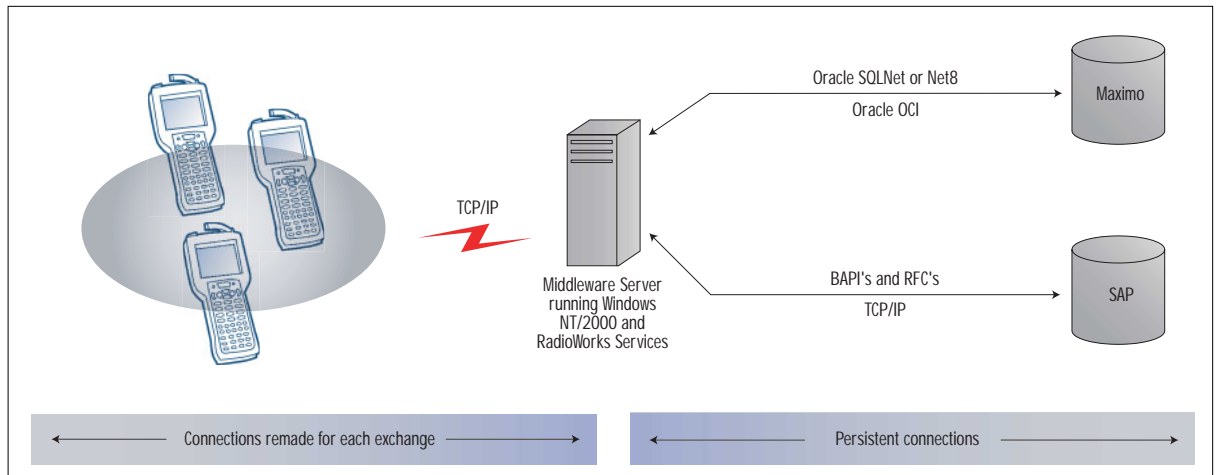


RadioWorks for SAP

Wireless maintenance inventory management for SAP

How does RadioWorks work? What does the client connect to?

RadioWorks has a server-side component that communicates with the handhelds. The server-side component, called the RadioWorks Data Server, brokers the communications between the handhelds and the database where SAP data is stored.



Communication overview. Handheld computers communicate with middleware using newly built connections for each message. Middleware communicates with the backend systems using persistent connections.

Besides the handheld computers, what sort of wireless equipment is needed?

A typical storeroom needs one or two access points. An access point is a radio that mounts on a wall or ceiling and plugs into a network with a typical network cable. They look a lot like external printer interface boxes. Access points require some one-time configuration, but often access points ship with a default configuration that is appropriate, making configuration unnecessary.

You do *not* need coverage over an entire site. Covering the storeroom is all that's required.

We have older Intermecc Janus 2020 computers that run a proprietary 900 MHz network protocol through a 9180 network controller. Can I use this equipment?

Yes. We have a Windows NT device driver for the 9180 network controller. You can use your older equipment.

How does RadioWorks security work?

It works the same way security does within the regular SAP desktop client. The user name and password are verified at login and used for all queries and transactions against the system. Your SAP security settings already in place control RadioWorks access completely.

When I upgrade SAP, what is required to make sure RadioWorks continues to work?

SAP upgrades require no changes in the middleware or client.

How does RadioWorks implement support for legacy material numbers?

A text file is placed on the middleware server with the SAP and legacy numbers. This file is typically an export from a database or spreadsheet.

Does RadioWorks need an ODBC driver or any special SAP client software?

No. RadioWorks does not use ODBC in any way. RadioWorks makes connections to SAP using RFC through SAP's own low-level API. This is much less work to configure, test, and maintain than ODBC or the full SAP client. In actual operation the RadioWorks SAP Connection requires one DLL provided by SAP, called librfc32.dll.

How does the RadioWorks middleware work?

There are two services. The RadioWorks Data Server accepts requests from clients, runs Perl scripts to compute the results, and sends the results back to the clients. The RadioWorks SAP Connection holds open a small set of SAP connections for quick access to SAP. This connection pool is made available to the data server.

Can the RadioWorks SAP Connection service connect using load balancing or use other advanced features of SAP connectivity?

Yes. The connector supports the full range of SAP connectivity methods. Specifically, the services uses RfcOpenEx to create SAP connections, and the argument to this call is completely configurable.

What version of SAP does RadioWorks require?

RadioWorks requires 4.6b or later.

Can RadioWorks work with more than one SAP instance?

Yes, users can switch between different SAP instances, such as a test and production system.

Does RadioWorks middleware work on a Citrix Server or a Windows Terminal Server?

Yes. While there are no specific advantages from running RadioWorks middleware on a Citrix or Terminal Server, you may do so.

How does label printing work at a technical level?

RadioWorks uses lpr to send files to a label printer. This means label printers must be network-enabled with a device that supports lpd, either a builtin interface card, or an external interface, like an HP JetDirect box. The RadioWorks middleware server does not require any special Windows Unix print services.

RadioWorks ships with its own lpr client that provides full logging and diagnostic information, but any Win32 lpr program can be used.

How is networking configured on the clients?

Clients require TCP/IP, and are usually set up to use either fixed addressing or DHCP. The configuration you choose will depend on what the devices and network support, but any method of obtaining an IP address is sufficient for the RadioWorks client.

RadioWorks is produced by
Parmet Associates, LLC

4508 Sheridan Avenue · New Orleans, LA 70002 · USA
phone 1.504.251.8214 · **fax** 1.504.780.9569
e-mail info@parmetassoc.com · **web** www.parmetassoc.com
