

12 15 2011 SOA Definition Brainstorming

Key Ideas for SOA

Overarching Statement

Lead Ideas

- Not really a product, but a distinct architectural style to help design services that meet the business needs. An approach for adapting and deploying needed processes and services. (Follow with a description of what it is and what it yields.)
- An enterprise architectural style. Encompasses an ecosystem broader than one particular application
- Clarify with more rigor what a service is.
- Guiding principles about service design: Key of SOA is to separate service contracts from implementation in order to maximize clarity regarding service contract, so that at a business level there is a clear understanding among providers and consumers about how the interaction should happen.
- Corollary in software is the separate service contract from implementation. Service can be fulfilled in a number of different ways
- That service approach allows the orchestration things in order to accomplish more complex compound processes.
- Service ownership: This requires there be one and only one *Service of Record*. Ultimately it is the business area that owns, defines business process.
 - There are implications for governance
 - Note: we will want to conceptually relate this to notions of service and ownership as understood in ITIL. e.g. HR is a business owner. Others may have operational ownership

SOA and process clarity: Notes about automated business processes and information.

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- Does not need to be automated. E.g., student rep. A specific set of services (defined in a contract)
- There is a fundamental problem: lack of clarity in the business process. Flaw to assume software will mitigate the that problem.
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- SOA requires clarity and agreement around bus processes and what services are fulfilled at each stage in a business process.
- SOA requires statelessness: I can poke and get an answer. I don't have to send configuration parameters ahead of time in order to get the answer I need. I don't need to know anything beyond the published contract. The contract is the only thing I need to know.

What SOA is not

1. Point-to-point integration per se.
2. Just web services
3. Not simply an ERP (or set of ERPs) that use the term SOA.
4. >> Utopia. SOA Cannot be a goal in and of itself.
5. A magic bullet. SOA still requires hard work.
6. Appropriate for teams that work in silos - there is a lot of coordination and communication required.

References

SOA manifesto <http://www.soa-manifesto.org/>

Ann Thomas Manes

Al Scott

Marina, Jonathon Mott,