

TOP

SOA Impacts and Influences

system “assembled” with modular, pre-fabricated components aided by appropriate governance can help an agency reduce costs and mitigate operational risks.

If there’s a strong requirement for transformational change: *Use an “agile” services lifecycle*, rather than a “big bang” approach, to optimize operational processes. In the 1990s, organizations invested money and time in large, complex solutions. Today, small, agile services translate to new capabilities, delivered fast and frequently to help agencies move toward a transformational goal.

If legacy IT investments need to be leveraged: *Harness capabilities rather than forcing expensive new investments.* Often, functions unique to an organization are only available in legacy applications and are simply not supported by COTS software. Using SOA, agencies can deploy mission-critical functions as services to lower information-sharing barriers.

If there’s a need to prioritize IT spending: *An SOA focus can help organizations select the best technological investments*, based on enterprise analysis and a carefully constructed decision framework. Decisions based on an agency’s core mission goals offer far better results than following a siloed, system-centric strategy.

If it’s still too difficult to share information: *Overcome cross-system and heterogeneous environment issues using SOA standards* to bridge complexity gaps. This approach can help organizations more easily share information and lower barriers that hinder access.

If the current legacy environment is too complex: *Use an SOA solution provider to help determine a roadmap and a framework.* Agencies can then leverage these tools and incremental processes to migrate segments of complex systems to achieve simpler, more maintainable environments.

If there are too many services to manage in a trustworthy way: *Use SOA Foundation services to provide a secure, scalable infrastructure.* Many services exist, or may already be provided, by any given government organization. That’s why the DoD is setting up the NCS SOA Foundation, which enables agencies to find, connect, and use trusted enterprise services. This centralized ‘services clearinghouse’ can help agencies provide and manage services.

By now, most federal agencies and departments have started the migration to Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). Whether to achieve compliance goals or transition from aging systems, the move away from stove-piped systems to a service-based enterprise approach is expected to increase value, provide higher quality capabilities, ease IT support and reduce lifecycle maintenance costs.

What many organizations need to understand, according to Rich Reba, director of CSC’s Global SOA Center of Excellence, are the many ways SOA can impact their evolving IT infrastructures, including:

If agency constituents are dissatisfied: *Focus on the services already delivered and identify upgrades that will increase satisfaction.* Understanding what constituents want to receive from the agency makes it easier to determine what changes are needed in an agency’s services portfolio.

If it feels like you’re herding cats: *Orient all planning decisions on services that support the mission.* Everyone’s focus must be turned to align IT strategy with mission goals (as opposed to the other way around). Top management will quickly understand that once planning is based on core services, decisions gain a more distinct focus.

If there are too many redundant capabilities: *Consolidate and share services across the organization.* Gain greater efficiency and reduce the need to pay for the same resources over and over. The creation of a reusable service repository that truly meets cross-system requirements for the enterprise is an approach that more and more organizations are pursuing.

If the agency is hounded by cost and schedule overruns: *Take a modular approach to service development.* If properly architected, a



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