

How to manage Object IDs cleverly during OpenText Documentum Content Migrations

A Technical Whitepaper

When dealing with content migrations, broken links are often an issue. Broken links might occur during non-inplace system migrations, e.g. with fme migration-center. Very often, the content files residing in the repositories contain HTTP links which point to other documents of the same (or other) repositories. Changes of the object IDs, e.g. caused by the document migration will break those HTTP links. As a result connections between documents are broken after the migration process, but there are several approaches how to deal with broken links during or after Documentum migrations.

Remark: The difference whether the links point to the same or to another document of the same or another repository is not important for the following proposal and is skipped for simplification purposes.

By this, redirections are only handled inside the same host. As a result the interactions are more homogenous and necessary tracking can be performed on a single host.

As-is state during non-inplace migrations

The following illustration represents the as-is state. The URL points to a specific Web application which handles the view request in case a user clicks on that URL. Due to the fact that the hardware is going to be replaced, the host names will change for the affected hardware.

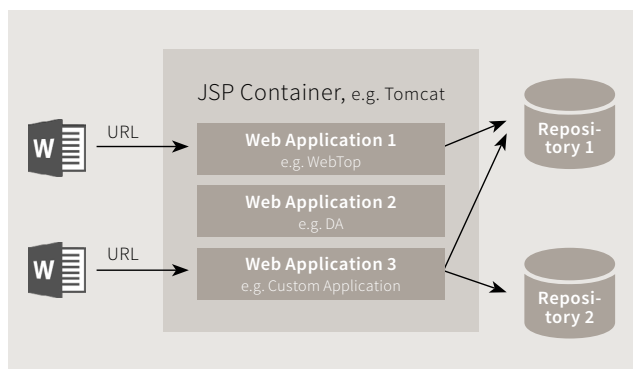


Fig. 1. As-is state

Different Solution Approaches

In case that the URL consists of the physical host name, there are basically two approaches. The first approach (Figure 2) is to assign the old physical host name additionally to the new hardware (host) and a new virtual host is defined in the JSP container handling the requests targeted to the old host name as shown in the following illustration.

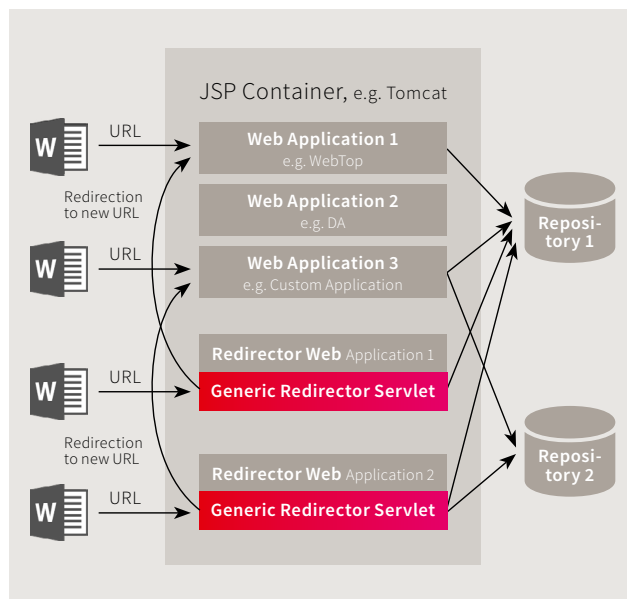


Fig. 2. Redirections handled inside the same host

The second approach (Figure 3) is that all requests to the old host names are handled by a dedicated server (host) and this dedicated server redirects the requests to the new web server host as shown in the following illustration.

By this, all requests to all old host names can be condensed to be handled by a single, dedicated server.

In case that the URL consists of a DNS alias (instead of a physical host name, Figure 4) and this DNS alias is switched from the old host to the new host, the DRL / link component inside the appropriate web application is subject to being updated. This new DRL / link component is able to identify »old« object IDs either by the repository ID portion of the object ID (the repository ID is part of the object ID) or – if not applicable – by querying the Documentum repository for the old object ID.

All approaches have in common, that the old object ID has to be recorded in an additional custom attribute (a repeating ID field could be appreciated in order to be prepared for prospective upgrades like upgrades to Documentum 7.0) during the repository migration / move of data from one repository to the other. This new custom attribute might be queried to find the new object ID.

In case of source repositories getting obsolete, the redirector can decide on the repository ID portion of the object ID that the new object ID has to be queried.

Handling of complex cases

In more complex cases e.g. that a single cabinet is moved from one repository into another, the redirection logic have to be handled by specific code. In case the object ID has not been found within the source repository, specific target repositories are queried for the old object ID. This approach would be efficient in terms of effort, data model complexity, dependencies, etc.

If there are a lot of complex cases and the cases are not homogenous, a centralized Oracle table could hold all information regarding old object IDs mapped to new object IDs. This Oracle table might be queried by the redirector code to obtain the new object ID. By the repository ID portion of the object IDs, the redirector might also be able to identify the repository holding the corresponding object.

fme now incorporates 17 years of project experience in the field of migrating applications, content and data. Our migration experts have developed best practice methods and various solutions which can be applied to different system architectures in order to fix broken links. If you need further information please contact us – we welcome any challenge!

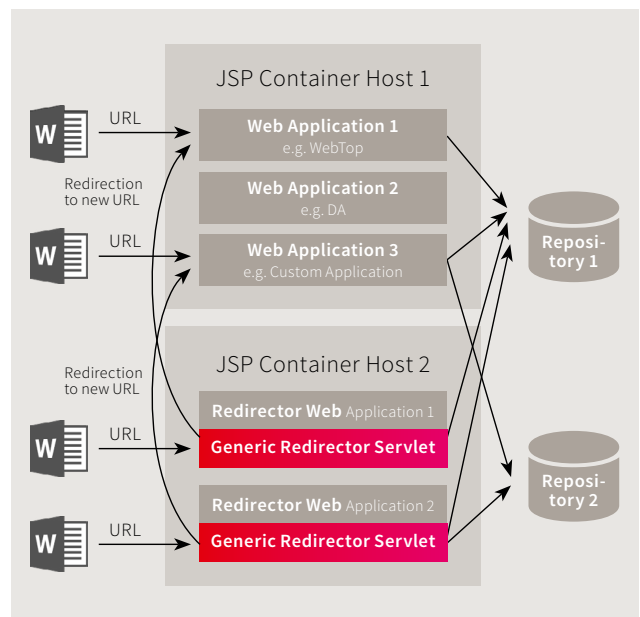


Fig. 3. Redirections handled by a dedicated server

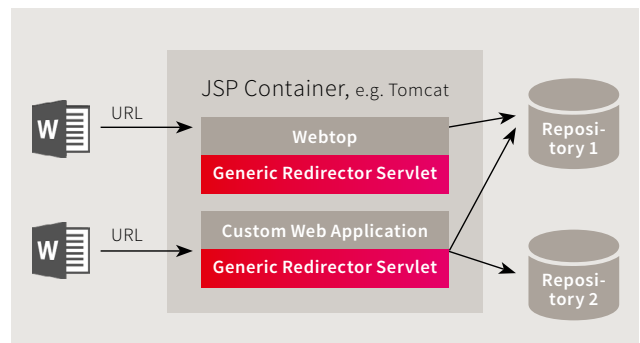


Fig. 4. Redirections via switched DNS alias