Characteristics of Portal

a) A Single point of access via web browser to applications, content and services.

b) Secure access from anywhere.

c) Simple maintenance based on an open and flexible system with no additional client software.

d) A personalized, role-based user interface, customizable to individual needs.

e) SAP Enterprise Portal provides a complete portal infrastructure, with robust knowledge-management and collaboration functionality.

f) An enterprise portal provides enhanced meaning by organizing content in context and by supporting collaborative flows of information between communities of common interest. It helps convert raw data into information and then validates that information to produce knowledge.

g) **Content:** Content includes every type of data and information source that is used within an organization. Messages in the form of e-mail, notes, forums, news and chats are a natural component of an Internet-based environment. Content includes organized methods to present and deliver sets of material as a unit.

h) **Context:** Context is the essence of information. A portal defines context by embedding, linking or packaging related content together and by ubiquitous meta data and reference data. Without this contextual information, you may have a harder time deciding where to begin your personal research on data warehousing.

i) **Connectivity:** A portal cannot serve the needs of information consumers if it can't access specific content they are interested in. Built-in capabilities, wrappers, application programming interfaces or external functionality can all provide connectivity.

j) **Channels:** Channels are the means made available to information consumers to send and receive content or to interact with the portal. Our definition is based on a communications metaphor for how information is received or transmitted.

k) **Collaboration:** An enterprise portal must support collaboration to increase the value of the content. Collaboration comes in passive, active and autonomous forms. In all its forms, collaboration supports interaction between individuals to understand and interpret content.

l) **Customization:** The basic features of customization are the ability to manage the look and layout of your own home page in the portal. This includes the ability to select embeddable components.

m) **Control:** Control functionality includes administrator and security features. A portal must support a wide range of control models - from highly centralized through distributed to fully decentralized administration.

n) **Correlation:** implies a set of processes to help manage info-glut that helps the seeker find what is relevant. A sophisticated variant of correlation helps validate results, which is the means to the transition from information to knowledge.