INIT on unpermitted usage of ODP Data Replication APIs

On February 2nd, 2024, SAP updated the SAP Note 3255746 **to prohibit the use of ODP API for 3rd party applications**. This change may **impact your ability to ingest data from SAP via the INIT ODP Source Connector in the future**:

3255746 - ~~Supported~~ Unpermitted usage of ODP Data Replication APIs

Version	14	Type	SAP Note
Language	English	Master Language	English
Component	BC-BW-ODP (Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) and Delta Queue (ODQ))	Released On	~~1702.1002.2022~~2024

Symptom

The usage of RFC modules of the Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) Data Replication API by ~~customer-~~, or third-party ~~applications~~ applications to access SAP ABAP sources (On-Premise or Cloud Private Edition) is NOT ~~supported~~ permitted by SAP. These ~~functional~~ Such modules are only intended for SAP-internal applications ~~.~~ Since they are un-released and un-documented they can be ~~changed by SAP and~~ may be modified at any time by SAP without ~~further notice. Customer or partner applications using these functional modules do not follow SAPs recommendation for a sustainable and enterprise-critical architecture. Any~~ notice.

SAP reserves the right to implement technical measures to restrict and audit the unpermitted use of RFC modules of the Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) Data Replication API .

Any and all problems experienced or caused by ~~such applications~~ customer or third-party applications using RFC modules of the Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) Data Replication API are at the risk of the customer and ~~resolutions are not supported by SAP~~SAP is not responsible for resolving such problems.

Other Terms

ODQ, ABAP CDS, @Analytics.dataExtraction.enabled, extractor, DataSource, S-API

Solution

The Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) framework for data extraction and replication is exposed by an official and externally-available OData API. All customer and ~~partner~~ third-party applications should be ~~build~~ built using this API since it provides a stable interface (link ~~to~~ to documentation).

More information on Operational Data Provisioning (ODP) is available in the FAQ.

➢ While SAP Notes **are not legally binding**, SAP may eventually include these ODP limitations into client contracts.
➢ The implementation of measures to technically restrict the use of RFC would have a huge impact on the whole SAP ecosystem, as ODP is used widely within SAP itself.
➢ As other vendors base their products on ODP Extraction, we are currently waiting for the responses of the big companies affected. Products also using ODP amongst others are:
   o Azure DataFactory
   o Qlik Replicate
   o HVR/Fivetran
   o Google Cloud Data Fusion
   o SNP Glue
➢ SAPs intention with this - accommodated by SAPs current certification Strategy for 3rd party ETL-Tools - is to push SAP DataSphere, whether the customer wants it, or not.
➢ Ingestion tools that use **ODP via OData** (like INITs OData Connectors) are not affected, but are different in regards to capability and performance.

INIT sees this clearly as a risk, and we want to make this as transparent as possible to you. Unfortunately, since this note has been changed, there was no reaction from Microsoft or Google and also no further statements from SAP.

To mitigate this risk, INIT will at any time (when demanded by the customer) switch the ODP Source Connector and license for a OData v2 Source / Sink Connector and license of the same tier without any additional cost. We encourage our customers to also evaluate the OData Connector to be prepared for this backup solution.