

SAP ABAP Workbench for BlackBerry

ABAP Workbench is a set of tools for developing enterprise resource management applications that run in the R/3 subsystem from SAP. With ABAP Workbench, you can create web-based interfaces into standard business processes and workflow such as purchase and sales order management, employee information management, procurement processes, and so on. Though ABAP Workbench is typically used to publish HTML web pages and Business Server Pages (BSP) that are accessed from a desktop browser, it is also possible to publish content that can be accessed from a BlackBerry device.

Using SAP ABAP Workbench with BlackBerry

ABAP Workbench can generate HTML and BSP web pages that can be accessed on the intranet from a desktop browser or a web browser on the BlackBerry device. Unlike when building applications with SAP BW Web Application Designer or Web Dynpro (discussed above), there is no inherent device recognition or “mobile runtime” for content that is published with ABAP Workbench. Regardless of which type of web browser requests the content, the SAP system will return standard HTML content to the user. Therefore, it is possible to create custom HTML web pages and simply access them directly from the BlackBerry device. However, it is important to consider the characteristics and constraints of the web browser on the BlackBerry device when designing your pages in ABAP Workbench. Following are some quick tips on how to optimize your HTML pages for viewing on BlackBerry devices:

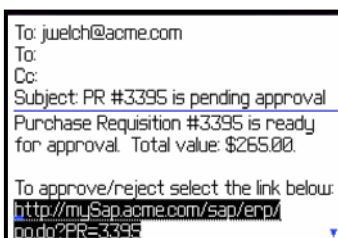
Optimizing Your Web Pages for BlackBerry

Optimizing web content for viewing on BlackBerry is more of an art than a science. Following are some common UI design guidelines that can help you tailor your content from ABAP Workbench for optimal use on the BlackBerry:

UI Design Considerations for BlackBerry:

- **Streamline and Simplify the Content:** Due to the limited screen size, you should simplify your web content and only provide very task-oriented information. Try to provide simple screens dedicated a single task within a given workflow.
- **Provide Buttons or Actionable Items Near the Top:** Try to place buttons or links for approvals or other actionable items near the top of the screen to reduce the amount of vertical scrolling required by the user.
- **Simplify Navigation:** BlackBerry devices do not have a touchscreen and users navigate using a “trackwheel”. Ensure that content can be navigated easily by scrolling the trackwheel up/down.
- **Minimize or Avoid Use of Tables:** Large tables can be difficult to render and navigate on a small device such as BlackBerry. Try to avoid the use of tables or limit tables to no more than 3 or 4 columns of data.
- **Avoid Use of Images:** For most workflow and look-up applications, images and graphics are not important. Avoiding images can be a good way to speed up download time and improve layout on the screen.
- **Avoid Use of Frames:** The browser on the BlackBerry device does not currently support HTML frames.

Following are some BlackBerry device screen shots that illustrate an HTML approval form published as a BSP from ABAP Workbench that has been optimized for display on the BlackBerry device:



Approval – Email with URL



Approval – Details



Approval – Action Buttons

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