SOA STRATEGIC PROJECT – ACHIEVING AGILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY WITH PETALS ESB

The Company: ACOSS, the French Social Security system bank

ACOSS (Agence Centrale des Organismes de Sécurité Sociale) is the French national agency for treasury and cash management in order to collect contributions for the Social security health and welfare system coming from French companies. It federates 102 Urssaf, 4 different central administrations and 8 data centers.

ACOSS core business is cash management. ACOSS manages all financial aspects of the “Régime Général de la Sécurité Sociale”, from contributions collection to cash redistribution to the different health and welfare national institutions. ACOSS also manages treasury for a large number of social ecosystem partners.

ACOSS collects up to 2.3 billion euro a day, with a total of more than 300 billion euros of yearly exchanges. In accordance with its public missions, ACOSS maintains close financial relationship with more than 420 Social Security agencies: URSSAF, CPAM, CRAM, CAF, UGECAM …

The Need: Open the Information System to a new partner and define Enterprise Architecture compliant with SOA

In 2005, ACOSS decided to implement a SOA infrastructure and to develop its first services to open its Information System to a new partner. Due to new regulation rules, ACOSS was committed to provide IT process services to RSI (Régime Social des Indépendants) for debt management and for RSI contributor’s collection. Primary objective was to expose services from Cobol legacy applications. It was the starting point for the definition of the new Service Oriented Enterprise Architecture.

« For ACOSS, SOA is the right integration architecture going forward. With PETALS we implement such architecture incrementally with a state-of-the-art ESB. It gives us the capacity to respond to the growing demand for new services exposure. »
Christian Bézard, Head of Middleware Infrastructure Dept. - ACOSS

ACOSS adopted an iterative approach to validate its new SOA Architecture with a pilot project exposing a reduced number of services. In this approach, the choice of ESB was important. ACOSS selected PETALS, the OW2 ESB supported by EBM WebSourcing and the OW2 community. Key elements of choice were the Open Source model of the project, the distributed Architecture of the product and the compliance with standards like JBI.

The first project is a real success and has generated great expectations within business domains and IT department. Following a very pragmatic deployment approach, ACOSS is generalizing the ESB dissemination through every business area, allowing business owners to gradually assimilate the SOA added value and to drive SOA from a business perspective.
**The Solution: PEtALS, the Service Oriented Infrastructure**

PEtALS provides a leading open source ESB to support your Service Oriented Infrastructure. It is a lightweight, highly distributed and scalable platform for both A2A and B2B integration. Thanks to its specific distributed architecture and the tools provided, PEtALS offers a very competitive integration solution with support for a large number of protocols, formats and integration features.

PEtALS relies on JBI and Web Services standards to ease the development, assembly, and deployment of integration solutions. PEtALS leverages Web Service best practices like document oriented exchange or WSDL interface description, and proposes a plug-in environment to assemble integration components.

PEtALS differentiates from other ESB especially thanks to its original distributed architecture (PEtALS can be easily deployed on several hundreds of server nodes) and also because it fully complies with JBI specification and its underlying standards.

**The Benefits: A fully open and standard distributed ESB**

- By using PEtALS, integration architects can focus on the selection of JBI components from the PEtALS component repository, or others, and assemble them in a robust scalable distributed environment.
- Users can create their missing integration pieces by capitalizing on the JBI well established standard API, without the necessity to use another proprietary API.
- Thanks to PEtALS distributed architecture, architects can deploy the standard services access points as closer as possible to the applications, and create a reliable event driven architecture.
- As an infrastructure solution, PEtALS can embed standard connectors and dedicated integration engines, with a best of breed component approach. Various options are available to perform for example transformation processes, choreography or service orchestration, standard protocol or business oriented connectors,
- Thanks to ACOSS partnership, EBM Websourcing now provides a complete Eclipse based development tool. It allows developers and administrators to easily configure and automatically deploy PEtALS components and configurations.

« For A2A or B2B integration issues, we think that even if these two types of integrations focus on different stakes (among security, interoperability), the common point is “distributed integration”. We believe it is the best way to create more scalable and robust solutions. »

Gaël Blondelle, EBM WebSourcing CTO

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**OW2**

Founded in January 2007 as a result of the merger of ObjectWeb and OrientWare communities, OW2 is an independent industry consortium dedicated to developing open source code middleware and to fostering a vibrant community and business ecosystem. Building on the legacy of ObjectWeb and OrientWare, OW2 federates more than one hundred organizations and 6000 developers in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Several of these projects are combined into market-driven Initiatives, such as the ESB/SAO Initiative, the Business Intelligence Initiative and the e-Government Initiative, which facilitate their implementations into business solutions by systems integrators, OEMs and end-users. A typical global open-source organization, OW2 aims to bring together grassroots communities across all continents through Local Chapters. To find out more about OW2, visit www.ow2.org

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