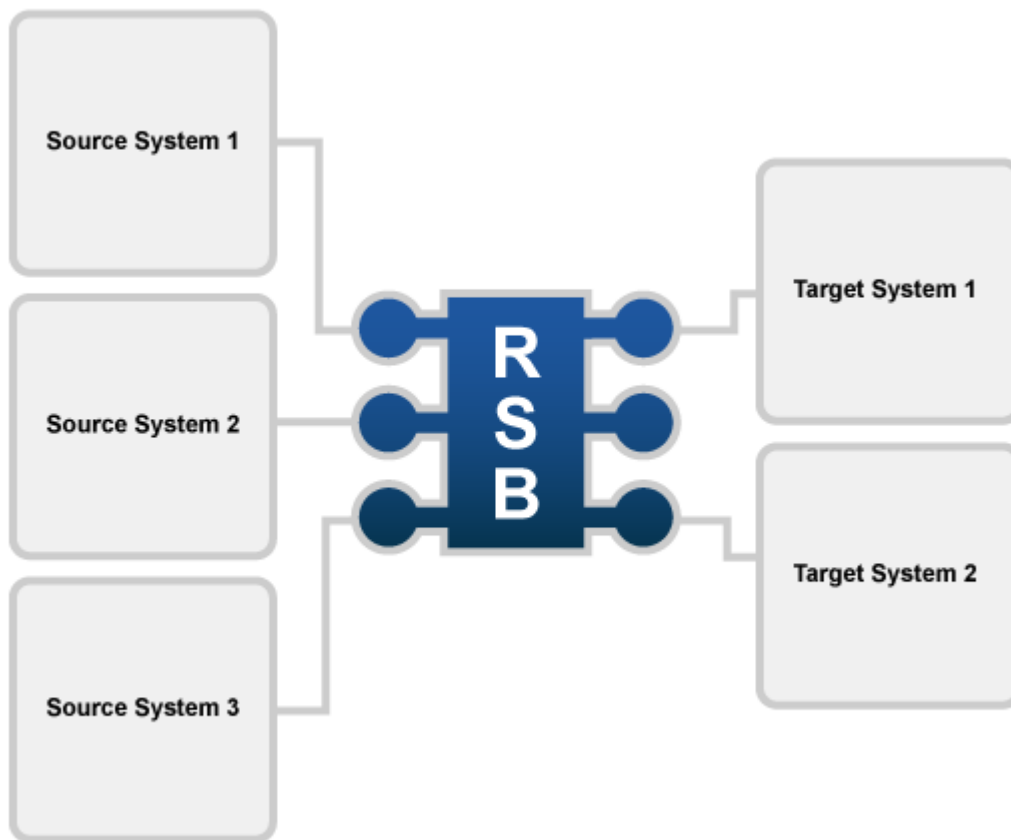
The SDK provides a platform for creating new adapters using the .NET framework. Currently the SDK is only available for the ReadSoft community.

Key concepts and features

ReadSoft Service Bus is a small, efficient component with many robust features that you expect in a full-size application.

Document services

RSB uses document services to define the flow of documents between source and target systems. You can easily define routes between systems using the administration page. Document services can be as simple as illustrated in the overview section above, or they can contain any number of source and target systems as illustrated below.

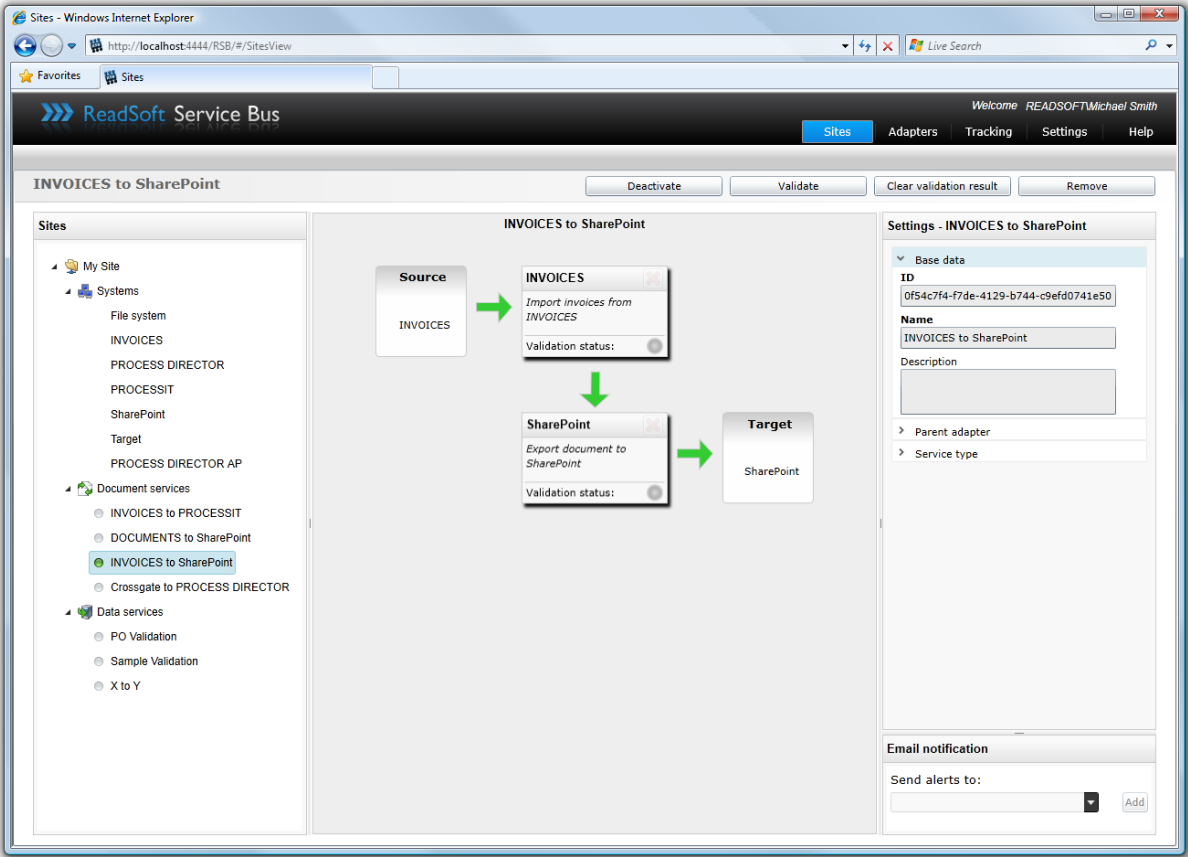


Data services

In addition to routing files and documents, RSB provides services for managing data between systems. For example, RSB can consume master data from a data provider, transform it, and send it to a data consumer.

Web-based configuration

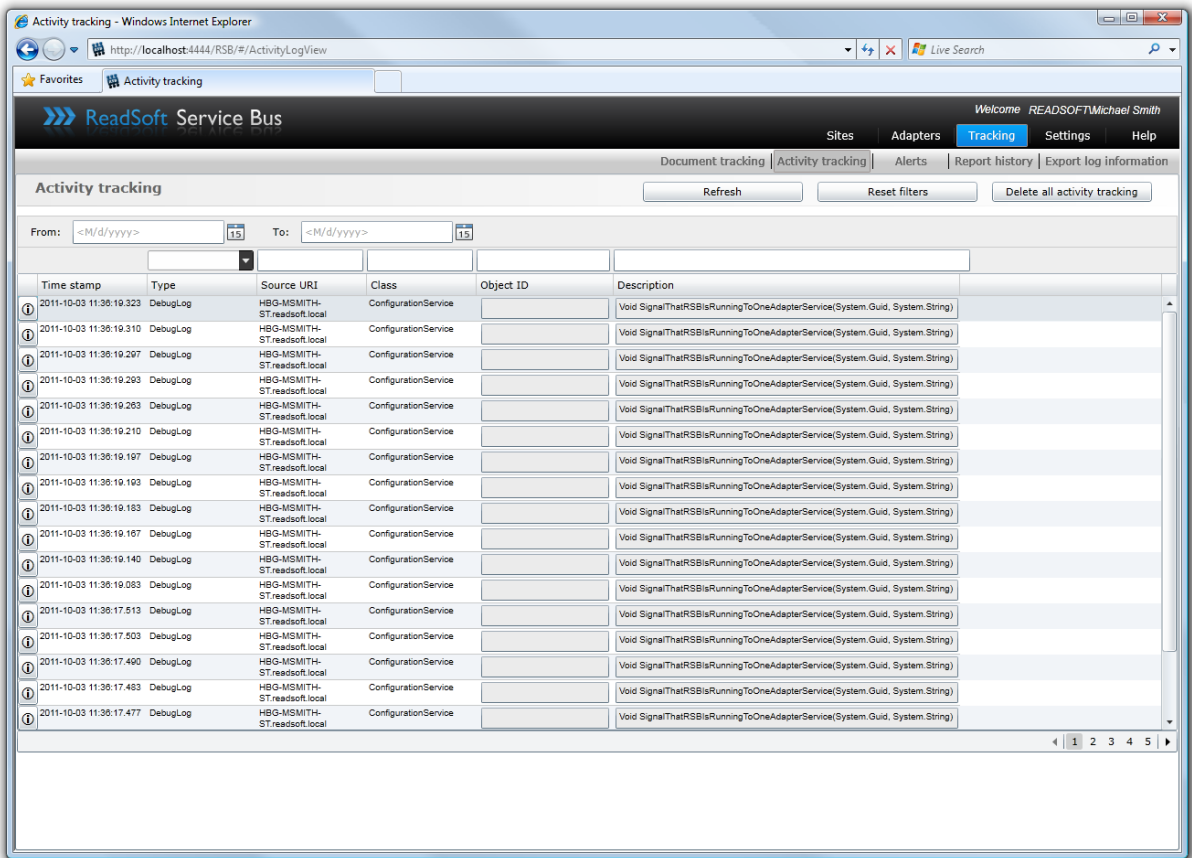
RSB can be configured easily via a webpage. Using a simple interface, you can define services, create activities, and specify settings for your system.




Tracking

RSB records audit trail information, and other activities, and provides several types of tracking:

- **Activity tracking** - Provides information on document status, including details like document type, the of various workflow events carried out on documents, and even field information. You can sort documents by route and other criteria.
- **Document tracking** - Provides information such as document type, source URI, class, Object ID, and description. You can search by date and sort information by other criteria.
- **Alerts** - Highlights problems in the system, such as connection errors, mapping problems, rejected documents, or processes that have timed out.



Alerts

When a problem occurs—such as connection errors, mapping problems, rejected documents—it is logged, appears on the **Alerts** tab in the web interface, and an email notification is sent to the address specified in the relevant route. An alert notification () also appears at the top of the Administration page, which takes you directly to the **Alerts** tab.

Each alert has a type and status. The type indicates the reason for the alert, and the status indicates to what degree the alert has been handled. You can use the web interface to investigate the details of the alert, so you can diagnose and fix the cause of the problem. You can also change the status of an alert, so you can keep track of pending issues.

Address book

RSB comes complete with an address book that lets you define email addresses for use when specifying alert recipients. When you add a new contact to the address book, you can specify a single email address, or you can create a group, by adding multiple email addresses separated by semicolons. This lets you handle issues more efficiently by sending alerts directly to people responsible for them.