

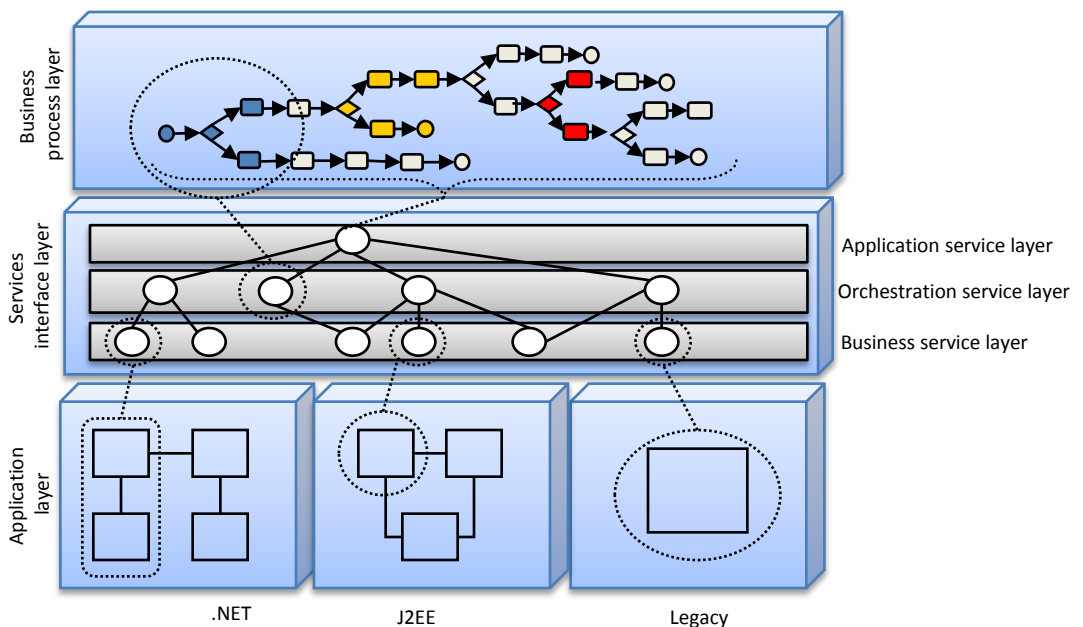
Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)

An overview (Part-II)

Approach to SOA

While looking to leverage SOA, companies must take into account a number of factors before starting the journey. This helps the company identify capabilities, activities and assets that should be investigated when implementing SOA. The factors to note are:

- **Business Domain** - Consideration of Stakeholder commitment, alignment of business and IT Strategy with operations, along with looking at how IT is perceived by the business.
- **People Practice** - Discoveries and decisions need to be communicated across the organization. SOA will alter the way IT works together and collaborate with others. With resources being shared across an enterprise, trust becomes a critical issue.
- **Program Management Capability** - As the approach has an effect across teams, departments, business units, and the entire enterprise, Project Management Capabilities becomes an important element. In addition, SOA adoption requires an iterative approach, ideally with each step meeting a business problem and delivering measurable business value.
- **Governance Structure** - Covers the models, systems and processes used to ensure the enterprise meets the governance requirements. SOA can disrupt existing governance processes as the environment evolves from large, fairly static systems to smaller, dynamic components or services with multiple inter-relationships



Focus on the Business– Process and Services

- **Technology Architecture Structure** - Encompasses enterprise, solution and technology architecture and made up of principles, standards, and models.
- **Technology Ecosystem** - Includes the tools and technologies required to implement and maintain SOA, along with infrastructure required to support the approach.
- **Supply Chain** - Identifies the opportunities for innovation in business processes as the enterprise's SOA implementation matures.

After taking these factors into consideration, SOA team must define the following

- The overall business architecture framework
- Define the standards that are to be used in the SOA deployments
- Define the tools and technologies to be leveraged in the deployments

Open Source - SOA

In a recent report, Datamonitor indicated that they see Open Source SOA playing a particularly prominent role in the infrastructural portion of the enterprise software solutions stack. The number of commercially supported open source middleware products is on the increase. Companies need to be careful in identifying and using Open Source software products. Some of the criteria's that must be used to chose the products are Origin, Maturity, Level of Commitment to standards, flexibility in deployment options, platform support, Community viability & momentum, commercial support & Tooling and documentation

Open source products represent a potentially useful approach to SOA implementations in enterprises, and you don't have to buy into an entire SOA story or expensive SOA stack to benefit from them. Whether you resonate with SOA-style thinking or not, you may want to take one for a test run to see how it can help you even with simple integration projects like legacy to new applications. Their flexible deployment models, low barriers to entry, and community support make them ideal for experimenting with new ways of achieving SOA based business architecture.



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Thirdware Solution Inc

Crystal Glen Centre,
39555, Orchard Hill Place,
Novi, MI, 48375
Toll Free: 888.278.TSPL
(888.278.8775)

info@tspl.com

www.tspl.com

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