

Service-Oriented Architecture: Mainstream Straight Ahead

David W. McCoy, Yefim V. Natis

Service-oriented architecture is about modularity, reuse and agility on behalf of the real-time enterprise. Mainstream status for SOA is not far off.

ANALYSIS

Service-oriented architecture (SOA) is not new, but widespread use of SOA is. If you don't yet know about SOA and how it will change your enterprise's IT architecture, you are placing yourself at a competitive disadvantage. *By 2008, SOA will be a prevailing software engineering practice, ending the 40-year domination of monolithic software architecture (0.7 probability).* SOA does not require Web services — Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) is SOA-based — but Web services are based on accepted standards and will drive SOA to the mainstream. *Through 2008, SOA and Web services will be implemented together in more than 75 percent of new SOA or Web services projects (0.7 probability).*

Yefim Natis sums it up: "Essentially, SOA is a software architecture that builds a topology of interfaces, interface implementations and interface calls. SOA is a relationship of services and service consumers, both software modules large enough to represent a complete business function." So, SOA is about reuse, encapsulation, interfaces and, ultimately, agility. "Service-Oriented Architecture Scenario" kicks off a powerful set of research from Gartner analysts Roy Schulte, Jess Thompson, Massimo Pezzini, Jim Sinur, Mark Driver, Jeff Comport and Brian Wood, as well as me and Yefim.

By way of transition, this will be my last Letter From the Editor for the Application Integration and Middleware Spotlight. Since my role with the Spotlight began in July 2001, we have reported on major advances in our market, such as business activity monitoring (BAM), application platform suites and the enterprise service bus. Now, Yefim will take the helm and guide you through the next wave of innovation and our recommendations on how to benefit. I will be working with the Gartner Fellows and will continue to focus on BAM in addition to some exciting new projects. Thank you for your interest, and for making this one of the most-read Gartner Spotlights.

Sincerely,

David McCoy

Editor in Chief

Application Integration and Middleware

spotlight.feedback@gartner.com

Yefim Natis

Contributing Editor

Application Integration and Middleware

spotlight.feedback@gartner.com

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Corporate Headquarters
56 Top Gallant Road
Stamford, CT 06902-7700
U.S.A.
+1 203 964 0096

European Headquarters
Tamesis
The Glanty
Egham
Surrey, TW20 9AW
UNITED KINGDOM
+44 1784 431611

Asia/Pacific Headquarters
Level 7, 40 Miller Street
North Sydney
New South Wales 2060
AUSTRALIA
+61 2 9459 4600

Latin America Headquarters
Av. das Nações Unidas 12.551
9 andar—WTC
04578-903 São Paulo SP
BRAZIL
+55 11 3443 1509