Phase 7: Integration & External Access

Overview

With the **user interface development completed in Phase 6**, the focus of this phase was to extend the PlayStation CRM into a **connected ecosystem**. Instead of being an isolated system, Salesforce now interacts with **external applications and services**.

The integrations were designed around the core business needs of the gaming company:

- Gamers (Contacts) → view consistent subscription and repair status across platforms.
- **Subscriptions** → validated against external payment systems.
- Repairs → updates shared with third-party repair centers.
- Games → catalog synchronized from external sources.
- Cases → monitored through Salesforce but can trigger notifications outside Salesforce.

This ensures that PlayStation CRM not only manages data internally but also participates in the **broader service ecosystem**.

Activities Done

1. Named Credentials & Remote Site Settings

To establish secure communication with external systems, **Named Credentials** and **Remote Site Settings** were configured:

- A **Named Credential** was created for the payment gateway. This allows Salesforce to securely authenticate and make API calls to verify subscription renewals or process payments.
- A **Remote Site Setting** was added to whitelist the gateway's domain, ensuring callouts are permitted only to trusted endpoints.

This step ensures **subscription data in CRM is validated against actual payment information**, avoiding discrepancies.

2. REST API Callouts

Using the Apex programming concepts from Phase 5, **REST API callouts** were implemented to enable direct communication with external applications:

- **Subscription Renewal Callouts:** Apex methods fetch renewal details from an external billing service, ensuring that Salesforce always reflects the latest subscription status (active, expired, or renewed).
- Repair Status Push: Whenever a repair record is updated in Salesforce, an API call is made to
 a third-party repair tracking app, keeping external agents and service centers informed in
 real-time.

This provides **two-way communication**: Salesforce can both **retrieve** and **send** information to external apps.

3. External Services & Salesforce Connect

Two integration tools were explored to expand data availability:

- **External Services:** A PlayStation Store API schema was defined in Salesforce, allowing actions like *"fetch game details"* or *"check store availability"* to be invoked directly from Salesforce Flows without custom code.
- Salesforce Connect: Configured to link to an external game catalog via OData. This allows
 users to see the game library directly in Salesforce without duplicating or storing that data
 internally.

This ensures the **Games object in CRM stays synchronized** with the official external catalog.

4. Platform Events & Change Data Capture (CDC)

To support real-time communication with external systems:

- Platform Events: A custom event was created to notify external systems whenever a Repair record is created or updated. This allows third-party service apps to immediately pick up repair requests without polling Salesforce.
- Change Data Capture (CDC): Enabled for the Subscriptions object, ensuring external analytics tools receive real-time updates whenever a subscription is created, renewed, or expires.

Together, these enable **event-driven integrations**, making Salesforce proactive in sharing changes.

5. API & Authentication

Finally, secure external access was set up:

- A **Connected App** was created with OAuth 2.0 authentication, enabling trusted third-party apps to access Salesforce data.
- Access was restricted using scopes to ensure only necessary data (like Subscription and Repair details) is exposed.
- API limits and governor constraints were reviewed to ensure integrations are sustainable under Salesforce usage caps.

This ensures that **external apps can fetch gamer data securely**, without compromising the system's performance or integrity.







