

## IBM SOA Infrastructure Consulting Services – infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA



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### Highlights

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- ***Supports alignment of IT infrastructure capabilities with strategic business objectives***
- ***Develops a practical framework for an IT infrastructure that supports SOA service levels***
- ***Helps curb operational costs associated with SOA adoption***
- ***Provides access to experienced, trained and skilled technical resources***

### Transitioning to an SOA environment

Service-oriented architecture (SOA) is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after solutions to the ever-present challenge of responding successfully to change. SOA can give you the foundation you need to grow, acquire, communicate, integrate, innovate and adapt. It can help address some of the problems that exist in

today's IT environments: escalating costs, inefficiency, a growing maintenance burden and the inability to keep up with the fast pace of business demands. SOA can also improve time to market by enabling greater business flexibility.

But SOA enablement can unleash its own set of complexities. How do you manage an SOA operational environment? How do you minimize the potential risks associated with SOA adoption? You start by making your IT infrastructure more flexible, malleable and amenable so that it's better aligned to support SOA. In this way, you simplify SOA integration and enable rapid change.

SOA enablement requires a roadmap, a coordinated plan that lets you see how to get from where your IT infrastructure is today to an SOA environment tomorrow. It's not easy,

and one of the most important considerations is shaping your IT infrastructure and supporting processes. A strategic approach can help you address critical questions in advance, such as:

- *How to align your infrastructure so that it's flexible and responds to your business needs quickly and efficiently*
- *How to leverage technology and the IT assets you already have without adding further complexity*
- *How to effectively manage your infrastructure capabilities to best support SOA once they're in place.*

If you're looking for the best place to start, consider this: IBM has been involved in SOA since the inception of the technology. Now IBM is in a position to help you effectively manage your SOA environment by providing insights and intellectual capital you're not likely to get anywhere else. In fact, IBM is involved in an effort to develop the industry's first collaborative maturity model for SOA adoption, the Open Group Service Integration Maturity Model.

### **Aligning IT infrastructure with your business objectives**

IBM SOA Infrastructure Consulting Services – infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA is designed to help you develop a clear and pragmatic strategy that aligns IT initiatives to your business objectives. Through collaborative planning that leverages IBM's

rich experience and intellectual capital, infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA can help you establish a framework for implementing an infrastructure architecture that supports SOA.

IBM technical experts apply their extensive experience with SOA technologies and concepts to make the planning process run more smoothly and productively, which can ultimately result in a faster, less risky implementation.

Infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA offers two options that can be combined or pursued exclusively:

- *Infrastructure strategy and planning workshop for SOA—a one-day workshop, a planning session and a report presentation meeting delivered in a two- to three-week engagement. The workshop assesses your existing IT environment and helps define a desired future state, so you can establish an IT infrastructure that effectively supports SOA.*
- *Infrastructure readiness for SOA—a four- to eight-week engagement in which IBM consultants assess your company's IT environment, including organization (roles, teams, functions and more), architecture, information, governance and processes. These capabilities are judged for preparedness against your company's stated objectives and IBM best practices.*

### **Framing an infrastructure that supports SOA service levels**

IBM's disciplined methodology includes defining a strategy, assessing current IT capabilities, documenting an approach and identifying initiatives as part of a prioritized roadmap.

#### **Infrastructure strategy and planning workshop for SOA**

This is an entry-level option in which IBM experts work with you to help assess your current capabilities to support an SOA environment and set goals for your desired end state. IBM works closely with you to identify and prioritize initiatives that address any gaps between your current and end states.

The workshop produces a deliverable that your company can use immediately: an infrastructure strategy and planning workshop for SOA report. This report documents the findings of the workshop, including a review of the problems and an implementation roadmap, which provides a list of prioritized SOA infrastructure initiatives to help you reach your desired end state.

IBM uses proven intellectual capital and a time-tested assessment tool to conduct the workshop. The Service Integration Maturity Model (SIMM) was developed collaboratively by organizations across IBM. By selecting appropriate aspects of this model,

IBM consultants can assess your environment and help define a desired end state—one that is typically 12 to 18 months away. SIMM is fully integrated into the Assessment Roadmap Tool (ART), which provides the analytic framework and planning techniques needed to identify capability gaps, recommend actions for improvement and create a roadmap for IT transformation. In addition, IBM consultants can access an extensive database of past IT projects and apply those insights to your needs.

#### **Infrastructure readiness for SOA**

The second option provides a detailed assessment of your organization's readiness for SOA. The steps during this engagement include gathering information, assessing your IT infrastructure, developing a solution approach, defining initiatives and planning the transition to an optimized environment.

This option produces an infrastructure readiness for SOA report, which summarizes the recommended infrastructure and service management capabilities to support your SOA environment.

#### **Addressing operational cost increases associated with SOA adoption**

While SOA provides greater opportunity to redirect IT spending toward innovation and growth, it can also thwart that opportunity if you're not prepared to effectively manage an SOA-enabled environment. Without a clear plan to

optimize your IT infrastructure prior to adopting SOA, you may experience increases in operational costs due to the complexity of managing an SOA-enabled IT environment.

Even when implemented incrementally, SOA enablement can unleash its own set of complexities. That's why you need a roadmap.

Infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA provides you with this kind of strategic approach and helps you address critical issues in advance, such as how to increase SOA expertise in house among your IT staff and how to align your SOA environment so that it is flexible and responds to your business needs quickly and efficiently. More important, you'll learn how to effectively manage your SOA capabilities once they're in place and how to find an acceptable balance between performance and security. In addition, infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA provides a practical framework for an IT infrastructure that can support the service levels that SOA requires.

#### **Providing access to skilled technical resources**

IBM has a strong, comprehensive portfolio of SOA solutions and capabilities, which includes its products, services, assets and people. We offer the valuable capability to bring together a diverse

team of qualified professionals. When you need help with an extensive SOA project, IBM can combine its SOA capabilities for a total solution, incorporating IBM Global Technology Services, IBM Global Business Services, IBM Software Group and IBM Systems offerings. And our experienced and skilled consultants have access to regional and local communities of practice and other subject matter experts.

#### **Why IBM?**

IBM's methods cover all aspects of IT and SOA management throughout the solution lifecycle. IBM's disciplined, project-management-driven approach enables structure, consistency and repeatable quality while producing innovative solutions that are tailored to your requirements. Furthermore, you can benefit from IBM's experience with the use of intellectual capital, reference models and proven examples.

IBM is widely recognized as a key player in the SOA space and holds more than 300 U.S. patents for SOA-related products. Forrester notes, "IBM leads in SOA intellectual property and investments ... Overall, IBM has impressive R&D and intellectual property investments in SOA coupled with its already expansive breadth and depth of services, software, and hardware."<sup>1</sup> With IBM's help, you can more effectively manage your SOA environment.



**For more information**

To learn more about IBM SOA Infrastructure Consulting Services—infrastructure strategy and planning for SOA, contact your IBM representative or visit:

**[ibm.com/services](http://ibm.com/services)**

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<sup>1</sup> Sean Sweeney with Christine Ferrusi Ross and Ronald J. Furstoss, "IBM Brings Thought Leadership And Global Delivery To North American SOA Integration: The Forrester Wave™ Vendor Summary, Q3 2006," September 18, 2006.