

You have decided to embrace SOA. Some of you have defined an SOA strategy and are equipped with a roadmap to guide your SOA implementation. Others simply want to test SOA's technical feasibility and prove its business value using one or more projects. Either way, it is execution time. How do you identify which services to build? How do you make services a central element of your process improvement and solution design efforts? How do you ensure service reuse? Where do you draw the line between coarse-grained and fine-grained services? What is a "good" service? How do you differentiate between business and technical services? The SOA Monitor adapts its service identification methodology to help you identify services whether you approach SOA at a project, process, functional or technical domain, line-of-business or enterprise level.

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### CORNERSTONES OF SERVICE IDENTIFICATION

- **Business drivers, goals and key performance indicators (KPIs)** – Why build good services when you can build better services? A sound grasp of required business capabilities to support key business imperatives and associated metrics ensures that services will drive both IT benefits and measurable business value.
- **Business process decomposition** – A service is a software component that implements a discrete business function. Hence, our service identification methodology focuses on decomposing the business processes to isolate business and technical functions that are service candidates.
- **Business user involvement** – A service is only a business service if the business understands it. Our preferred approach is to analyze the business processes by looking through the eyes of the business user.
- **Continuous iteration** – We start to iterate early to ensure that the list of candidate services is refined and dependencies, constraints and obstacles are fully analyzed.

"The CIO wanted us to start executing on our SOA roadmap. He needed to understand what services to build this year and as part of which projects. The SOA Monitor adapted their service identification methodology, helped decompose business processes in ways that made sense to the business and identified services that were aligned with the

business capabilities that were defined in our SOA roadmap. We look forward to continuing to work with their team as we broaden our service identification process to include other functional domains of our business." – Integration Architect with a regional insurance carrier.

### ENGAGEMENT DELIVERABLES

Key deliverables include a recommended list of business, data, and technical services and associated descriptions, service categorization to identify where the services reside in the layers of the SOA reference architecture, and service taxonomy.

### THE TEAM, PROJECT DURATION AND COSTS

The team typically consists of 1-2 SOA business consultants who focus on identifying business services and an SOA solution architect who focuses on technical services. Engagements normally last four to ten weeks. Actual duration is contingent on your objectives, scope of SOA adoption, complexity of the environment, level of client involvement, and the agreed upon deliverables. Service Identification is conducted on a fixed price basis.

### BUILD YOUR SERVICES PORTFOLIO

[Contact](#) us to discuss engagement details or [visit](#) us online to learn more about our consulting, training and publication services centered on SOA strategy, planning and implementation.