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Lars Hvam September 1, 2023 | 1 minute read

ABAP & http, why can't we just have something nice?

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As noted in the last section of ABAP & Excel, why can't we just have something nice? its not only Excel that is a challenge, its the same with JSON and http. This

blog post focuses on http, which is difficult to get working everywhere.

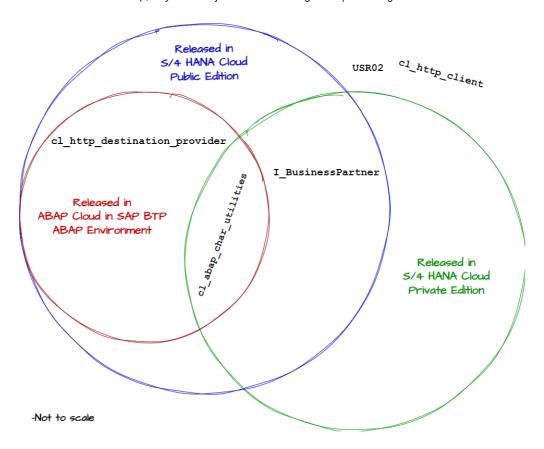
As noted by Martin Pankraz in SAP S/4HANA Cloud ABAP Environment integration journey with Microsoft – Part 1 – Microsoft Teams approval, there is currently no http client released in S/4 HANA Private Cloud.

It is, however, possible to do a wrapper as per Enable HTTP Communication in Your ABAP Code

Released APIs?

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Until now, I've assumed that logic implemented in *ABAP Cloud in SAP BTP ABAP Environment* would automatically be compatible with *S/4 HANA Cloud Public Edition* and *S/4 HANA Private Edition*, assuming its the same quarterly/yearly/bi-yearly release. But looks like the picture is more like,



With CL_HTTP_CLIENT not released, and CL_HTTP_DESTINATION_PROVIDER released in *ABAP Cloud in SAP BTP ABAP Environment* and *S/4HANA Cloud Public Edition*.

The diagram might be incorrect, but there is no transparency was to what is released when/where. api.sap.com only includes a subset of the released objects, and it's not versioned or machine readable. As noted in 2020 this is a challenge to the ABAP ecosystem, making it difficult for partners and customers to write future compatible code.

Lets do it?

So what's the fix? CL_HTTP_CLIENT and CL_HTTP_DESTINATION_PROVIDER has small differences to the method signatures making them incompatible seen from a consumer perspective.

HOW STANDARDS PROLIFERATE: (SEE: A/C CHARGERS, CHARACTER ENCODINGS, INSTANT MESSAGING, ETC.)

SITUATION: THERE ARE 14 COMPETING STANDARDS.



SON: SITUATION: THERE ARE 15 COMPETING STANDARDS.

from xkcd.com

My suggestion would be to write a new nice http client library, which can be used anywhere, but it does require a http client to be released in *S/4 HANA Cloud Private Edition*.

Pull requests welcome, https://github.com/open-abap/cross-http-client



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