

## **IBM Business Process Management and Service Oriented Architecture**

When trying to keep pace with a rapidly changing business environment, replacing entire systems or applications isn't the only way to achieve this goal. By adopting a new approach that aligns business and IT, organizations can remove existing constraints and accelerate business-led change to work smarter.

At IBM, our research has shown that by combining business process management with Service Oriented Architecture, businesses can save time, increase efficiency, add flexibility and optimize costs. When applied with a unified approach, BPM and SOA can enable businesses to overcome inhibitors like siloed processes and rigid IT systems by forming collaborative, agile organizations and placing greater emphasis on rapid and value-driven change without compromising process integrity.

The success of BPM and SOA is largely dependent on process integrity. After embracing BPM and SOA, Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings experienced substantial reductions to expected costs and time required to integrate operations with its strategic delivery partners. Let's take a look at how the three components of process integrity can provide value and ensure the integrity of business processes and transactions for an airfreight services provider like Atlas Air.

Interaction integrity involves providing users with the right access to information, including the ability to customize that information, through an easy-to-use interface. Information integrity is achieved in the synchronization of information sources. Multiple views of the same customers, partners and products should remain consistent, even as that information changes.

The focus of transaction integrity is to execute all types of transactions with confidence. The ability to overturn failed transactions immediately and compensate for unexecuted aspects of long-running transactions is essential. With all three components of process integrity preserved in a secure, scalable SOA environment, business processes become more reliable on an end-to-end basis.

IBM Software for Business Process Management enabled by SOA can also help to ensure process integrity through the deployment of standards-based integrations and standardized reusable components. Existing business applications can be broken down into individual business functions and processes, and rendered as useful services. With faster deployment and flexible configuration, the value and productivity of these applications can be optimized.

What makes these approaches truly powerful is the way they work together. BPM and SOA are naturally synergistic, and when combined, they allow businesses to

remain agile in the face of ongoing change. Improved business agility can eliminate unnecessary costs and provide opportunities for a greater ROI.

When done together, SOA promotes architectural discipline, service visibility and explicit governance while BPM offers advanced process analysis that facilitates optimization focused on the highest benefits. Both are, in fact, needed in order to dynamically optimize investments, drive operational excellence and manage business risk.

These two approaches do hold value on their own, but together BPM and SOA can establish a robust and scalable environment that will preserve performance and process integrity, providing a solid foundation for the future and enabling businesses to work smarter.

To learn more about BPM and SOA visit us at [ibm.com/bpm](http://ibm.com/bpm)