



High performance. Delivered.

Accenture SOA Reference Architecture

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Designing service-oriented architectures for high performance

Organizations today face significant challenges in their quest for high performance. They must understand the shifting technology landscape; harness technology for business needs; and implement increasingly sophisticated technology as a foundation for providing greater flexibility and improved results demanded by customers and shareholders. According to Accenture research, fully half of high-performing IT organizations are committing service-oriented architecture (SOA) to a significant portion of their business. But achieving high performance with SOA requires a strategic approach.

Addressing critical challenges to achieve high performance

Although service-oriented architecture has the potential to ensure that technology serves the business—and that the business responds to fast-changing market dynamics—there are still several challenges that come with implementing this approach.

First, project leaders are struggling to understand the right design approaches for an SOA world. And although organizations are developing SOA knowledge, people with deep SOA domain expertise are in short supply. Second, because of SOA's complexity,

organizations are expending numerous design and development cycles proving concepts and capabilities through prototypes instead of implementing projects that realize value. And third, existing SOA tools have worrying gaps in important areas such as best practices, repeatable processes, proven designs and capabilities. This means that even SOA experts have been finding it difficult to use these tools to ensure project success.

The Accenture SOA Reference Architecture

The Accenture SOA Reference Architecture helps organizations adopt new service-oriented architectures by mapping this new architectural approach to business processes, technology initiatives and overall business and IT transformation.

The reference architecture simplifies and accelerates the service-oriented architecture solution development to enable your organization to:

- Reduce design and development cycles with reference designs and code.
- Reduce design and development risks on specific projects with a reference application designed and built by SOA experts.
- Rapidly create a well-designed architecture with proven SOA concepts and experiences.

• Consulting • Technology • Outsourcing

Making the whole greater than the sum of the parts

The Accenture SOA Reference Architecture asset ensures that we have brought together our best processes from our service-oriented architecture engagements worldwide and positions our clients to realize high performance faster and more capably than ever. It includes three parts, which together deliver comprehensive value by helping organizations overcome the most challenging obstacles in service-oriented architecture development and deployment:

- SOA Delivery Architecture
- SOA Patterns
- SOA Platform

SOA Delivery Architecture consists of definitions and descriptions of how SOA fits across all application styles, including application frameworks, technical architecture and services, and interaction diagrams that encompass SOA concepts.

Accenture leverages the SOA Delivery Architecture during the technical architecture phase to help organizations build the right SOA foundation. We do this by using tools that significantly reduce project risks and make it more likely to achieve desired SOA benefits. In particular, our tools:

- Identify relevant architecture styles
- Generate a list of architecture services
- Assess vendor capabilities, including architecture services, based on project requirements

SOA Patterns comprise Accenture's proven approach for addressing common scenarios during SOA implementations; scenarios that may require pre-designed decision trees, functional designs and use cases. Accenture and client teams use the patterns during the design phase to:

- Optimize design patterns so the need for redesign is reduced when performance or operational challenges occur.
- Harness experience gleaned from previous Accenture projects, empowering designers through better decision-making.
- Accenture's SOA patterns are critical to successful SOA projects and are split into three areas: Development architecture, execution and operations.

Development architecture patterns focus on underlying SOA support and are used during our develop-test-deploy project phases.

Execution patterns focus on the SOA pieces that run as part of the application. They overcome the important technical challenges of business process management, data synchronization and validation, as well as multi-protocol support for sending and receiving messages.

Operational patterns focus on SOA pieces for technical and business-level monitoring and governance.

The **SOA Platform** is used to implement SOA patterns. It includes the technical architecture design and code assets for leading vendor platforms and provides key foundational services for use in a service-oriented architecture. SOA Platform assists in the design-and-build phase with:

- Code assets for the appropriate SOA platform vendor
- SOA-capable reference applications

With each of its integral parts, the Accenture SOA Reference Architecture brings discipline and standardization to important areas of SOA project delivery, enabling project success and the achievement of high performance.

A comprehensive asset for delivering high performance through SOA

Accenture builds and harnesses the deepest knowledge and insight so that organizations using service-oriented architecture as a foundation for high performance can deliver strong operational and financial returns to their stakeholders.

The Accenture SOA Reference Architecture is a comprehensive asset, part of a wide-ranging series of Accenture assets and tools that help our clients design and implement their SOA projects with greater speed, efficiency and impact.

For more information

To learn more about how Accenture can help you on your service-oriented architecture journey, see www.accenture.com/SOA.

About Accenture

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Committed to delivering innovation, Accenture collaborates with its clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. With deep industry and business process expertise, broad global resources and a proven track record, Accenture can mobilize the right people, skills and technologies to help clients improve their performance. With more than 133,000 people in 48 countries, the company generated net revenues of US\$15.55 billion for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2005. Its home page is www.accenture.com.

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