ORACLE'S APPROACH TO SOA

A PRAGMATIC, HOLISITC APPROACH TO SOA BASED ON YEARS OF REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

FEATURES

• Holistic approach that engages business and IT

• Pragmatic guidance for all levels of SOA maturity

• Comprehensive reference architecture

• Iterative approach that provides tangible benefits in each iteration

• Strategic planning coupled with tactical delivery

BENEFITS

• Better business and IT alignment based on a shared understanding and vision

• Increased agility - the ability of IT to react more rapidly to support business changes

• Reduced IT costs – more reuse and easier application integration

• Reduced risk – iterative approach based on extensive experience

IT departments are always being asked to deliver more for less. Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) has garnered widespread attention because it promises to do just that – deliver more business benefit while reducing costs. However, SOA adoption is complex and success is far from assured. This is why Oracle has developed a pragmatic, holistic approach, based on years of experience with numerous companies, to help customers successfully adopt SOA and realize measurable business benefits.

How is SOA Different?

SOA is a strategy for constructing business-focused, software systems from loosely coupled, interoperable building blocks (called Services) that can be combined and reused quickly, within and between enterprises, to meet business needs. SOA is a significant departure from the traditional large, monolithic applications that currently populate IT environments.

Moving to SOA requires changing the way that IT delivers business solutions across the entire solution delivery lifecycle - from project funding, inception, and requirements management all the way to production monitoring and ongoing maintenance. Adopting SOA is far more complicated and far reaching than simply learning some new technology and deploying some new products.

What is Required to Succeed at SOA Adoption?

Successful SOA adoption requires a holistic approach using proven, pragmatic techniques tailored to the organization's current capabilities and existing business drivers.

There are four essential focus areas which must be addressed to succeed at SOA:

▪ Establish a strategic plan for SOA adoption
▪ Execute the SOA program level activities
▪ Deliver projects and Services following SOA best practices
▪ Establish ongoing guidance and governance

The relationships of these four essential areas are illustrated in Figure 1.

Establish a strategic plan for SOA adoption

The strategic plan for SOA adoption (aka SOA Roadmap) establishes the goals of the SOA initiative, identifies the benefits that SOA will provide to the organization, and defines the guiding principles for the initiative. The strategic plan also includes a high-level schedule for all the activities that comprise the SOA initiative.
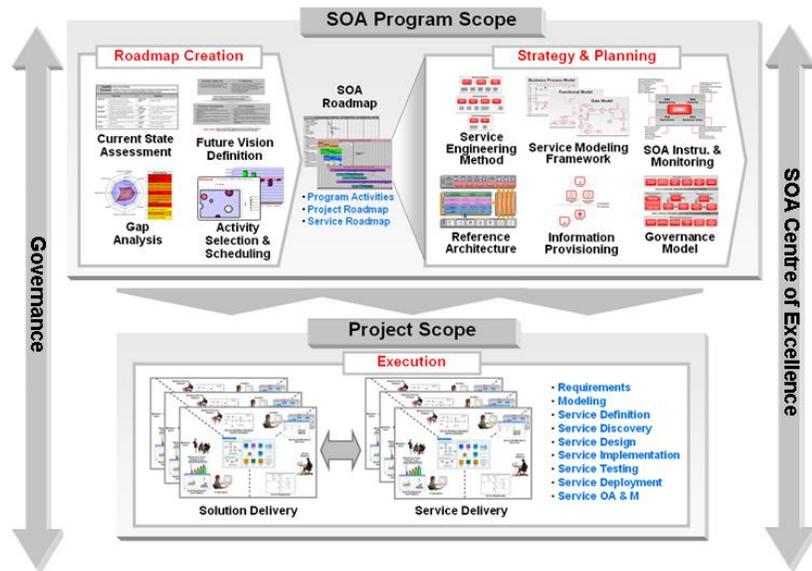
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Figure 1. Oracle's Approach to SOA

Using Oracle's approach to SOA, creating the strategic plan generally takes only a few weeks. This short time frame is possible because the strategic plan is built by following a focused process that uses the Oracle SOA Maturity Model to quickly and accurately identify current capabilities within the organization while also identifying the capabilities that are missing or lagging and which must be addressed by the strategic plan.

Execute SOA program level activities

Instituting a service-oriented process for delivering business solutions requires changes to organizational structure, roles and responsibilities, requirements management, software engineering, QA, IT infrastructure, production monitoring, etc. The program level activities for the SOA initiative are to define and institute these necessary changes across the entire organization.

Oracle's approach to SOA includes extensive guidance on what changes need to be made and provides pragmatic guidance for each of these changes. This guidance is documented in a series of SOA Practitioner Guides. Oracle also provides documents that detail a SOA Reference Architecture which an organization can use to help create its own custom SOA Reference Architecture.

Deliver projects and Services following SOA best practices

Following Oracle's approach to SOA, an organization can update their existing solution delivery process to incorporate SOA best practices, or the organization can adopt wholesale the Oracle Unified Method (OUM) that provides a complete end-to-end approach for service-oriented solution development.

In either case, the solution delivery approach will be new to the organization. This new approach should initially be applied only to projects that will provide the most benefit for the least amount of risk i.e. an incremental roll-out. Oracle provides a Project Selection Framework to help an organization select which projects should be addressed using SOA. Oracle also provides a Service Candidate Selection

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Oracle's proven approach to SOA provides both the strategic direction and tactical processes required to succeed with SOA.

RELATED PRODUCTS

The following Oracle products might be used as part of an SOA initiative:

• Oracle SOA Suite
• Oracle SOA Governance
• Oracle Application Integration Architecture

RELATED SERVICES

The following services are available from Oracle Consulting Services:

• Oracle Unified Method
• SOA Assessment Service
• SOA Center of Excellence

Framework to help identify what Services should be constructed.

Establish ongoing guidance and governance

Establishing a centralized competency group (aka SOA Center of Excellence) that provides help and guidance to project teams is a key enabler for successful SOA adoption. Without such a centralized group, there is little chance that the communication and consistency required for SOA success will occur. Likewise, organizations that succeed with SOA establish governance processes to track and enforce SOA best practices.

Oracle's approach to SOA includes a detailed SOA Governance Model that can be used to help create the appropriate governance processes for an organization. Likewise, Oracle's approach to SOA includes guidance for establishing an SOA Center of Excellence to help guide and drive the SOA initiative.

Contact Us

For more information about Oracle's approach to SOA, please visit oracle.com or call +1.800.ORACLE1 to speak to an Oracle representative.

Oracle is committed to developing practices and products that help protect the environment

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