



3. Authorisation Challenge

The Technical Complexity Behind Fiori Authorisations

Every solution breeds new problems.

In SAP S/4HANA, Fiori becomes the default user interface and thus the primary entry point for end users. In fact, some applications are now accessible exclusively through Fiori.

While the Fiori Launchpad provides a streamlined and intuitive experience for end users, it introduces additional layers of complexity for authorisation administrators and project teams. The technical setup is more intricate, and the ongoing maintenance effort is significantly higher.

In the ECC environment, role creation was relatively straightforward: authorisation administrators would add transactions to the role menu, maintain authorisations, generate the profile, and the role was ready to use. By contrast, enabling access to Fiori applications in SAP S/4HANA involves navigating up to eight distinct steps, making the process technically demanding. Instead of performing two steps in two SAP GUI transactions, administrators must now complete eight steps across three SAP GUI transactions and two Fiori apps.

SAP ECC			SAP S/4HANA		
STEP	Activity	Transaction / Fiori APP	STEP	Activity	Transaction / Fiori APP
1	Create a role and add transactions in the role menu	PFCG, SU24	1	Create Fiori catalog	/UI2/FLPCM_CUST
2	Maintain authorizations, generate role profile	PFCG, SU24	2	Create Fiori space	App Manage Launchpad Spaces
			3	Create a role, assign catalog and space	PFCGPFCG, SU24
			4	Activate Fiori applications	STC01 or /IWFND/MAINT_SERVICE and SICF
			5	Maintain authorizations, generate role profile	PFCG, SU24
			6	Create a Fiori page	App Manage Launchpad Pages
			7	Assign Fiori page to the Fiori space	App Manage Launchpad Spaces
			8	Maintain Fiori page	App Manage Launchpad Pages

Figure 1: Steps for role creation in SAP ECC and SAP S/4HANA

If you're new to SAP S/4HANA and Fiori, some of the terms mentioned in the figure above may be unfamiliar. This article explains those terms and introduces a few additional technical concepts critical to managing Fiori authorisations.

Fiori Catalog – a technical object in an SAP system that groups Fiori apps by function (e.g., Accounting, Procurement, HR) with the purpose of assigning authorisations to use these Fiori apps to users with PFCG roles.

There are several types of Fiori catalogs: standard and custom, technical and business.

SAP Standard Fiori Catalogs	Custom Fiori Catalogs
SAP Standard Fiori Catalogs are delivered with the system and cannot be changed.	Custom Fiori Catalogs are created by customer. Customer catalogs may be created by copying and adjusting SAP standard catalogs.

Technical Fiori Catalogs	Business Fiori Catalogs
<p>Technical Fiori Catalogs are repositories of all available Fiori apps grouped by technical criteria which must not be assigned to PFCG roles.</p> <p>SAP delivers numerous technical Fiori catalogs where Fiori apps are grouped by component and UI technology.</p> <p>Example: <i>SAP_TC_FIN_CFIN_COMMON – SAP Central Finance: Fiori Apps</i></p> <p>Technical catalogs can be created by customers as well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you create a new Fiori app or a new Fiori tile, you must add it to the customer technical catalog first. • Afterwards, the Fiori app is copied to the business catalog. • It is technically impossible to remove a Fiori app from the technical catalog; therefore, you must not add technical catalogs to the PFCG roles, since their scope may change depending on business processes. 	<p>Business Fiori Catalogs are collections of Fiori apps grouped by business roles or processes which are created with the purpose of assigning them to end users with PFCG roles. Business catalogs contain references to technical catalogs.</p> <p>SAP delivers numerous standard business catalogs which are assigned to SAP standard business roles. Example: <i>SAP_FIN_BC_AR_PDC – Accounts Receivable – Postdated Check.</i></p> <p>SAP may modify its Standard Business Catalogs by adding or removing Fiori apps with each system upgrade. Furthermore, it is technically not possible for customers to alter the content of a SAP Standard Business Catalog. Since you do not control these catalogs, it is recommended to use them only as a reference when creating your own custom Business Catalogs, or to develop custom Business Catalogs entirely from scratch.</p>

Fiori catalogs are created and maintained with the Fiori Launchpad Designer and the Fiori Launchpad Content Manager, each of which supports client-specific and cross-client transactions. Authorisation Administrators need to be familiar with all four transactions but are recommended to use client-specific transactions (as shown in the figure below).

Client-specific tools should be used because they protect SAP content, prevent cross-client risks, ensure proper transport handling, support the clean SAP Fiori content architecture, and provide structured governance for catalog creation and maintenance.

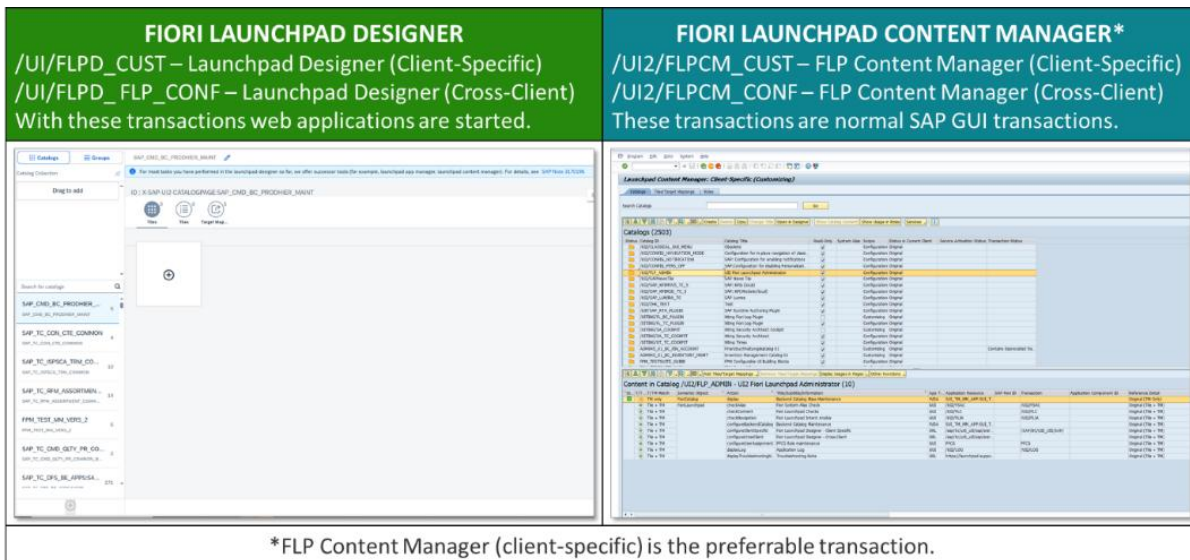


Figure 2: Transactions for Maintenance of Fiori Catalogs

When adding Fiori apps to catalogs in FLP Content Manager, you will notice that there are three options:

- Add Tile and Target Mapping (TM) Reference
- Add Tile Reference
- Add TM Reference

Target Mapping (TM) is a configuration object in a Fiori catalog that defines how an app launches when a user clicks a tile or link in the Fiori Launchpad. It is a technical link between the user interface and the underlying application.

Fiori Tile is a clickable user interface element that launches an application.

Some Fiori applications do not have tiles; they only have target mappings. This means that these apps are launched from other Fiori applications, and granting access to them is very important for enabling users to use them.

For example, managers have a Fiori tile for the “My Inbox” application, where they receive invoices for approval. To view invoice details, managers need authorisation to display invoices in the application. In this case, a target mapping for the application that allows an invoice to be displayed will be necessary to enable users to view invoice details.

Furthermore, it is important to understand different types of Fiori apps, depending on the UI technology used to create them: **SAPUI5 Apps**, **Web Dynpro ABAP (WDA) Apps**, and **SAP GUI for HTML Apps**.

- **SAPUI5 Apps** (Fiori Native Apps) – the most modern Fiori apps built with SAPUI5. You can recognise them by their Fiori app IDs that start with “F”, e.g., F5266, F4518, F3842A. To enable usage of a SAPUI5 Fiori app, you need to activate the respective OData Service(s) and the ICF node(s).

- **Web Dynpro ABAP (WDA) Apps** – apps developed with the older generation of web-based SAP UI technology, which are still in use. To use a WDA app, you need to activate the corresponding ICF node.
- **SAP GUI for HTML Apps** (Classic Fiori Apps) – the less modern Fiori apps, which are SAP GUI transactions, run in a browser (WebGUI). You do not need to activate anything for a classical Fiori app. However, if SAP does not deliver a tile for an SAP GUI transaction, you will need to create the tile and the target mapping yourself.

As you might have understood from the descriptions of the different Fiori app types, some of them require activation steps; otherwise, users won't be able to start those Fiori apps from their Fiori Launchpad. And here come two other very important terms, and their transactions, in the context of Fiori apps:

- **OData (Open Data Protocol) Service** – a web service that enables communication between SAP and front-end applications (especially SAP Fiori apps).
/IWFND/MAINT_SERVICE – transaction for activation of OData services.
- **ICF (Internet Communication Framework) Node** – a web service endpoint defining how HTTP(S)-based requests are handled by the SAP system.
SICF - transaction for activation of ICF nodes.

In the above-mentioned transactions, you can activate OData services and ICF nodes one by one. SAP delivers task lists for the mass activation of OData services and ICF nodes, which can be started via the *STC01* transaction.

Use the task list *SAP_FIORI_FCM_CONTENT_ACTIVATION* in transaction *STC01* to activate Fiori apps contained in a custom role or a set of custom roles.

The terms “Spaces” and “Pages” are explained in the article [Authorisation roles define the user interface](#).

How Deloitte Can Help

The technical setup of authorisations for Fiori applications is significantly more complex than for traditional SAP GUI transactions. Therefore, before beginning your SAP S/4HANA transformation, it is essential to choose a reliable implementation partner whose consultants have extensive knowledge and hands-on experience with Fiori authorisations. Partnering with Deloitte means gaining access to deep technical expertise and practical know-how from dozens of successful SAP S/4HANA implementation projects.

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