



Project Assessment: Solution Definition

The **Solution Definition Assessment** is a review of the IBM® Sterling B2B Integrator (SBI) and/or Sterling File Gateway (SFG) solution proposed for an implementation. This assessment is conducted at the conclusion of the Solution Definition phase and prior to the Construction of the solution.

The primary objectives of this assessment are to ensure that the proposed solution maximizes the use of the core product capabilities to achieve the desired business benefits while minimizing the risk of failure to the implementation. This assessment will also explore opportunities to further optimize the implementation project plan and development strategy. Finally, this assessment will look ahead into the Construction & Validation phases with the objective of identifying risk areas pertaining to the development plan, methodology, or environment that are likely to affect the project.

IBM Lab Services Assurance brings to this assessment its extensive experience in implementing IBM Sterling Brand solutions, expert knowledge of the Sterling Brand product(s), and industry best practices.

Focus Areas

- Optimum SBI/SFG product usage
- Overall solution architecture
- Business release strategy
- User Interfaces and visibility
- Integration architecture
- Technical architecture
- Reporting and analytics
- User and data security effectiveness
- Core product gaps
- Project plan and Time lines
- Development plan

Benefits

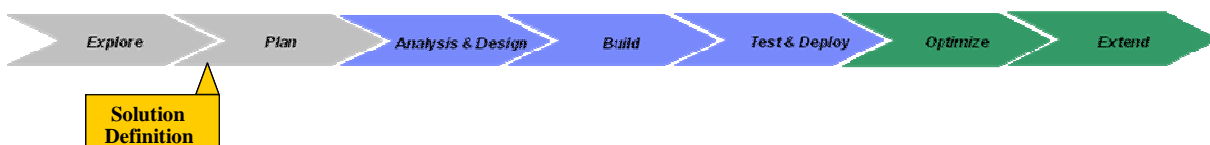
- Confidence that proposed solution maximizes use of SBI/SFG capabilities in delivering business requirements.
- Reduced risk of solution definition errors impacting future stages of the project.
- Assurance that proposed solution adheres to implementation best practices.
- Optimized project plan.
- Advance warning of potential risks in the Construction & Validation phases.
- Comprehensive review by experienced SBI/SFG resources.

Assessment Team

- Solution Architect
- Delivery Manager
- Service Assurance Assessment Specialist
- Backed by resources from IBM Product Management and Engineering

Typical Assessment Effort

The composition of the team and the duration of the assessment depend upon the complexity of the proposed implementation.





Solution Definition Assessment Plan

Task	Information Needed
Day 1 (off site)	
Preparation for site visit: review business requirements, overall solution, and proposed solution.	Business requirements document - use cases, process flows, description of operations Solution Definition Document - high level solution design and architecture Capacity plan and Project plan with time lines
Day 2 (at customer site)	
Introduction : Assessment objectives, current project status, risk areas, assessment expectations and plan	Project status update
Review of business context and requirements	Business requirements - description of operations, use cases, process flows; Business release strategy; Business benefits / Scope matrix
Review of proposed Solution	Proposed solution design, prototype, POC assets
Day 3 (at customer site)	
Review of proposed technical architecture with emphasis on scalability, performance, usability, and security	Proposed solution design; Solution Definition Document; Projected volumes and users; Network architecture; Sizing documents
Review of proposed business processes with emphasis on best practices, design, external integrations, extensions and customizations	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document; Estimates for proposed extensions / customizations
Review of User Interface solution with emphasis on end-to-end visibility and usability	End User use cases and UI requirements; Proposed solution design
Day 4 (at customer site)	
Review of error handling and exception processing	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document
Review of implementation strategy, project plan, and risk areas	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document; Draft project plan and resource plan
Review of reporting & analytics design	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document
Review of failover strategy	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document
Review of product gaps to business requirements	Proposed solution design; Technical architecture document
Day 5 (off site – typically the following week to allow internal IBM reviews)	
Assessment Report Preparation and Review	Executive Sponsor to receive the Solution Definition Assessment results presentation