T24 Outbound Adapter for IBM Integration Bus

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Introduction

Preface

This document is intended to those who need to set up IBM Integration Bus in integrating T24 with external system and to send messages from an external system to T24.

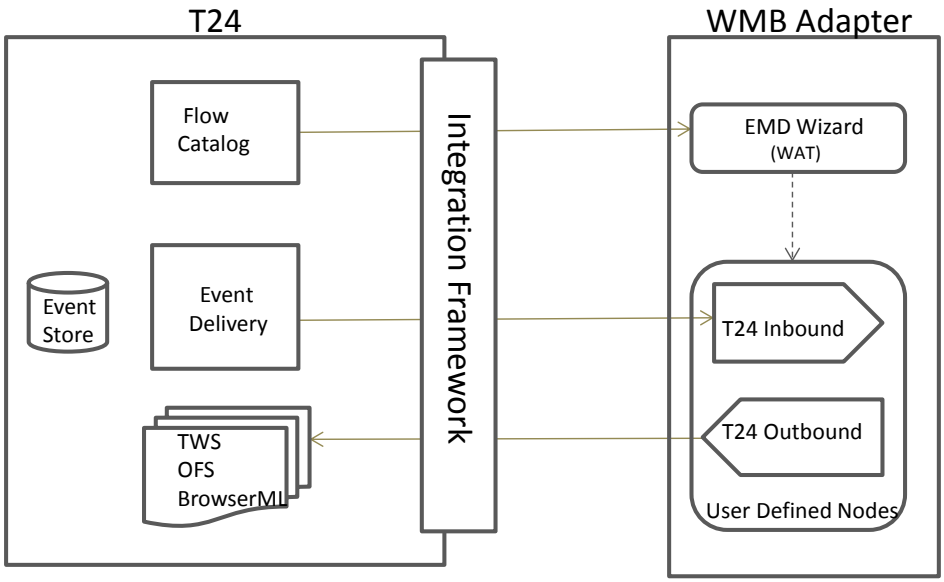
Overview

IBM® Integration Bus is an enterprise service bus (ESB) providing connectivity and universal data transformation for service-oriented architecture (SOA) and non-SOA environments. Now businesses of any size can eliminate point-to-point connections and batch processing regardless of platform, protocol or data format.

To integrate T24 with 3rd party system, T24 Integration Framework provides a flow catalog component along with event delivery component and TWS & OFS components which enables Outbound and outbound integration.

This IBM Integration Bus thus provides an opportunity to integrate T24 with 3rd party systems. For this integration an Adapter is required. This document deals about the T24 Outbound adapter that facilitates the communication from IBM Integration Bus to T24.

The following diagram explains the various components of the T24 Adapters for IBM Integration Bus and T24 Integration Framework.



Prerequisites

Component	Version
T24	R14 with WS Product
IBM Integration Bus (IIB)	9.0
TAFC or TAFJ	R14
T24WMBConnector.rar	V1.0
com.temenos.adapter.wmb.udn_<Version>.jar	V1.0
T24WMBCustomNode.par	V1.0
JDK	1.6
jBoss (For TAFJ)	7.2

Note: Please refer the Appendix 'Setting up T24 and jboss for TAFJ' if the runtime is TAFJ.

Assumptions

The document is highly technical in nature and requires knowledge in TWS and IBM products namely IIB and MQ. MQ is used for demo purpose

Installation:

1. Ensure the T24WMBConnector.rar is copied to a location that can be accessible. This is the artefact that allows the IIB Designer to introspect T24.
2. Copy and paste T24 Custom Node (com.temenos.adapter.wmb.udn_<Version>.jar) into the plugins folder of the Integration Toolkit Designer. This is the plugin used during the design time of the flow.
3. Add the T24WMBCustomNode.par into the library path of IIB using the command mqsichangebroker. This is a runtime artefact that allows the IIB flow to connect to T24 and poll for events

   Syntax:

   Mqsichangebroker BrokerName –l <location of the library file>

   Ex.

   Mqsichangebroker T24_Integ_Node –l "D:\WMBLibrary"

Getting Started

T24 Outbound Adapter for IIB receives messages from external systems and sends it to T24 for processing. This Adapter

- Expose operations for native messages. Formats supported are
  - OFS, OFSML, Batch OFS, Batch OFSML

    OFSML – follows a simpler modified object model. This model is followed while coding within Visual Studio.

    Batch OFS and Batch OFSML – standard OFS or OFSML messages sent in an array with each array element containing a single message. This enables a batch of messages to be sent.
- Expose Business services and operations in T24
  - Business services are defined in EB.SERVICE. Business services compose of business operations which are in turn defined in PW.ACTIVITY.
  - A business operation is either a transaction (in simple terms a VERSION + FUNCTION) or a query (ENQUIRY)

T24 Outbound Adapter has to be set up to send messages to T24 and the setup is a 2 step process:

1. Performing Metadata Discovery.
2. Deploying Message Flow

The first step is applicable for ServiceXML only. For other type of request it is enough to create the Message Flow and deploy it to the Message Broker

This document explains the 3 steps in detail.

Before setting up T24 Outbound Adapter for IIB, ensure that

1. TAFC Agent is started or the Application server, where the web service to connect to T24 resides, is started.
2. OFS record in OFS.SOURCE table in T24 is available with attribute field set to PREAUTHENTICATED.
3. A queue manager is created in IBM MQ with the required queues.
4. A Broker which is a set of execution processes that hosts one or more message flows to route, transform, and enrich in messages, is created.

Note: The section "*Performing Metadata Discovery*" is applicable for ServiceXML Type of Request.

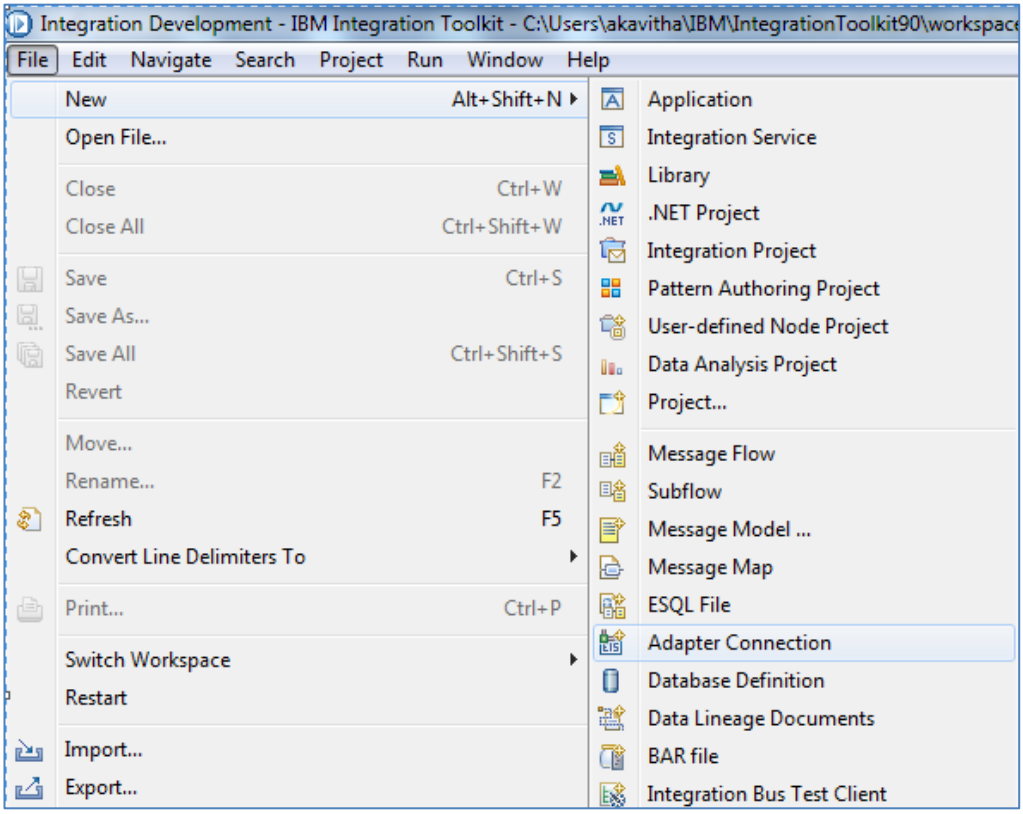
Performing Metadata Discovery:

WMB provides Adapter Connection wizard, a tool that is used to create services. The Adapter Connection wizard establishes a connection to the server, discovers services (based on search criteria that is provided), and generates business objects, interfaces, and import or export files, based on the services that are discovered.

The T24WMBConnector.rar is the metadata discovery adapter that is to be used in the Adapter Connection Wizard to connect to T24 and get the metadata. The metadata discovery wizard has the introspection capabilities for T24 integration framework flow catalogue for business events.

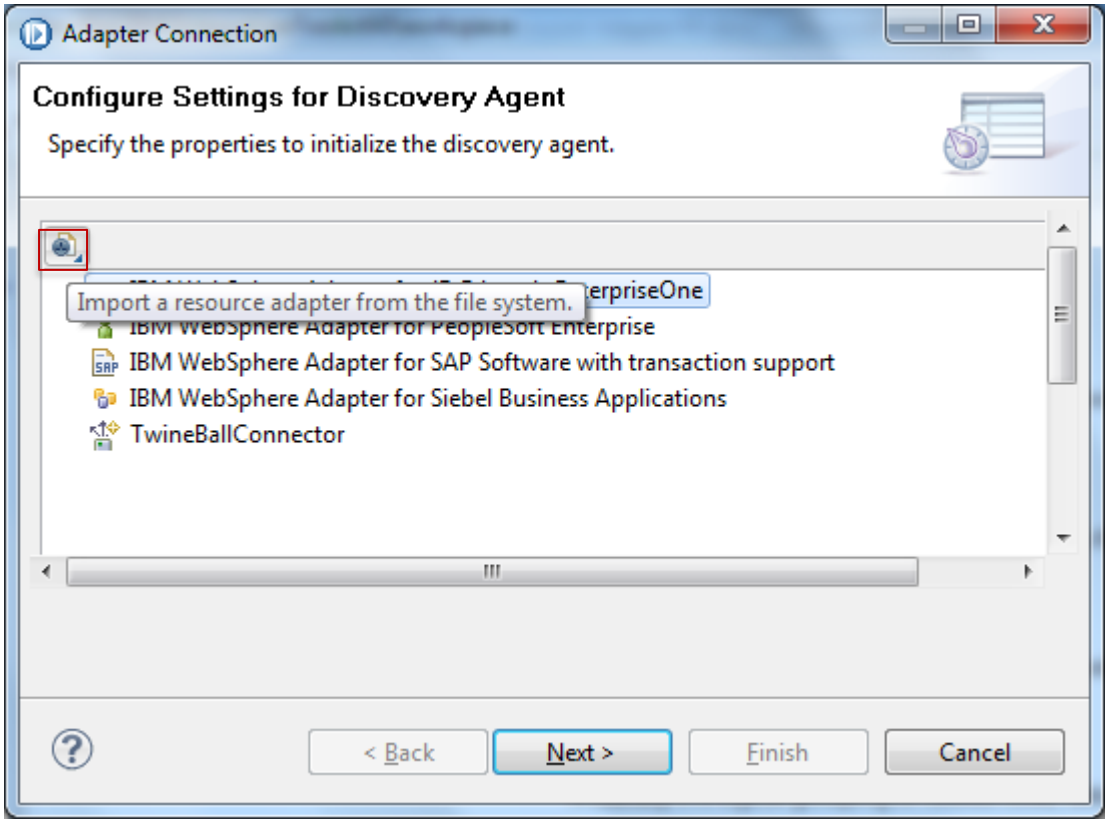
To perform Metadata discovery:

1. Launch IBM Websphere Message Broker Toolkit.
2. Create a new Adapter Connector Project (File → New → Adapter Connection)

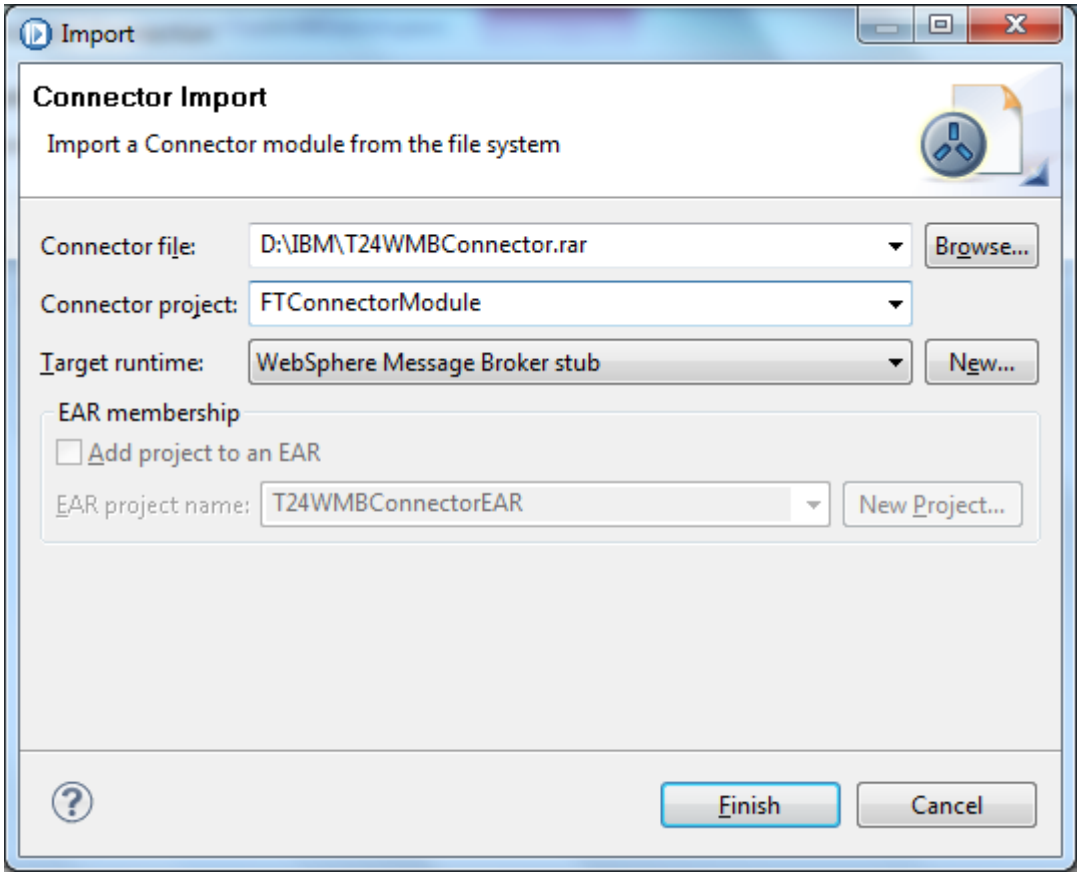


The user is taken to the “Configure Settings for Discovery Agent” dialog box.

3. Click on the highlighted portion to add the T24WMBConnector.rar

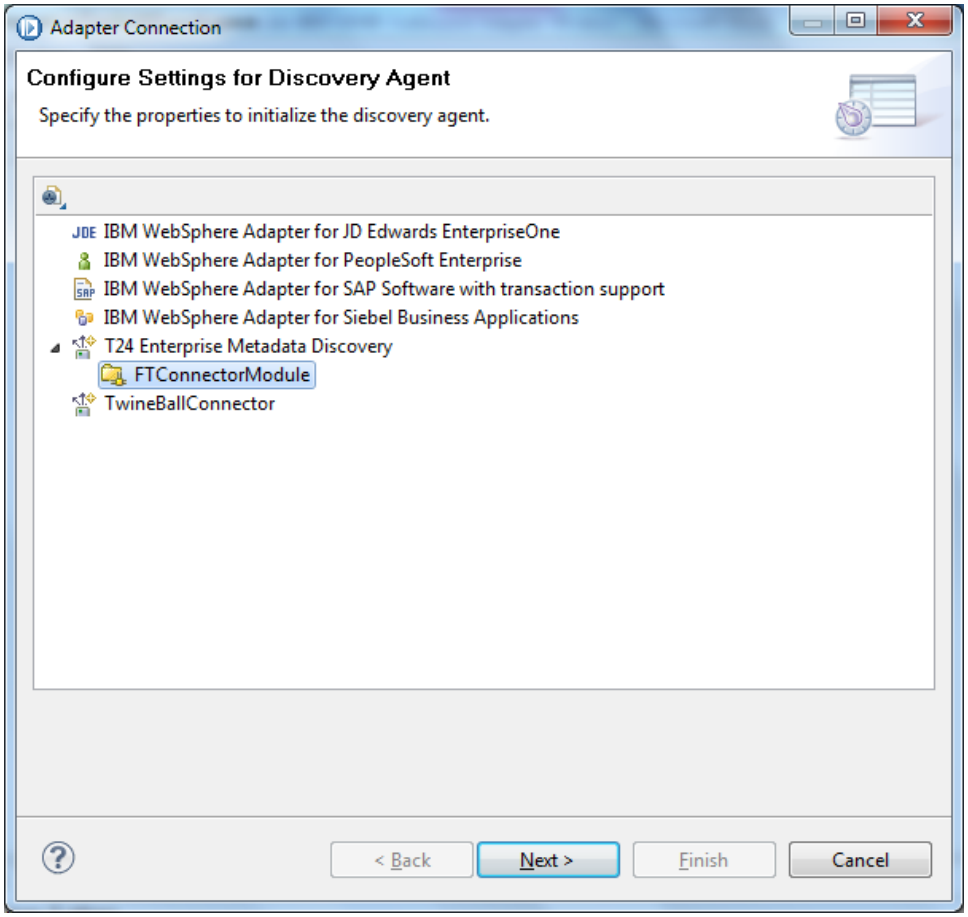


Search and select the Connector Module (here T24WMBConnector.rar). Once the Connector module is located, specify the name for the Connector Module (the name using which the connector is identified later)



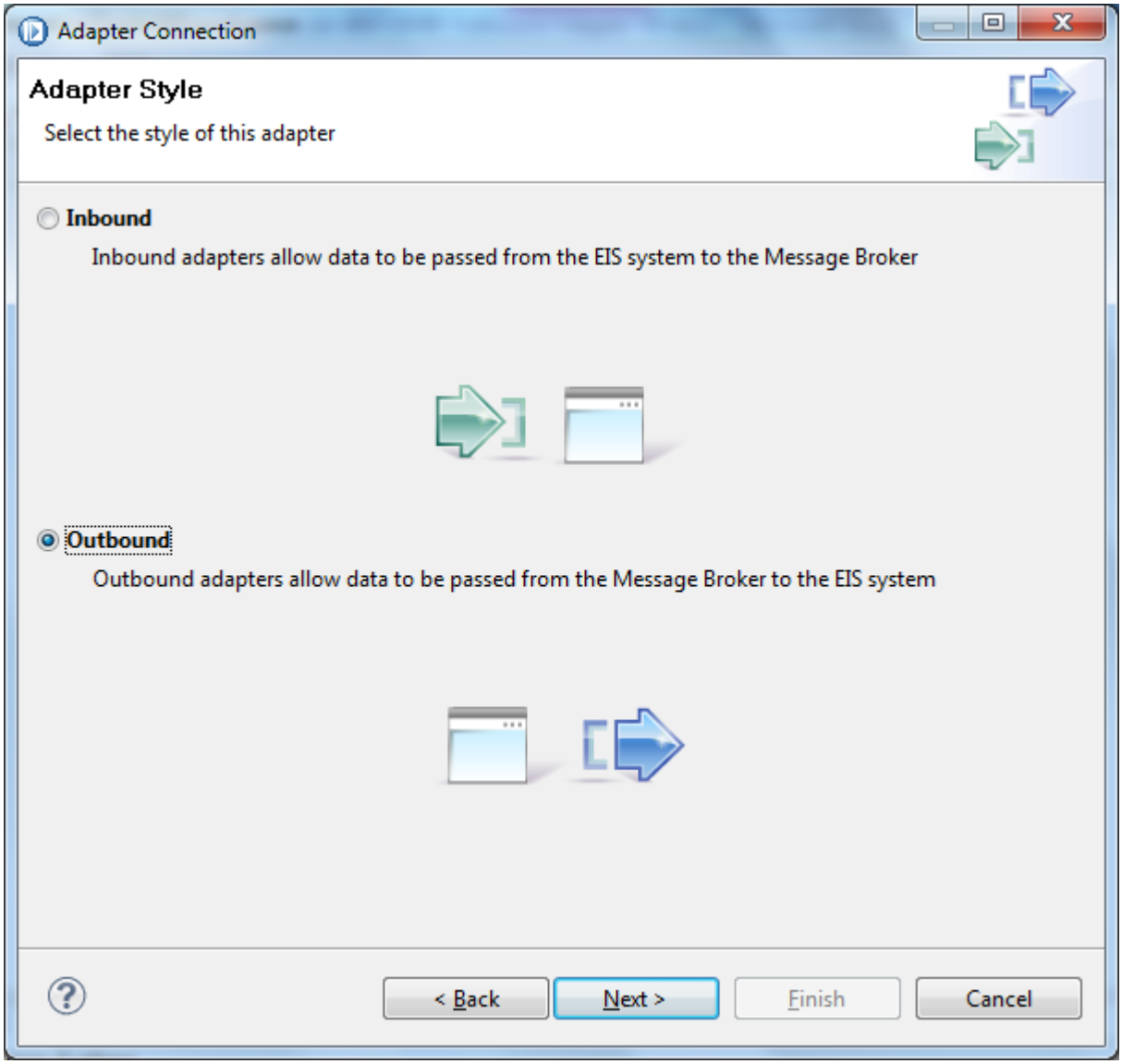
4. Click Finish.

Now the connector module gets displayed in the list of connectors

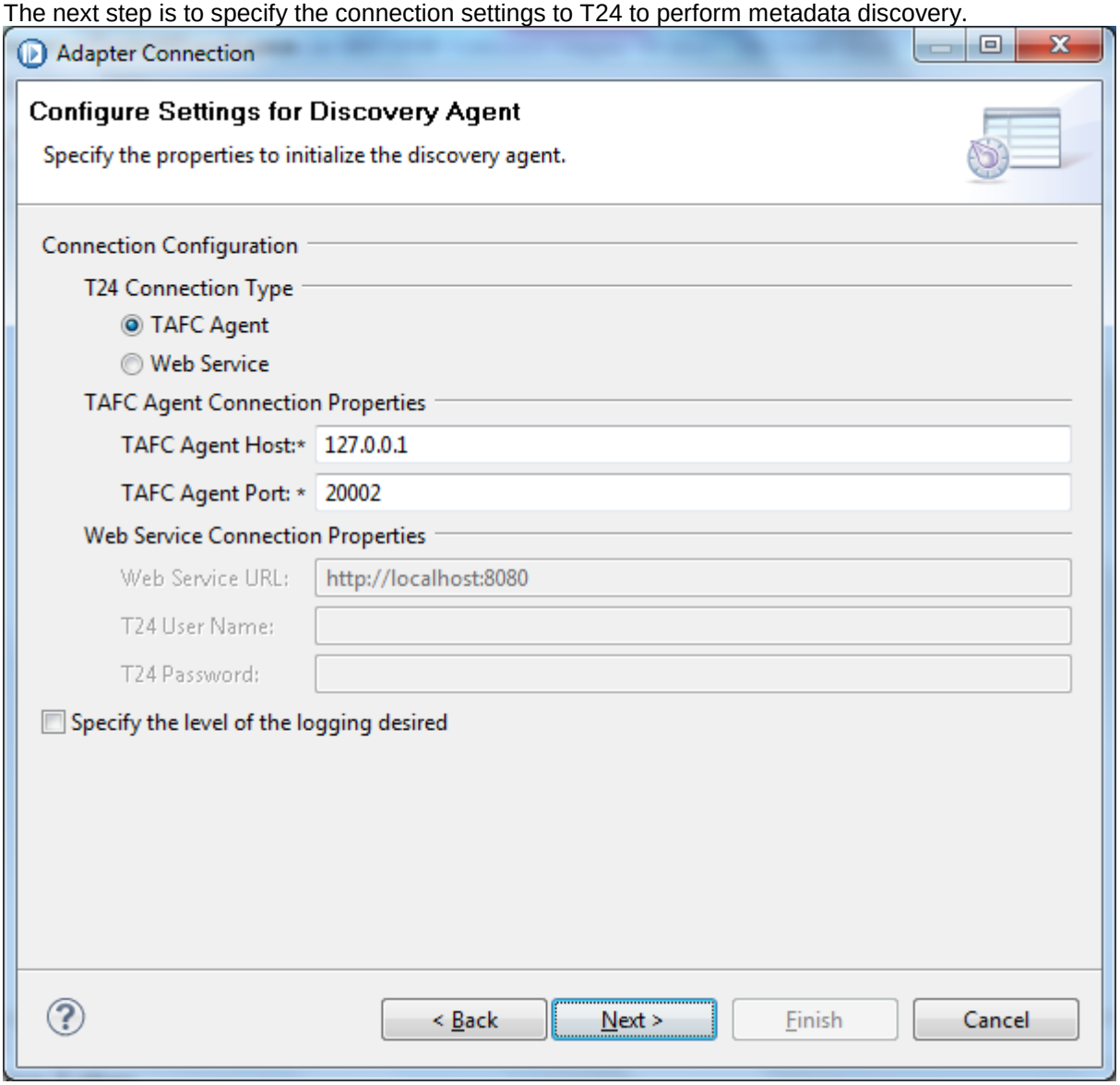


Select the connector module and continue with the Wizard for metadata discovery.

5. The next step is to select the style of the Adapter. In the context of this document “Outbound” needs to be selected.



6. The next step is to specify the connection settings to T24 to perform metadata discovery.



There are two types of connection is supported, classic Agent based connectivity and the Web Service based connectivity especially for TAFJ users.

As the connection mechanism is specified as TAFC agent, the user has to provide the Host and Port number of the TAFC Agent.

The logging configuration mentioned here is the design time logging and currently this feature is diabled.

To use the web service based connectivity option the following components has to be packed as a web archive and then to be deployed in an application server like jBoss.

- IntegrationLandscapeService
- IntegrationFlowService
- CatalogService

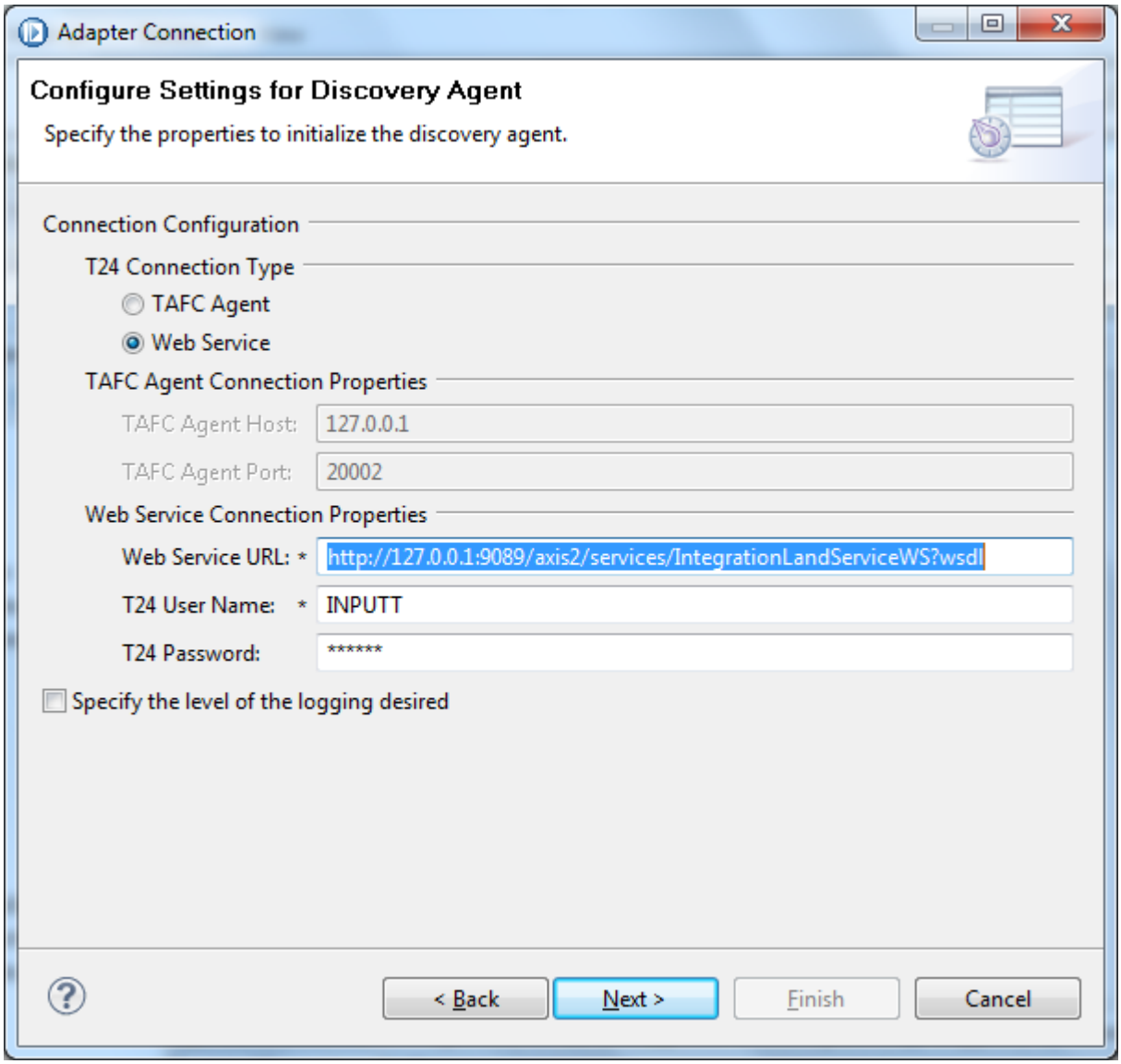
The Integration Landscape Service URL has to be provided along with the user credentials to connect to T24.

The URL will be in this form:

http://<Host Name>:<Port Number>/<context Name>/ services/IntegrationLandServiceWS?wsdl

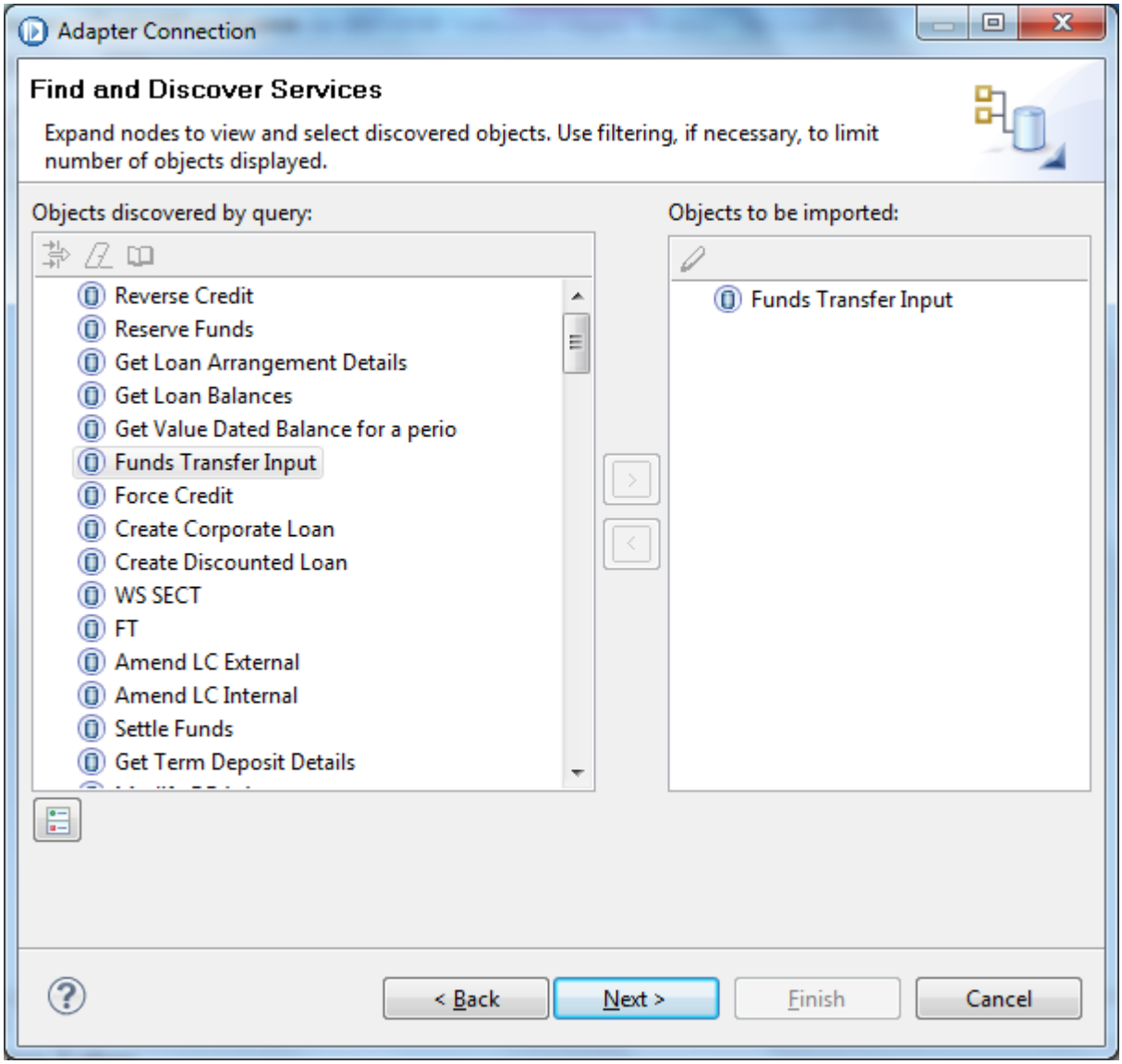
For ex:

http://127.0.0.1:9089/axis2/services/IntegrationLandServiceWS?wsdl

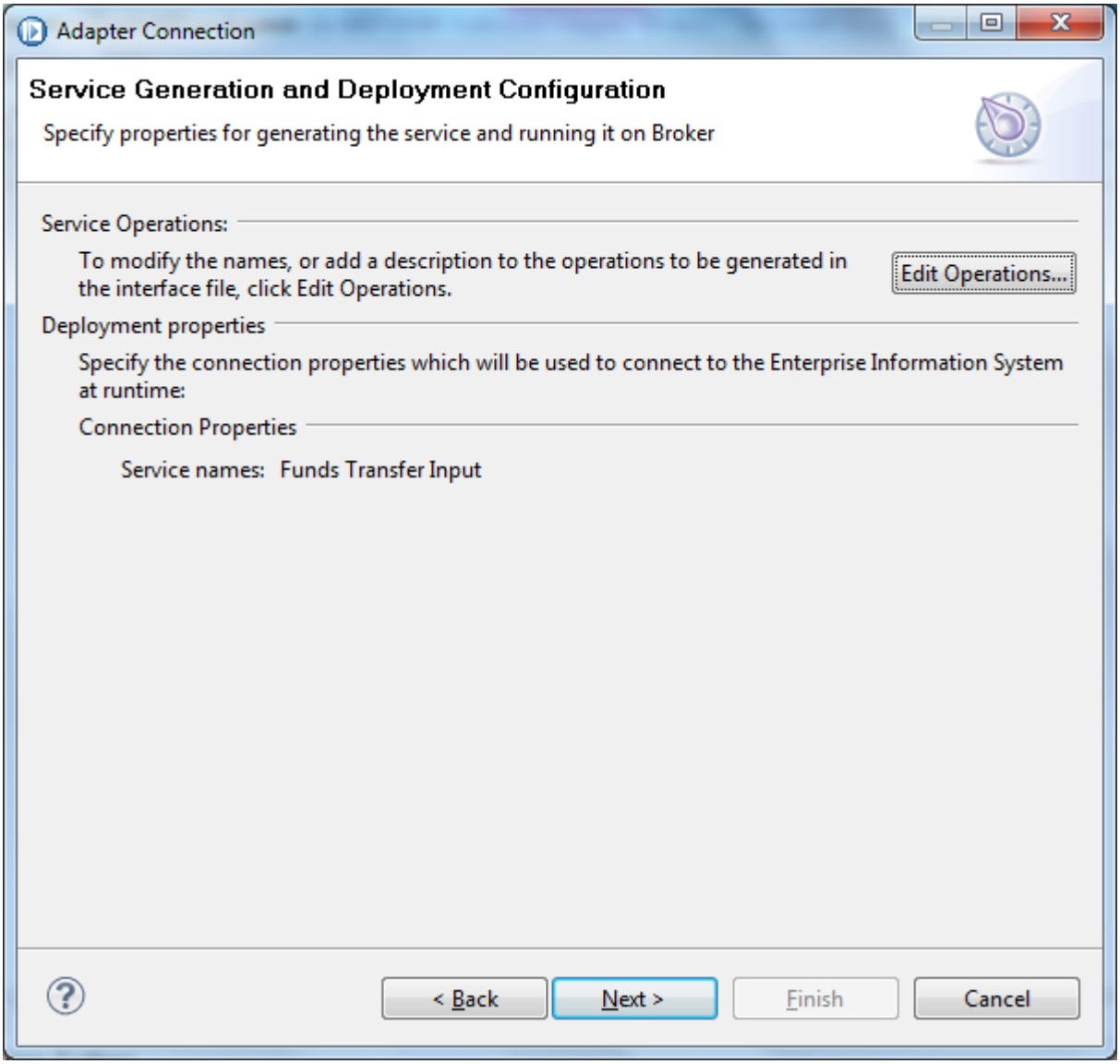


Note: Refer the Deploying Component Service User Guide to know how to deploy a component in a J2EE application server.

7. On proceeding to the next screen, the list of services available in T24 gets listed. Select the required services and click next.

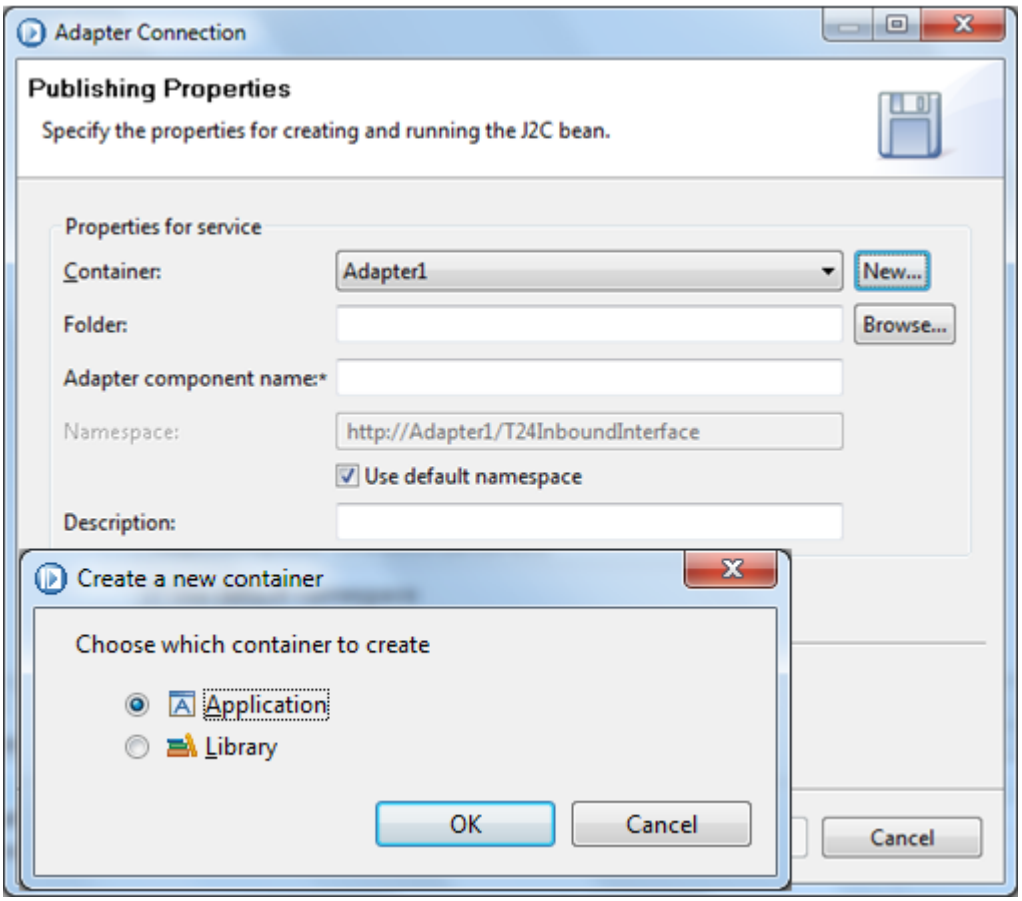


8. The next screen lists the services selected.

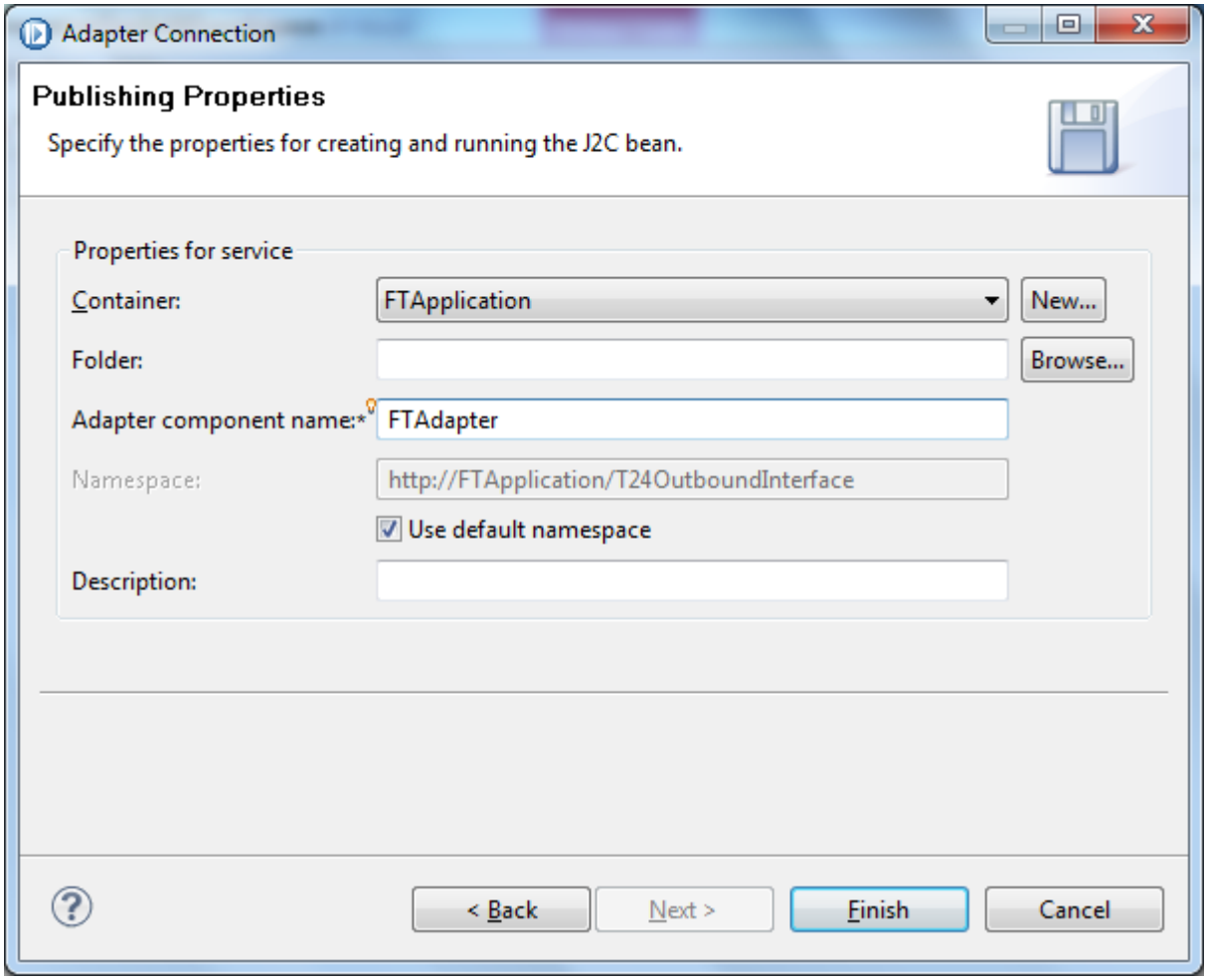


Click next to continue.

Now the wizard moves to the next step to configure the publishing properties. Here the user has to specify the container for the adapter connection properties. The container could be an Application or a library based on the requirement whether to reuse the adapter connection or not. To create a new container click on New and select the type of container.



1. Enter the Project Name in the dialog box that opens and click finish.
2. Then in the publishing properties dialog, specify a name for the Adapter and click finish.



Note: Ensure that the folder name is left blank.

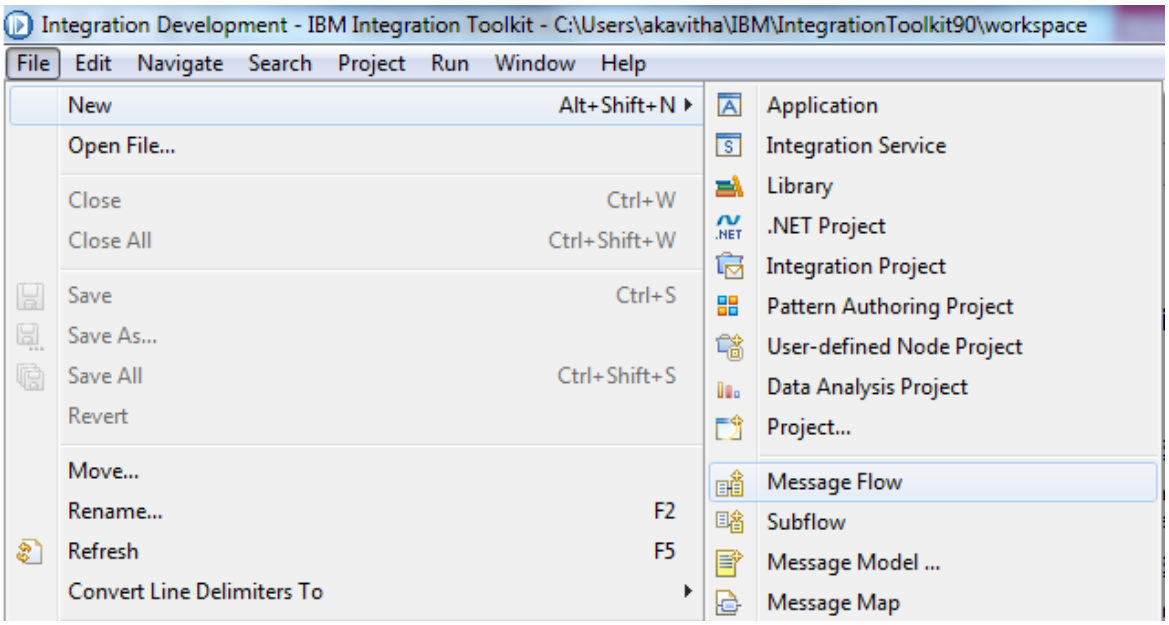
Creating a Message Flow

When a WebSphere Business Integration adapter uses a IIB as its integration broker, it uses WebSphere MQ message flows to process and route business object messages representing data or requests being sent by business applications to one another. A single message flow, defined for each queue, processes all messages placed on that queue. Using the MQ Integrator Broker Control Center (for WebSphere MQ Integrator Broker or WebSphere MQ Integrator) or the Integration Toolkit (for WebSphere Business Integration Message Broker), the user can build message flows from message-processing primitives to allow processing decisions to be made on either the message header or the message content. That is, the message flow can specify different processing steps for each type of message it is expected to handle.

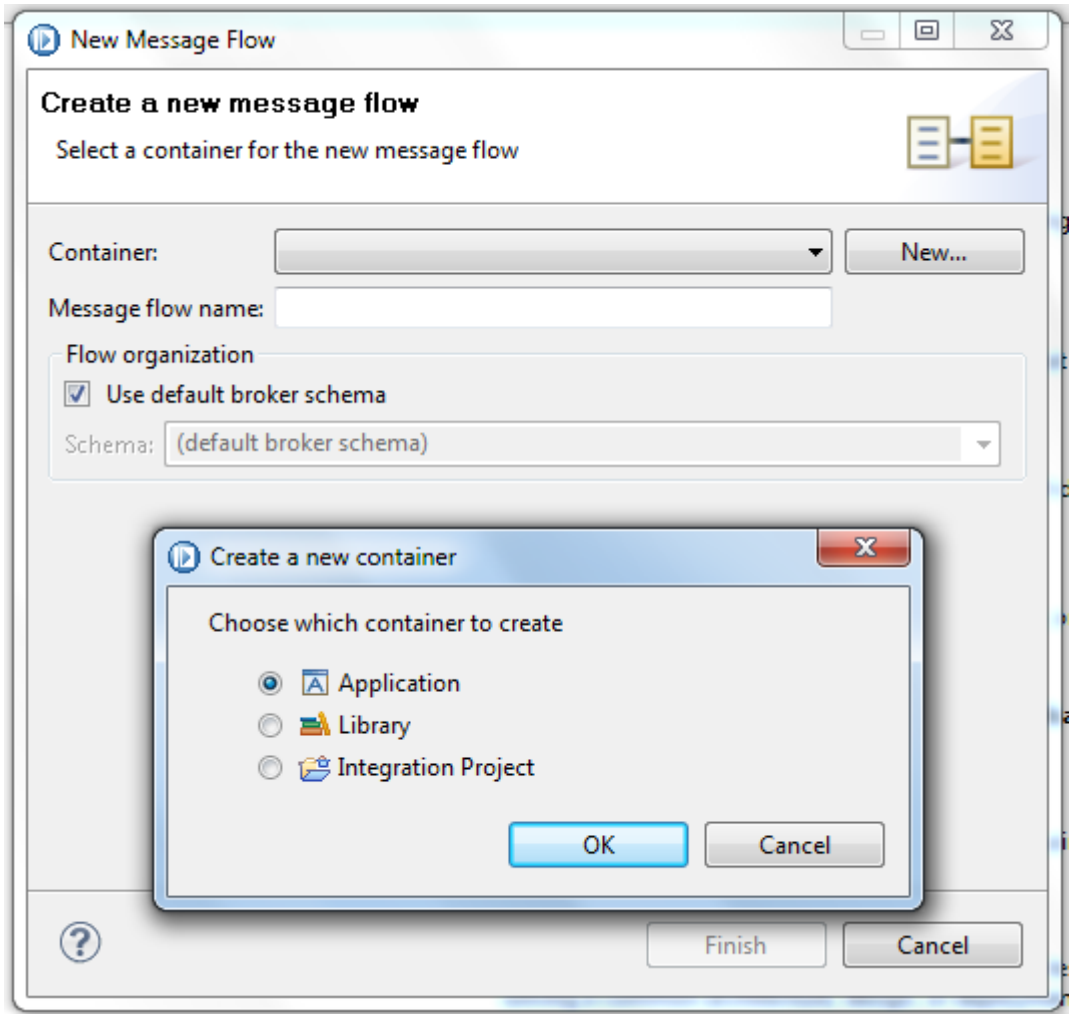
Here the process of creating and deploying Message flows in IIB is explained.

To define a message flow

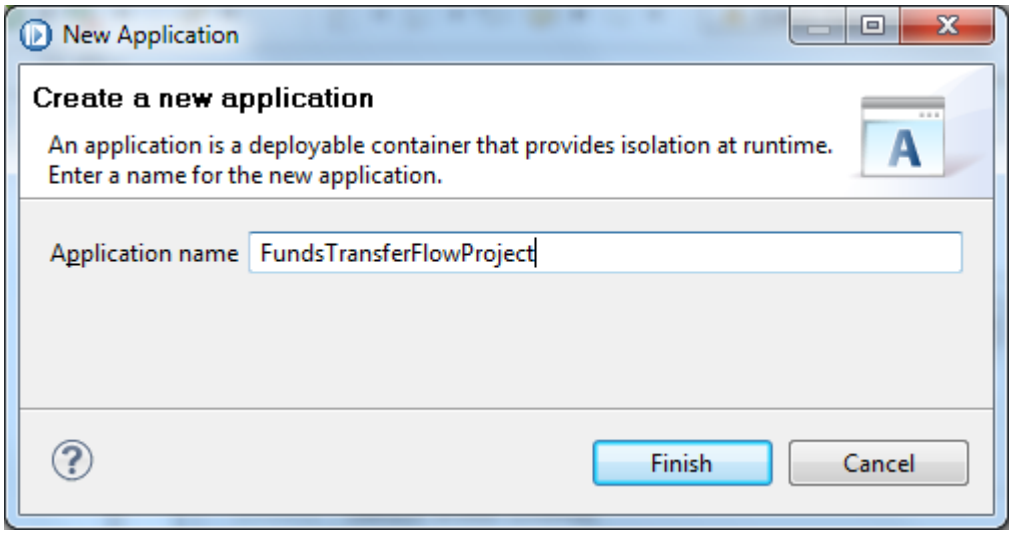
1. Change the perspective to “Integration Development” perspective and create a new Message Flow.



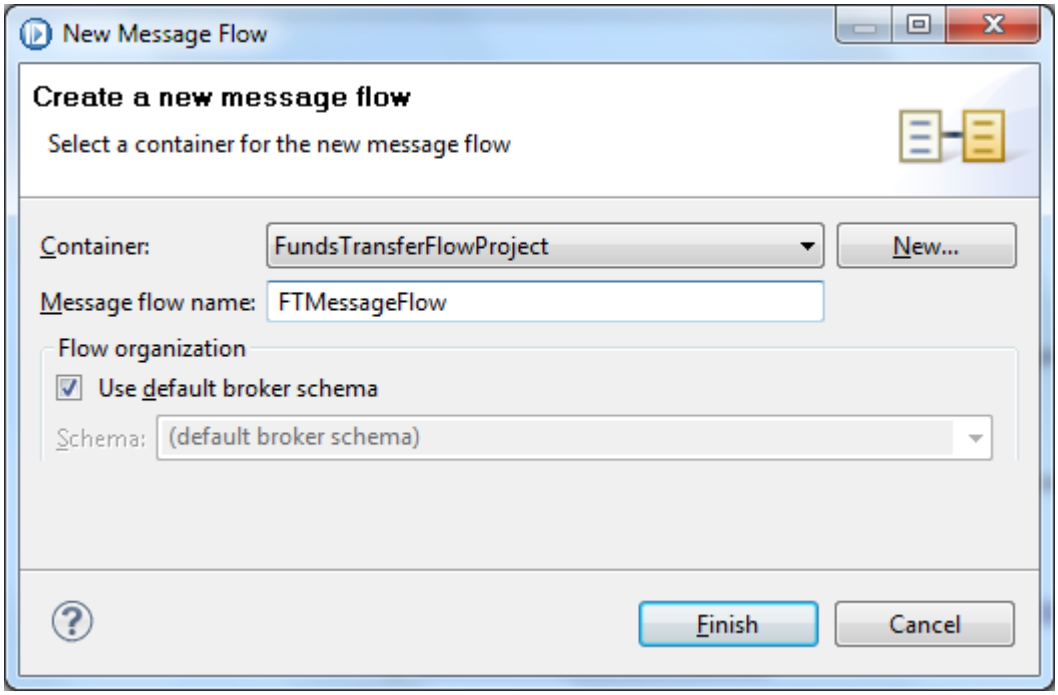
2. This opens the New Message Flow Dialog Window. To add the flow to a new container, click new. The message flow has to be added to an application or to a library. Here application is used as a container for the flow.



3. Specify a name for the new application and click finish.



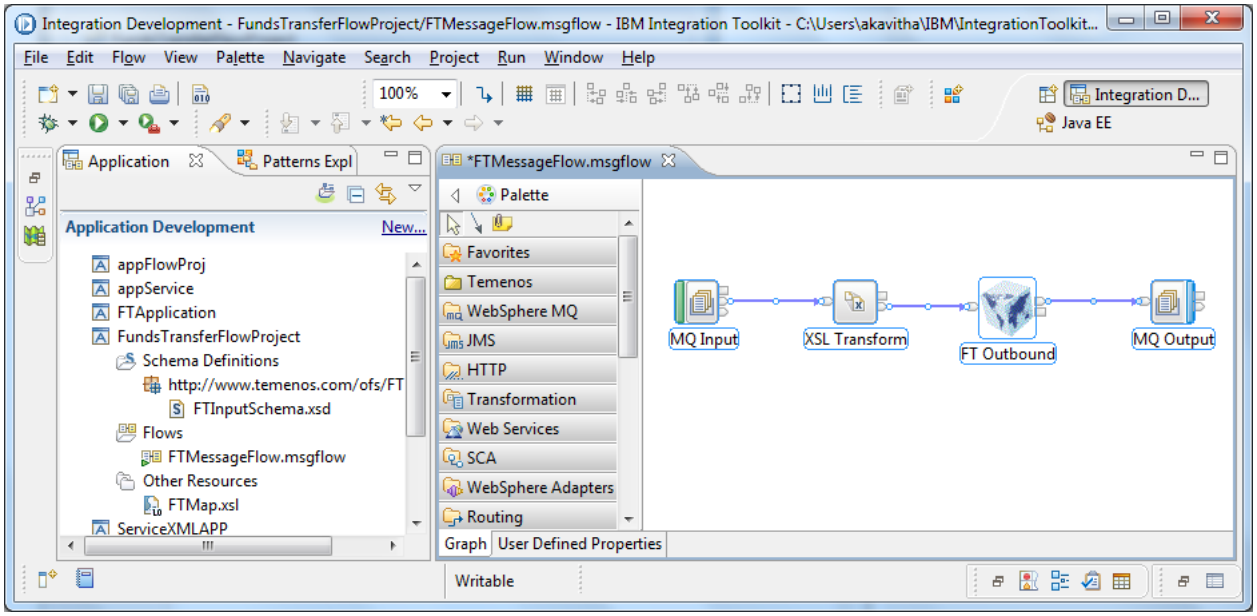
4. Specify a name for the flow.



5. Click finish.

Once the flow is created, the flow designer is available to the user to design the flow of the message and to apply any transformations.

6. To design the flow drag and drop the T24 Outbound Adapter Node from the service palatte. As the message source and destination is MQ, add the MQ Input and Output Node to the designer. This allows the message from T24 is directly delivered to a MQ Queue. The XSL Transform node is required in case the input is a XML format, but the T24 Outbound Adapter requires a different XMl Structure.

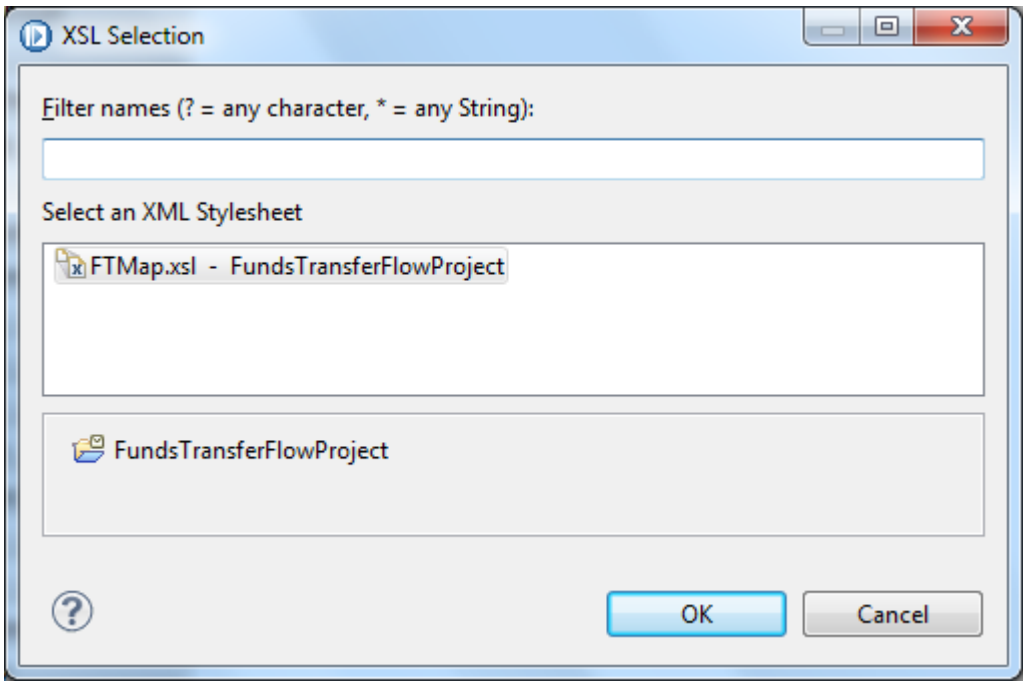


XSL Transform Node Configuration:

XSL Transform node is used to transform an Input XML to a different XML based on the schema structure. As this example shows the configuration of ServiceXML, the XSL Transform node is used to transform the input XML to ServiceXML Type of request.

To use XSL Transform the user has to define a stylesheet that maps the Source and Destination XML Schema. Then the Style Sheet and the Source Schema structure have to be imported to the flow project.

To configure XSL Transform Node, double click the XSL Transform Node. This will open a dialog box as shown below:



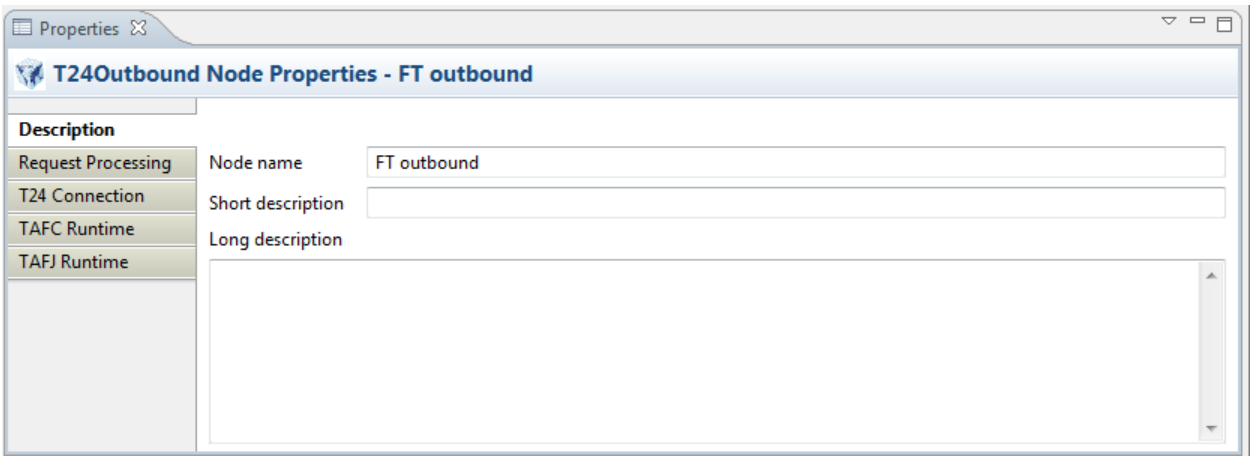
Select the imported style sheet and click Ok.

T24 Outbound Node Configuration:

The T24 Outbound node has a set of properties to be configured. The property page can be accessed by double clicking the Node.

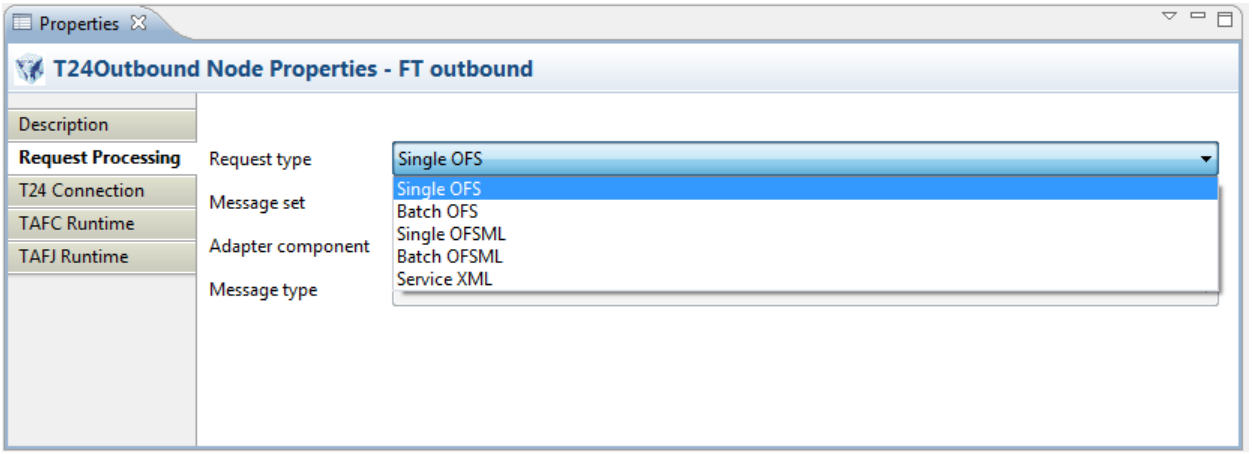
Description:

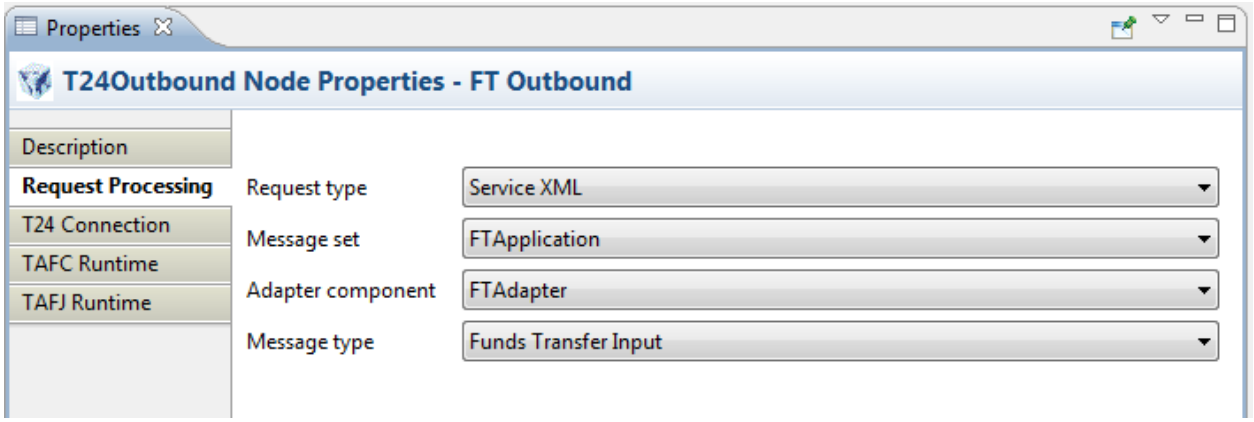
The description tab of the property page is used to specify the name of the node and an optional description.



Request Processing

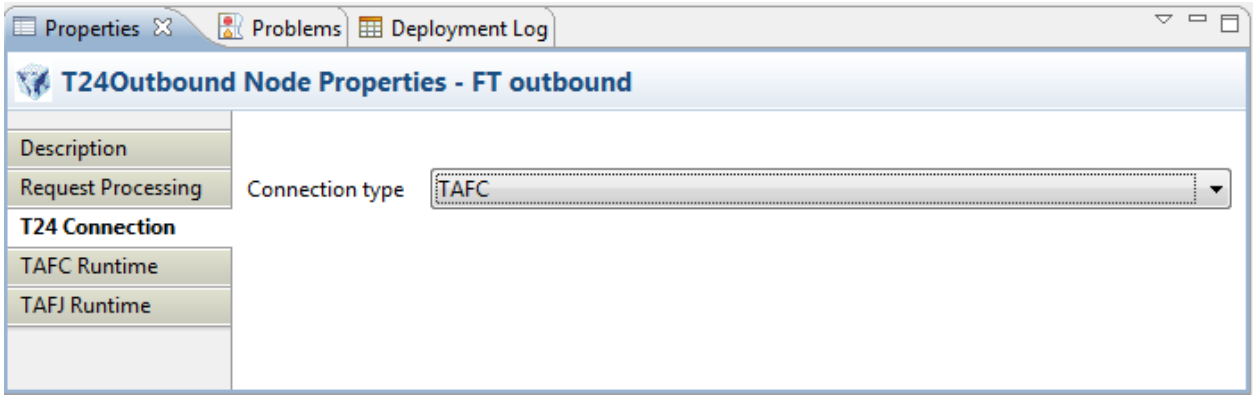
The Request Processing tab is used to specify the outbound operation that this flow is going to perform.





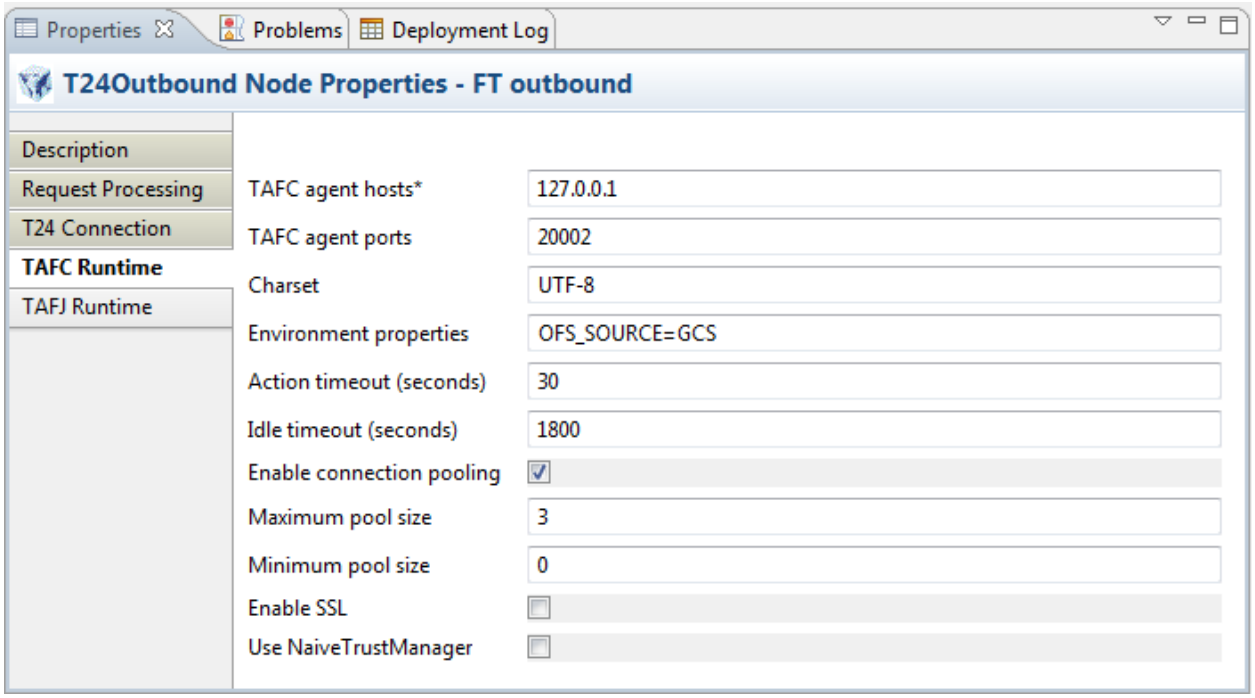
T24 Connection:

The T24 Connection tab allows the user to specify the connection type.The connection type can be set as TAFC or TAFJ based on the runtime specified.



TAFC Runtime:

The TAFC Runtime tab allows the user to specify the settings that is used at runtime when TAFC is mentioned as the connection type in the T24 Connection Tab.



TAFC Agent Hosts: Comma separated list of server addresses hosting TAFC Agent e.g. 10.44.1.100, 10.44.1.101

TAFC Agent Ports: This property specifies TCP Port number where TAFC Agent is listening. e.g. 20002, 20003

Charset: This property specifies the character set of the remote EIS on which TAFC Agent is running. T24RA will use this value when encoding and decoding character data between the server and the client. This setting should only be used when connecting to non I18N T24 configurations. It is set to UTF-8 by default.

Environment Properties: This property specifies OFS Source record ID to communicate with T24.

ActionTimeout: This property configures the length of time the TAFC Agent will wait for a request to return a result before forcibly stopping the subroutine call and exiting. This setting is very important to avoid T24 deadlocks as all T24 locks will be released when the action is stopped, thus allowing processing in other connections to continue.

IdleTimeout: This is the maximum time out period, till when the connection can be idle in the pool before being removed to free resources.

Enable Connection Pooling: This property specifies whether the connection to T24 is pooled or not. Values are true or false.

Maximum Pool Size: This specifies the maximum number of connections that can be available in pool.

Minimum Pool Size: This specifies the minimum number of connections to be used.

Enable SSL: This is set to true to enable Secure connection This option should only be enabled when the remote TAFC Agent instance is also configured to use SSL encryption.

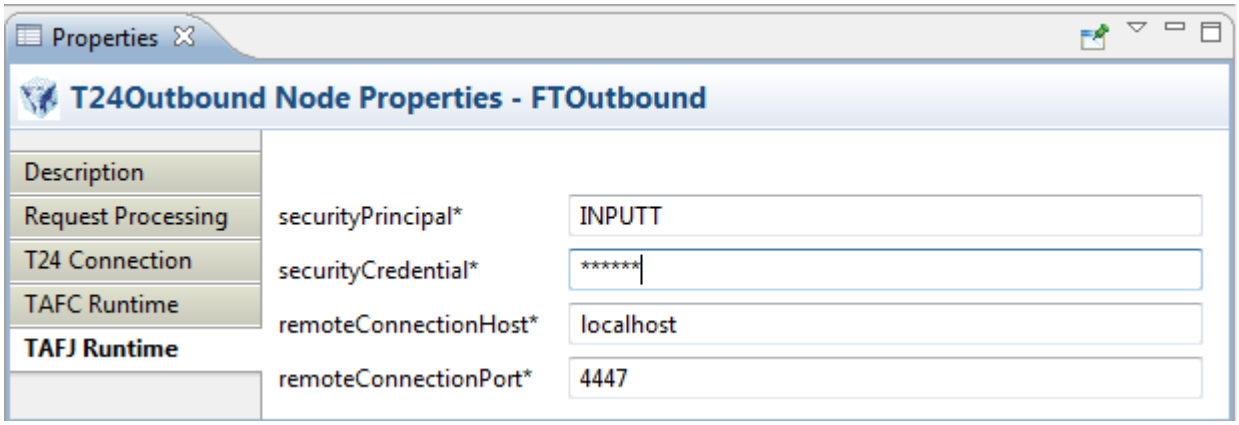
Use Naïve Trust Manager: This property is set to true when enabling secure connections via SSL

TAFJ Runtime:

The TAFJ Runtime tab allows the user to specify the settings that is used at runtime when TAFJ is mentioned as the connection type in the T24 Connection Tab.

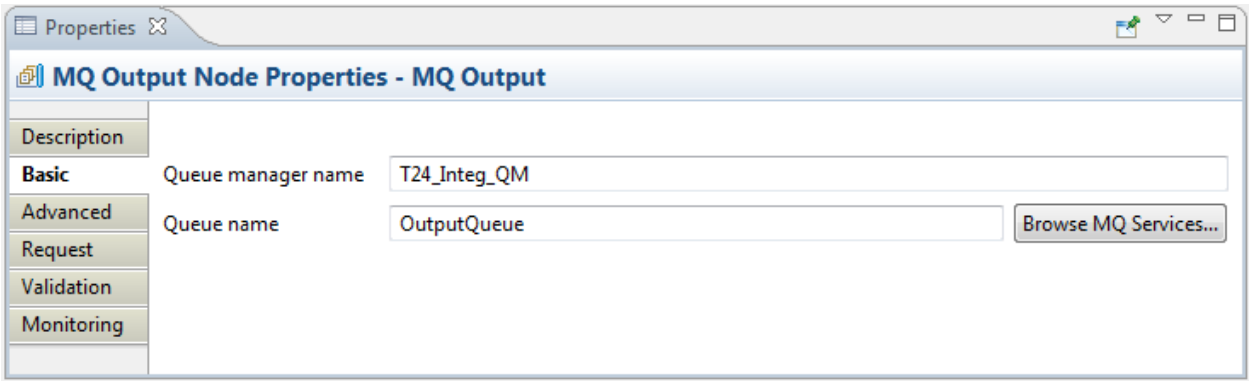
1. **SecurityPrincipal and SecutityCredential**: These properties is used to authenticate the runtime connection with JBoss and for JBoss to pass on the principal to T24.
2. **Remote Connection Host**: The name or IP Address of the machine where jBoss is running.
3. **Remote Connection Port**: This is the port number used for remote ejb lookup.

   Remote connection Host and Port resolve the ejb lookup for t24-IntegrationFrameworkService-ejb.jar deployed in the jboss
   Note: Please refer the Appendix ‘Setting up T24 and jboss for TAFJ’ if the runtime is TAFJ.

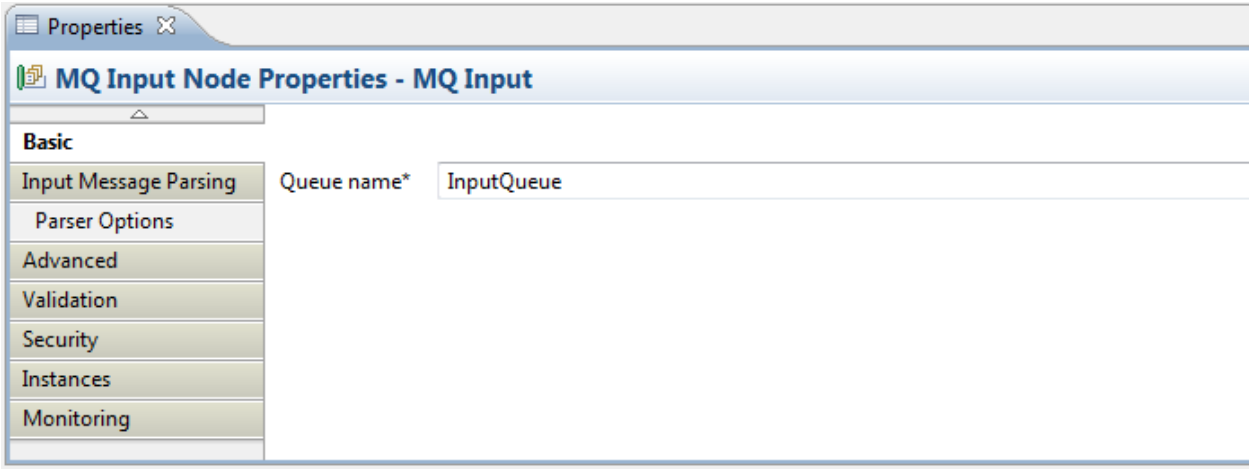


MQ Node Configuration:

The MQ Output Node has to be configured to specify the MQ Queue Manager name and the Queue Name to which the event will be delivered.



The MQ Input node has to be configured to specify the MQ from where the request has to be taken for processing



In the MQ Input Node the Input Message Parsing option has to be configured based on the Input Type as:

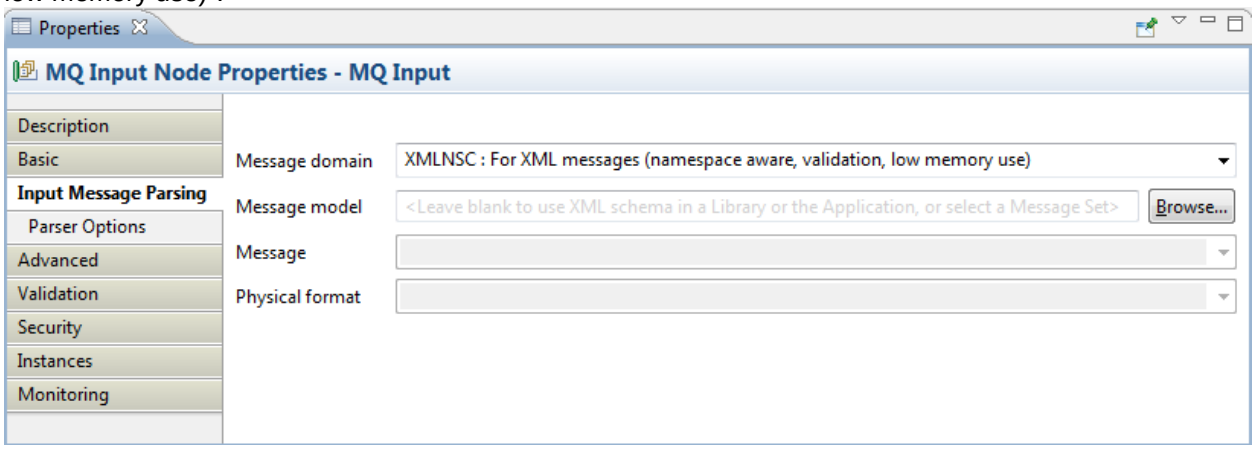
OFS: Message Domain should be “BLOB : For messages with an unspecified format”

OFSML: Message Domain should be “XMLNS : For XML messages (namespace aware)”

Batch OFS: Message Domain should be “XMLNS : For XML messages (namespace aware)”

Batch OFSML: Message Domain should be “XMLNS : For XML messages (namespace aware)”

Service XML: Message Domain should be “XMLNSC : For XML messages (namespace aware, validation, low memory use)”.

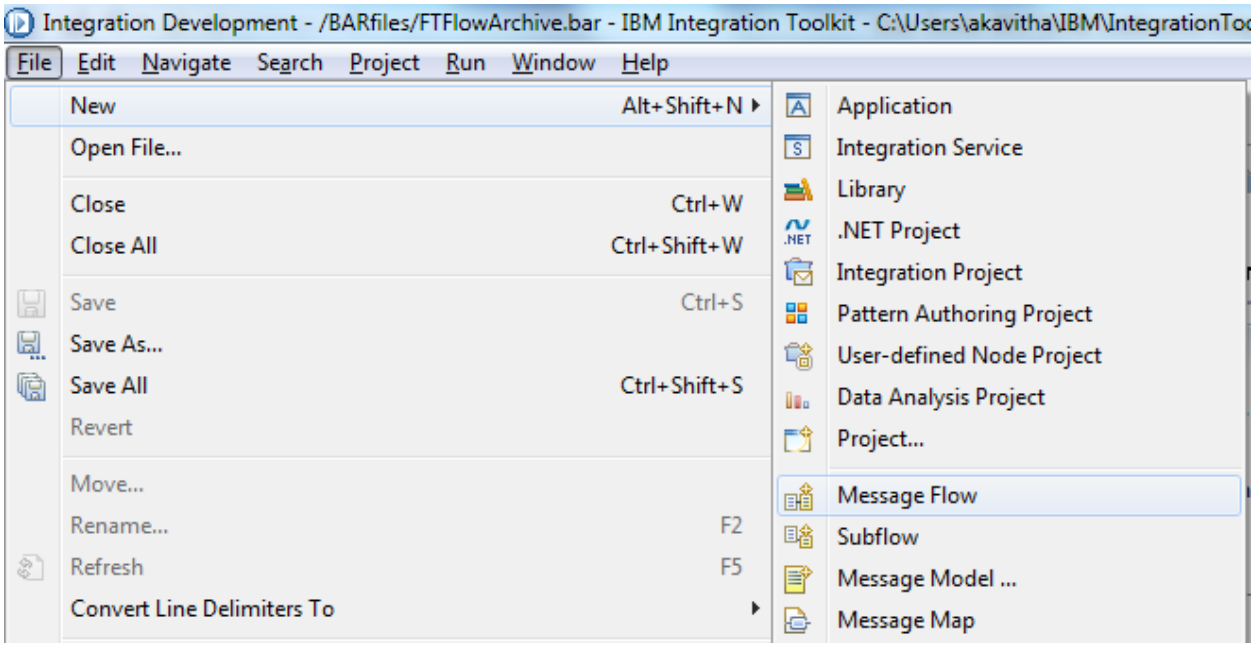


Deploying Message Flow in a Message Broker

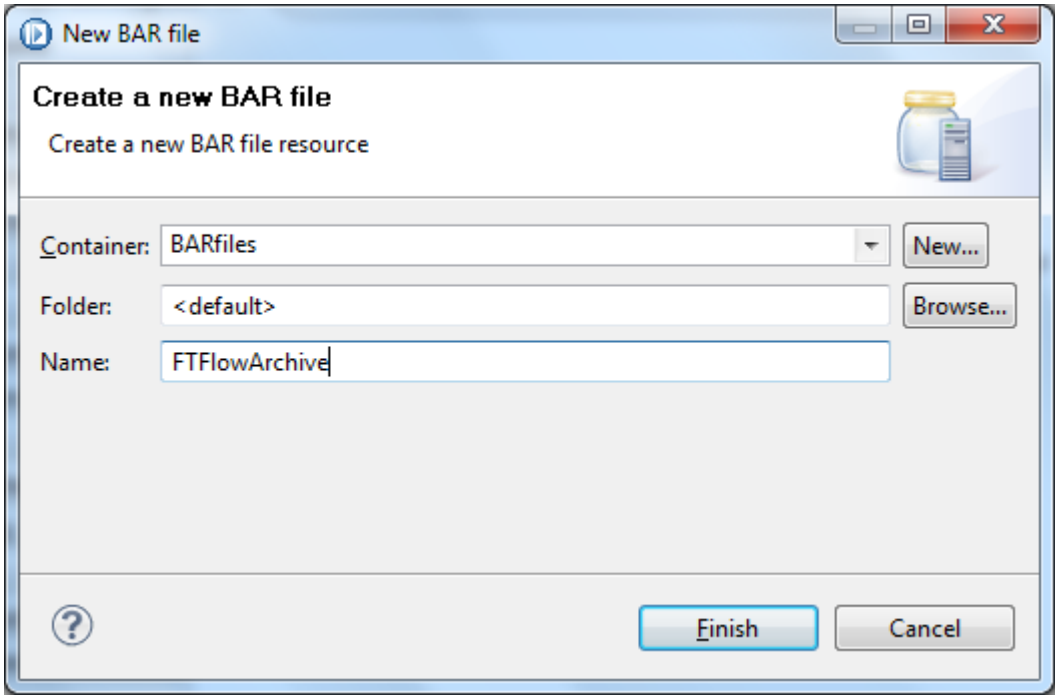
When a WebSphere Business Integration adapter uses a message broker as its integration broker, it uses WebSphere MQ message flows to process and route business object messages representing data or requests being sent by business applications to one another. A single message flow, defined for each queue, processes all messages placed on that queue.

Here the process of deploying Message flows in a Message Broker is explained.

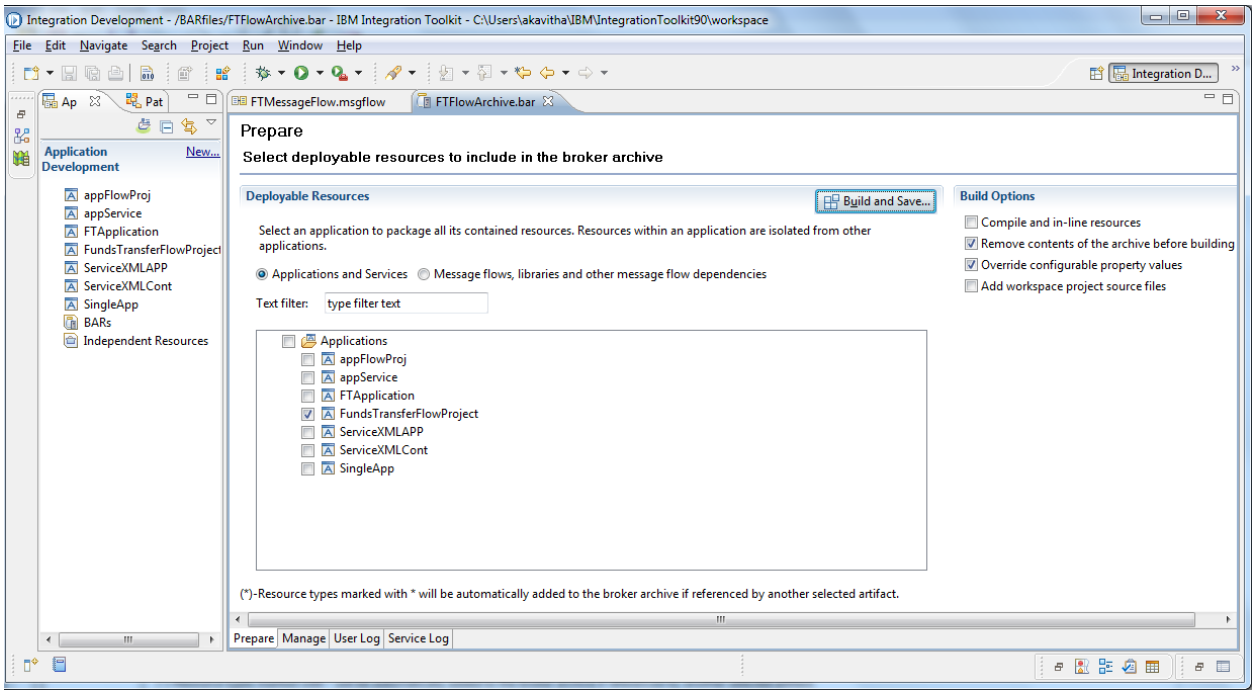
1. Once the flow is configured, the user has to create the Message Broker Archive. To do so, use the menu option File → New → BAR File.



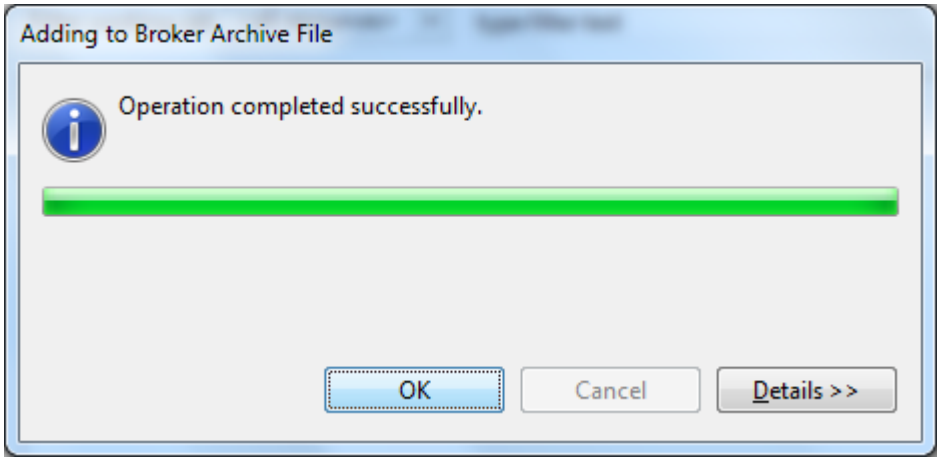
2. The Message Broker Archive project is usually added to a container. Here the container BARfiles is used.



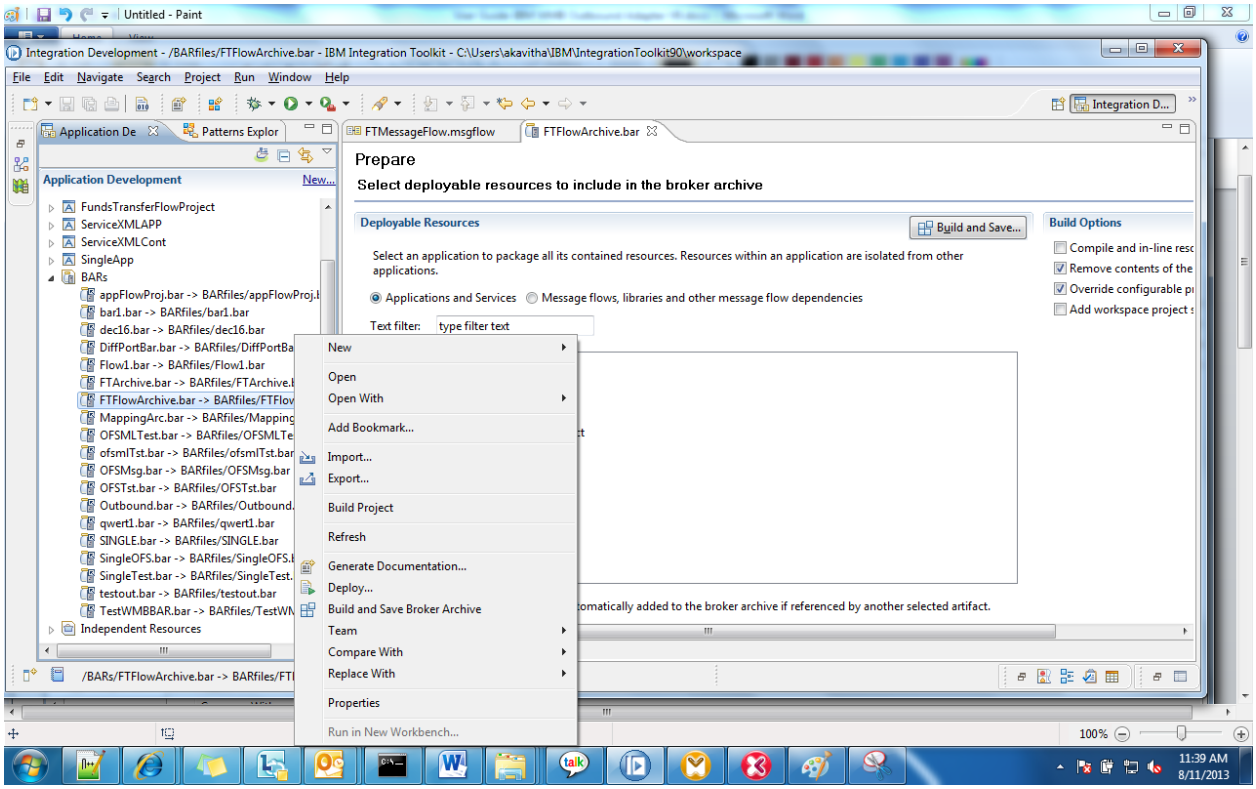
3. The user is now taken to the prepare screen of the Message Broker Archive inorder to select the Message Flow that are to be added to archive.



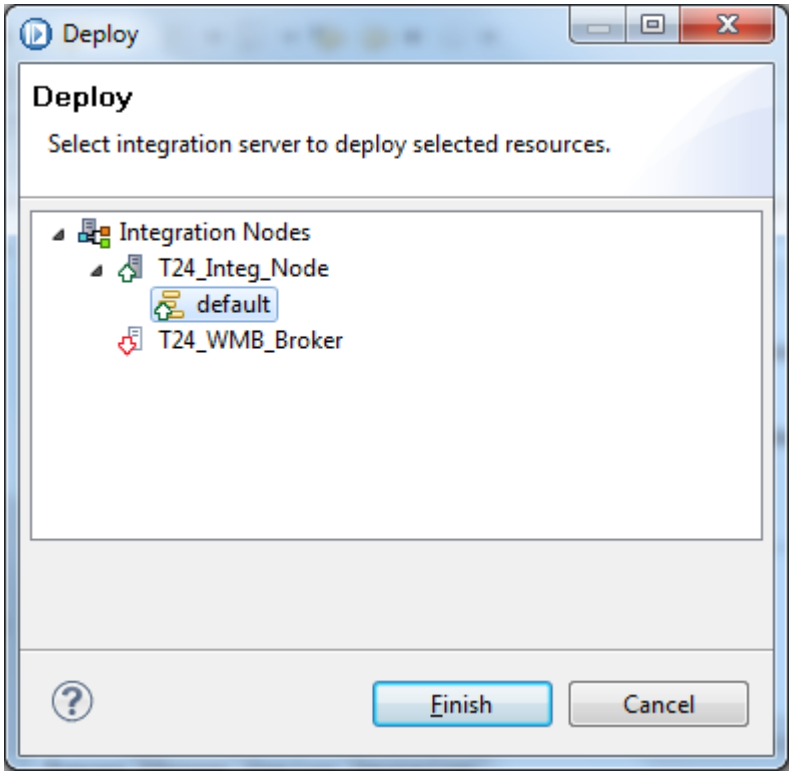
Once the required contents are selected, the broker archive has to be built using the “Build and Save” option.



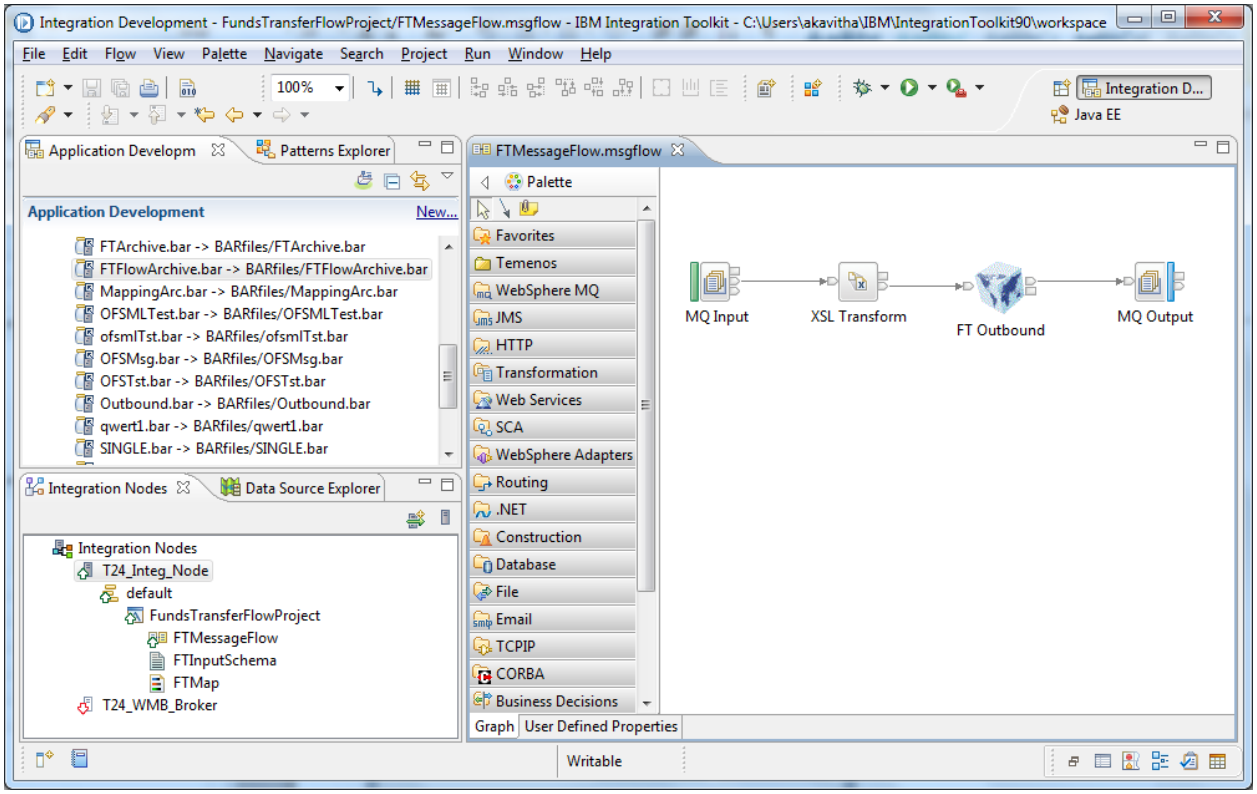
4. The built Broker Archive now is ready to be deployed into a Broker. The deployment process is very simple. Right click the broker archive file and select deploy.



5. Then select the Broker under which the broker archive has to be deployed.



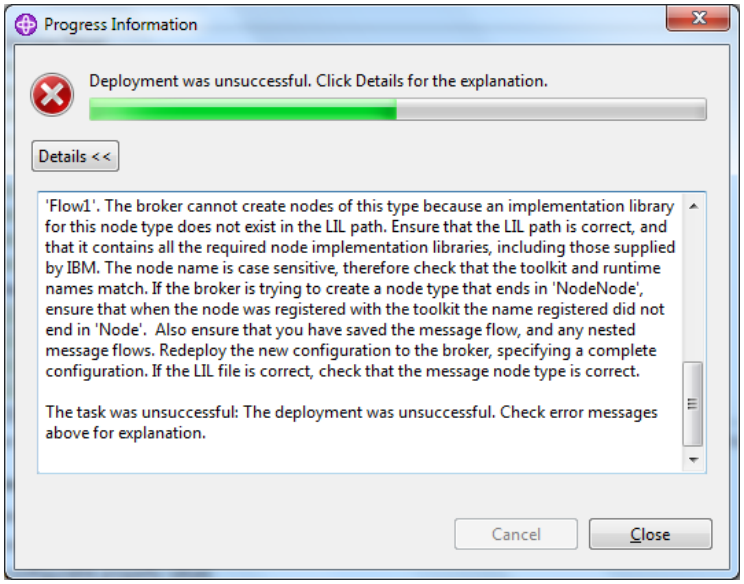
6. Click finish. This starts the deploy process. Once the deployment is completed successful the progress information dialog box gets closed and the deployed can be seen under the Integration Node.



Once the Message broker archive is deployed, the user can send request to T24.

Troubleshooting

Problem: Error shown below while deploying:



Solution: Clean and rebuild the project

Glossary

Appendix

Starting TAFC Agent:

The TAFC Agent has to be started for establishing the connectivity to TEMENOS T24 using TAFC as runtime. SSL certificates can also be used while starting the TAFC Agent. Thus the connectivity between Integration Studio and jremote is secured using certificates. TAFC Agent may be started from the command line/shell via the following executable:

tafc_agent -p [PORT NUMBER]

Example:

tafc_agent -p 33333

(or)

tafc_agent -p [PORT NUMBER] -c [CERTIFICATE PATH] -k [KEY PATH]

Example:

tafc_agent -p 33333 -c c:\openssl\bin\keys\cert.cer -k c:\openssl\bin\keys\key.pem

References

Creating a queue manager in IBM MQ:
http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wmqv6/v6r0/index.jsp?topic=%2Fcom.ibm.mq.amqzag.doc%2Ffa14220_.htm

Creating a queue in IBM MQ:

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wmqv7/v7r0/index.jsp?topic=%2Fcom.ibm.mq.explorer.tutorials.doc%2Fbi00257_.htm

Creating a broker:

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/wmbhelp/v7r0m0/index.jsp?topic=%2Fcom.ibm.etools.mft.doc%2Fbe10000_.htm