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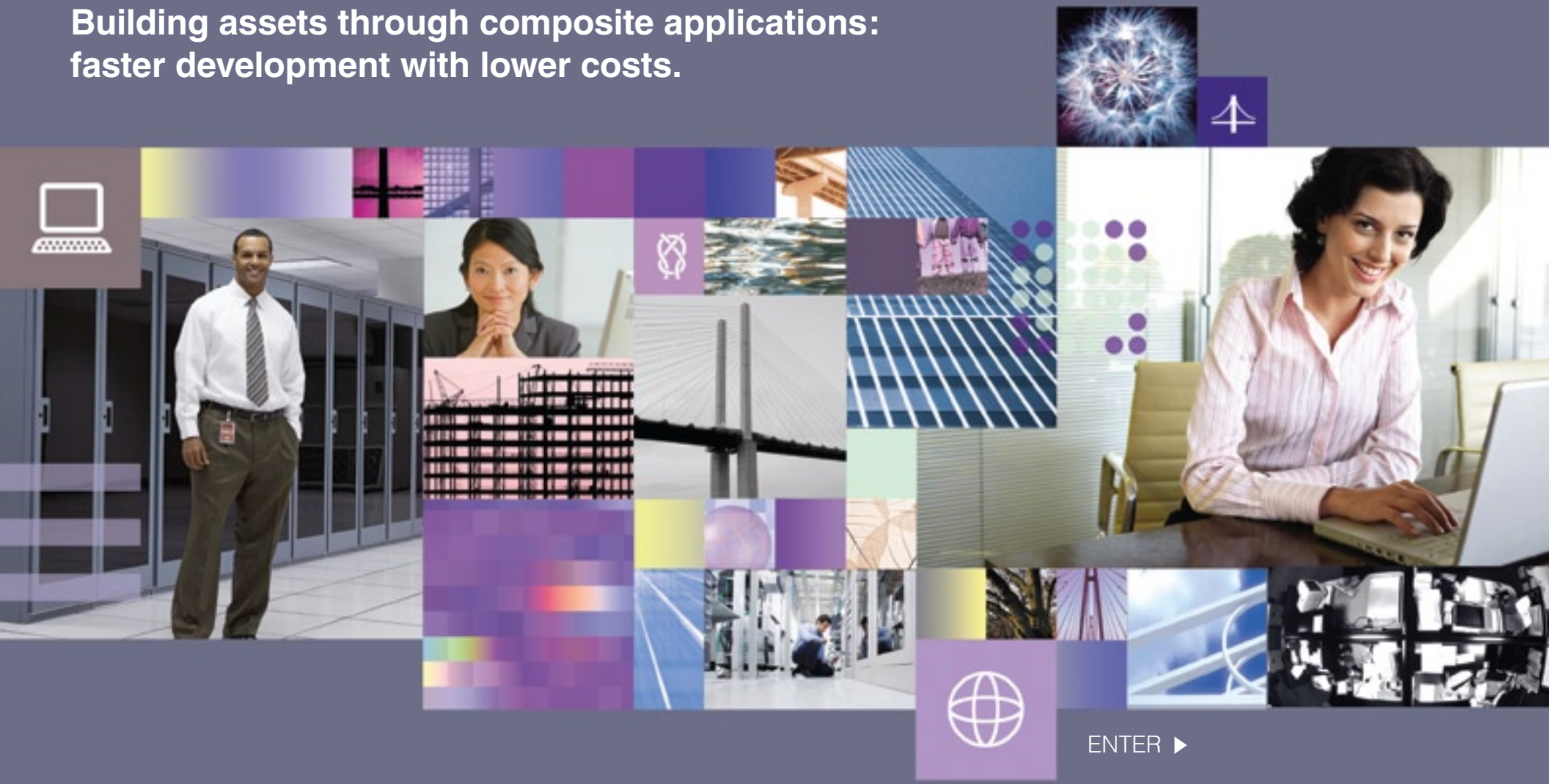
Building assets through composite applications: faster development with lower costs.



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Making good on the SOA value proposition

Leveraging best-of-breed skills and tools

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Making it all work with an SOA healthcheck

Making good on the SOA value proposition

Change is topping the agendas of most organizations these days—change that is accelerating, pervasive and unrelenting. Challenged to build applications that can enable innovation and change, CIOs are turning to service-oriented architectures (SOAs), which feature loosely coupled services that can be reused across the enterprise as composite applications, thereby speeding development and lowering costs.

The question is how to introduce asset reuse into an IT environment dominated by existing siloed business functions that are available as legacy or packaged applications, that aren't built with SOA in mind and that can be hard to fit into a new SOA deployment. While many of these applications are, and will continue to be, valuable corporate assets, they often are used sparsely across the business and can be time consuming and costly to update and maintain. The good news is that IBM has three different ways to put reuse to work in a legacy environment. You can:

- Leverage best-of-breed skills and tools.
- Build new assets with an eye toward reuse.
- Modernize legacy and packaged applications in-house.

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Organizations with legacy applications reflecting the siloed business structure that want to quickly decompose these existing applications for more flexible use and reuse can leverage highly skilled experts and application modernization tools from IBM Global Business Services as part of their change into a more flexible business. The IBM team can provide a comprehensive modernization that can make your entire IT environment, as well as your business, more flexible and agile by connecting it through an enterprise service bus (ESB). Using the analysis and renovation catalyst (ARC) tool, for example, the team can identify functionality patterns and establish a model-driven approach to the target component architecture to help identify the potential for composite applications. The tool also can generate much of the necessary code, which the IBM Global Business Services team can then supplement as necessary.

Implemented with the IBM team's extensive knowledge of business rules and controls, the modern composite applications can be easily adapted to new business needs, and the IT assets can be reused to support ongoing application development.

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As organizations create composite applications to address new opportunities or to replace outdated assets, they can build new components with an eye toward reuse. If, for example, an organization wants to develop a new mobile sales channel for smartphone users, it can not only create the assets specific to the new channel deployment, but also go a step farther and consider which of these new functions might be reusable across the business, as well as which functions can be reused from the existing business.

IBM has tools, such as the IBM WebSphere® Application Server family, along with best practices, to facilitate this reuse-focused approach to services and composite application development. In addition, organizations can leverage IBM Rational® ClearCase® software to help establish a repository for service and composite application building blocks, such as source code, service interface declarations, software architecture models and business process models. This makes the reusable components more visible to developers and facilitates reuse by others in the organization.

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For organizations that want to reuse more of their existing assets without changing interfaces or incurring the risks involved in changing the programming, IBM WebSphere Studio Asset Analyzer and IBM Rational Transformation Workbench software provide an answer. These tools are designed to analyze applications and linkages and modernize them without reprogramming them.

If an organization wanted to streamline the maintenance of a number of legacy applications written in different languages and running on different machines—for example, SAP or Oracle—in-house, it might use IBM Rational Business Developer software to change the look and feel of the applications. Alternatively, it could use IBM WebSphere Message Broker software to put an adaptation layer into the ESB, which builds a wrapper around the existing application so it looks like a newly written service that is reusable as part of a composite application. Organizations also can use tools like WebSphere Message Broker software to integrate packaged applications into the business more quickly by presenting them as just another reusable asset fully integrated within the infrastructure and connected as part of a composite application.

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Reusing assets can speed the development of composite applications and reduce costs. But it can also introduce new stresses in the IT infrastructure. For example, if you are hosting newly written services for a new business model, incoming customer calls might go from 10,000 a day to 1,000,000 a day. To help make sure your infrastructure is ready, you can leverage Infrastructure Healthcheck services supporting SOA deployments from IBM to identify potential problems and develop treatment plans designed to improve the return on your SOA investment.

IBM also offers an Infrastructure Healthcheck workshop for SOA that helps you identify problem areas and determine where further analysis is required. Specialized diagnostic services can provide in-depth analyses of your overall SOA performance and identify improvement areas related to your ESB, portal infrastructure and service management or to your WebSphere Application Server and IBM WebSphere Portal software. Finally, we can help remediate and repair problem areas, including those related to SOA integration, application infrastructure, service management, and identity and access management.

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For more information

To arrange an SOA healthcheck, contact your IBM sales representative.

For more information about IBM offerings and services designed to enhance the return from your SOA-enabled assets, contact your IBM sales representative or visit:

ibm.com/soa

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