Secure Network Communications (BC-SEC-SNC)

HELP.BCSECSNC

Release 4.6C

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Secure Network Communications (BC-SEC-SNC)

Secure Network Communications (BC-SEC-SNC)

Secure Network Communications (SNC)

Purpose

This component integrates an external security product with SAP Systems. With SNC, you strengthen the security of your SAP System by using additional security functions provided by an external product that are not directly available in SAP Systems.

SNC protects the data communication paths between the various components of the SAP System. There are well-known cryptographic algorithms that have been implemented by the various security products, and with SNC, you can apply these algorithms to your data for increased protection.

Implementation Considerations

There are regulations in various countries that restrict the use of encryption in software applications. Pay close attention to the regulations that apply to your area of application!

Features

The following are some of the advantages of using SNC in your applications:

- With SNC, you receive application-level, end-to-end security. All communication that takes place between two SNC-protected components is secured (for example, between the SAP GUI and an SAP System application server).
- You can use additional security features that the SAP System does not directly provide (for example Single Sign-On or the use of smart cards).
- You can change the security product at any time without affecting the SAP System business applications.

Constraints

The product that you use must meet the following requirements:

- The product must provide the entire functionality defined in the standard interface, the GSS-API V2 (Generic Security Services Application Programming Interface Version 2). SNC uses this interface to communicate with the external security product.
- The functions must be dynamically loadable.
- The product must be available on platforms supported by SAP.
- The product must be certified for use by SAP.

See SAPNet Note 66687 for more information on product certification and availability.

See also:

- *SNC User's Guide*: This guide provides a full description of how to use SNC with SAP Systems. You can find this guide in SAPNet at: http://sapnet.sap.com/systemmanagement → *Security* → *Secure Network Communications*
- SAPNet Note 66687: Use of network security products