Oracle Forms and SOA: An Executive Summary

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

More and more businesses are looking to the principles of Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) to align their business and I.T. needs. The ability to build services modeled on business functions, reuse and orchestration of common, loosely coupled services and the agility associated with working with modular services, built on recognized standards, are attractive options.

But, a balance must be struck between the adoption of these new practices and the investment in the existing I.T. The ability to adapt and adopt, while maintaining investment and reducing risk is the challenge faced by CTOs, CIOs and business leaders.

ADOPTION OF SOA

Oracle Forms remains a key building block to many I.T. solutions, including Oracle's own E-Business suite. For many businesses, their core business is built on this technology.

While your business may have a strategic view to the uptake of SOA technologies, Oracle Forms remains tactical and so the question being asked is how to adopt an SOA vision of the business without destabilizing those core business services.

Three points best summarize the answers:

Retain Investment

The first key point is to be able to retain the investment in the I.T. infrastructure: your staff, core skills and technology. Oracle has outlined a roadmap that commits to the continued support and development of Oracle Forms as a product while opening up new technologies to your development teams.

What it means to you

By guaranteeing your existing investment, your resources and budget can be directed where they are needed; not simply redeveloping applications that already meet your current requirements.

Adopt Technologies

Start adopting SOA technologies now. Oracle's SOA development tools provide the same visual, declarative and productive development experience with which your developers are already familiar. This allows your developers to quickly start building services and applications today.

What it means to you

Think big – start small. In taking a stepwise approach to these technologies you further reduce risk while building core skills and best practices. Furthermore, being based on SOA principals, these new services can be easily shared and consumed by both new and legacy systems.

Integrate

Oracle Fusion Middleware provides the platform on which your legacy and latest applications can share business and management services. Oracle Forms provides simple hooks for calling in and out of SOA services, client side integration, and common management services such as security and identity management.

What it means to you

Your business sees a seamless integration between your different business applications. You reduce the risk of having new, Oracle Form and other legacy applications working together. No need for a "big bang" approach. Mix and match as your business dictates, not the technology. As you adopt new technologies, they can fit in with your existing core business applications.

CONCLUSION

Adoption of SOA practices is strategic for today's businesses. Oracle has a vision that allows the adoption of SOA principals while reducing the risk for businesses with a high level of investment in legacy technologies. Mirroring Oracle's own strategy with Fusion Applications, Oracle provides the platform, tools and roadmap that allow these businesses to reduce risk and retain investment while evolving to meet their strategic goals.

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