Helping build a service-oriented architecture (SOA) infrastructure that supports changing business needs

IBM SOA Integration Services – connectivity and reuse

Providing a flexible infrastructure for your business
Increasingly, organizations are deploying service-oriented architectures to respond more effectively and cost-efficiently to their business requirements. They are doing so because an SOA helps better align IT with the business by unbundling key services and processes from monolithic legacy applications, increasing flexibility and improving the flow of information. With an SOA, organizations often find they are able to better respond to evolving business demands, decrease product lifecycle time and cost, enter new market segments sooner, deliver existing services to new channels faster, and better manage mergers and acquisitions.

But building an effective SOA environment requires a strong and stable infrastructure—one that is easy to manage, highly available, scalable and security-rich and helps ensure quality of service. Developing such an infrastructure can be a challenge for even the most sophisticated and skilled IT operation.

IBM SOA Integration Services – connectivity and reuse offers design and implementation services you can rely on to provide you with a robust and scalable runtime SOA infrastructure that can support your SOA applications and Web services. With the connectivity and reuse service, you will be able to:

- Develop an SOA environment or enhance an existing one by implementing a flexible IT infrastructure
- Rapidly create and implement new SOA functionality

Highlights

- Increases communications and visibility into key business information and processes
- Helps build strong SOA environments using proven IBM best practices
- Provides your IT team with access to SOA knowledge and expertise
- Offers support for virtually your entire SOA journey
• Take advantage of new technology while leveraging and enhancing your existing assets, skills and investments
• Transfer critical SOA skills and expertise to your internal teams
• Rely on IBM’s proven methodologies, architectures, expertise and accelerators to help decrease the risks of implementing an SOA infrastructure.

Creating reusable connections between people, applications and data sources

Most IT environments have been developed over time and are based on large, monolithic applications. The problem with this approach is that it often results in what today’s successful organizations know they must avoid: siloed information, business processes and users.

SOA environments are attracting interest because they offer a level of flexibility seldom found in other types of infrastructures. These environments are able to reach across the enterprise, integrating applications and processes that previously were disparate. In addition, SOAs allow you to transform systems into a variety of services that then can be reused in new ways. A stand-alone application for processing purchase orders, for example, could be separated into individual services that address customer needs, such as shipping, financing, inventory and production information.

The connectivity and reuse service can help you unlock the value of your existing IT assets by enabling the smooth transition to an SOA environment based on the latest IBM WebSphere® technologies. IBM consultants will work closely with you to work through the complexities of developing an SOA infrastructure that can meet your needs. In doing so, they will integrate the new SOA environment with your existing platforms, operating systems and applications with various access and management scenarios.

IBM consultants begin the connectivity and reuse engagement with tactical and strategic assessments of your current environment. They evaluate your existing infrastructure, applications and processes, helping you determine which approach and technologies will provide the greatest return on investment and align more closely with the needs of your business users.

After the planning stage is complete, the connectivity and reuse service shifts to identifying the services and processes needed to shape the new SOA architecture. The implementation process that follows brings together all of the applications, tools and SOA foundation software required to build the architecture. It helps develop and implement the three logical units on which most SOA environments are built:

• The service bus, which connects different systems by transforming data formats and protocols to enable the exchange of information between front-end and backend applications
• The business service repository, which contains information about each service that uses the SOA infrastructure
• The business process management engine, which orchestrates business processes.

Helping your organization benefit from a Smart SOA environment

The end result of the connectivity and reuse service offered by IBM is the IBM Smart SOA™ environment—a scalable, manageable, adaptable and responsive IT infrastructure that provides security-rich process integrity in a robust transactional environment. Smart SOA deployment uses a set of guiding principles IBM has developed based on its experiences helping thousands of clients worldwide through their SOA transformations. It recognizes that typical ad hoc approaches to developing SOA environments often fail to leverage the true value of this unique IT architecture. The Smart SOA approach is designed not only to speed deployment
and reduce implementation risk but also to help you extend the value of your SOA deployment. The connectivity and reuse service adds further value by allowing you to reuse existing applications and processes, creating an infrastructure that can accommodate your future business needs.

Transfering our SOA knowledge to you
Whether you already have some experience with SOA environments or are beginning the process of building your SOA infrastructure but have limited internal SOA skills, the connectivity and reuse service can help by providing access to IBM personnel with SOA expertise throughout the design and implementation process. IBM designers and engineers will work with you to understand your unique requirements and help you deploy a scalable and security-rich SOA infrastructure for your business. Through a collaborative process, your internal staff will be able to tap into IBM resources, knowledge and tools, providing you with a faster implementation and skills exchange you can leverage in the future. In addition, you will benefit from the use of IBM’s marketplace-leading SOA technologies, such as WebSphere software and IBM DataPower® appliances.

The connectivity and reuse service provides access to IBM SOA experts, tools and testing so you can bring together your valued assets and reshape them in new ways—potentially with decreased risk and greater confidence. By allowing you to take advantage of IBM’s design and implementation experience and providing bidirectional access to WebSphere software developers, the service can help you achieve both your business and your IT objectives from your new SOA environment.

Offering a range of integrated SOA solutions
Of course, designing and implementing an SOA infrastructure is only one step in your SOA journey. That’s why IBM offers a variety of services to help you with requirements ranging from developing and implementing composite applications and Web services to managing and governing your SOA environment. These services work hand-in-hand with the connectivity and reuse service to provide comprehensive SOA support as you need it. With best practices for governance, SOA management, security and application development, IBM can help you build, manage and maintain a more reliable and scalable SOA environment for your business.

Why IBM?
With the connectivity and reuse service, you receive the benefit of the knowledge and experience IBM has developed as a leader in SOA technology. Over the years, IBM has made more than 50 contributions to SOA-specific open-source projects and has developed more than 300 SOA-related patents. Even more important, the thousands of SOA engagements and assessments on which IBM has worked have led directly to the development of the proven architectures, best practices, roadmaps and technology accelerators that can help speed your next SOA infrastructure implementation project, reduce risks and result in an IT environment that will be more likely to meet your needs both now and in the future.

For more information
To learn more about IBM SOA Integration Services – connectivity and reuse, contact your IBM representative or visit:

ibm.com/services/middleware