# The Enterprise Portal



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## Not All Organizations Have a Vision



We're ignoring the need to change.



### Key Issues

- How are organizations using portals, and what business value are portals delivering?
- How have portal technologies evolved, and where are they going?
- What does the enterprise portal of the future look like?



### **Portal Defined**

### Classes of portals

- Megaportals vs. enterprise portals
- Vertical vs. horizontal portals
- Internal facing vs. external facing
- An enterprise portal is
  - Web software infrastructure that provides access to and interaction with relevant
  - information/content,
  - applications,
  - business processes and
  - human resources
  - for select, targeted audiences,
  - delivered in a highly personalized manner.











### Enterprise Portal Use Cases



### B2E/G2E

- Still the most popular type of enterprise portal
- Knowledge portals
- Dashboards
- Next-generation intranets
- Primary gateway to employee resources
- Access to LOB processes
- Self-service
- MAGs for mobile

### B2C/G2C

- E-business portals
- Constituent portals
- Home page upgrades and e-business site replacements
- Self-service
- Desktop portals

### B2B/G2B

- Supplier portals
- Distributor portals
- Design partner portals
- B2B transactions for SMBs





### Six Generations of Portal Technology: Content Aggregation to Portal Aggregation



Counter-intuitive trend: deployed portals are usually between Gen 3 and Gen 4

# Portal as a Composition Framework

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- Traditional portal framework
  - •Portlets arrayed on portal page
  - Workflow/pageflow
  - Integration broker/MOM
  - •Interportlet communication allows "on the glass" composites
  - •Portal as a true composition framework
    - •All the features above, plus
      - Application assembly tool
      - Orchestration
      - •BPM
      - •WSRP V2

### The Portal Ecosystem



# Service Orientation: An Architectural Pattern for Distributed Computing

- Services are
  - Autonomous units of business function
  - Connected over distributed network
  - Contracted with respect to interface
  - **Coupled** loosely rather than tightly
  - Independent of platform, toolset, methodology, geography
  - Discoverable via registry
  - Standards-based, in the modern incarnation of SOA
- Services are not (just)
  - Components Services are *a type* of component
    - Loosely coupled, coarse-grain, standards-based
  - Objects Services are "less than" objects (and this is a good thing)
    - Objects have state, are designed for fine-grain interaction
    - Services can be composed of objects





# Why Bother With SOA?

### Moving to SOA requires architects to

- rethink modularity
- refactor and repartition systems
- specify contracts, interfaces
- wrap legacy systems
- set up system monitoring and management
- look at security in a new way

### Service orientation has value because it:

 allows existing information systems to better tolerate change (that is, evolution-friendly)



- fosters reuse of code and components (improves developer productivity)
- reduces skill requirements for creating new application functionality (helps reduce the IT backlog)



# SOA for Portals: Portal Services

- Portals have been self-sufficient code modules with no access to individual components
- Next revisions of portal products will decompose the portal into a set of services and expose those services as Web services
- Implications
  - Portal services can be consumed as a whole (portal product) or at a granular level
  - Portal services can be consumed by non-portal client UI's (for example, rich client consuming a personalization service)
  - Portal services can be consumed directly by applications (for example, a search service)
  - Portal produces a "user" service



# Portal Ubiquity: The 'Follow Me' Portal Supports the Digital Identity



**Banking Portal** 



Megaportal



**Government Portal** 



Work Portal









# Portal Deployments Evolve in Parallel With Technology



### Portals: Key to Process Orchestration



#### Processes

- span applications
- span enterprises
- span job roles
- include content, collaboration plus LOB transactions/services
- need a UI
- Portals are the best environment to provide access to processes
- Front-end vs. back-end orchestration
- Portals include BPM vs. BPM suites includes portals



### **Enterprise Portal Value Proposition**



### Portals and Business Intelligence

- Analytics are key to many business processes
- Analytics are no longer limited to highly-trained business analysts
- BAM is driving a new focus on analytics

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Dashboards

- Excellent UI's for executives
- Graphically display KPI's
- Portlets for "popular" BI tools typically part of portal products

Caution: overlap between portals, CPM and BI suites

### **Types of BI Portals**









# **Portal Packaging Options**

### Various ways to package portal functionality

**Embedded in line-of-business applications** 

**Vertical portal product** 

### **Horizontal portal products**

- Independent portal product
- Mobile platforms
- Application platform suite
- Smart enterprise suite
- Process services suite
- Web services platform
- Desktop portal via rich client

#### SES Functionality Evolution: The Cycle of Assimilation



# Eight Keys to an Effective Portal Strategy

- 1. Build one enterprise-wide portal strategy
- 2. Build shared vision of portal
- 3. Link portal to business goals and objectives
- 4. Define tangible ROI, but don't go crazy
- 5. Implement appropriate governance
- 6. Identify audiences/demographics
- 7. Rationalize multiple portals
- 8. Link to/create content strategy
- 9. Create funding strategy



# 2005 Hype Cycle for Portal Ecosystem



# Portal: New Home for Web 2.0 'Mashup's' in the Enterprise



#### • Web 2.0

- •Next evolution of the Web
  - Greater user participation
  - Openness
  - Lightweight technology
  - Decentralized, distributed process
- Mashup
  - Essentially, a composite application
  - Will move from consumer to enterprise
    - Led by vendors, such as Google
    - Intermingling of the consumer world with the enterprise world? Gartner.

### Recommendations

- Focus on how the portal helps your business
- Keep tabs on the market and your portal vendors, especially as the market continues to consolidate
- vendors need to aggressively support industry standards, especially those for portal interoperability
- Prepare for multiple portals in your enterprise
- Take advantage of Generation 5 technologies
- Explore the portal as a composition framework and your first step into SOA
- Prepare for consumerization of portals to impact the enterprise

