

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION INTEGRATION

Most companies have a definite case of enterprise application *segregation*.

You've seen it: Employees track their time in the payroll time-collection system . . . and then do it all over again for the project management system. Finance manually enters results from the capital projects budget into the corporate financial budgeting system. HR sets up new employees for the payroll and human resources applications . . . and then IT sets them up *again* for network, email, or software access. And on it goes, because the systems of an enterprise will tend to share common elements, though they may have very separate purposes.

Integration means coming together to act as a unified whole.

In the world of corporate information, it means causing data processing applications – that were custom built and/or purchased in different decades and installed independently on varied platforms for unrelated functions – to **act** as though they were always intended to work together.

This process is called Enterprise Application Integration, or EAI. And it's a reality.

Its possible to create harmony among your separate systems without relinquishing their value in favor of high-end ERPs. If like your peers you've already *gone* the ERP route, chances are good that you still haven't solved all integration problems. There are still those industry-specific applications and analytical applications, and possibly a data warehouse and data mining applications.

WHY APPLICATION INTEGRATION?

The advent of new technology should extend the benefit of your IT investment. The unfortunate reality is that it tends to make your current investment obsolete instead.

Let's go back to the very separate systems we discussed above. What if there were some technological "glue" to cause them to communicate and interact as a unified whole? Each application would continue to serve its purpose, while a new level of interaction would solve separation problems and eliminate duplicate manual effort.

We know that each data processing application – perhaps most especially those that have been custom-built – bring a specific advantage to bear in your company's information flow. Trading that value for something more generic seems like a step backward.

Fortunately, we now have assured-delivery, real-time, cross-platform integration tools that enable us to integrate these applications in a cost effective manner.

WHAT SISG CAN DO FOR YOU

SISG professionals are expert in the strategies, methods, architecture, and implementation of the complex elements of Enterprise Application Integration. We will work with you to design and implement an EAI solution that will allow your organization to link web services and applications – including your data warehouse – in an accurate and timely manner.

Our experience crosses industries and markets. We know the approaches and the impacts. We know the tools and the peculiarities. We will help you sift through the choices, and make decisions to complement your organizational needs.

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We can help you build the integration, or we can do it for you. While we offer EAI as an end-to-end solution that we provide, ideally SISG will manage a mixed team of our consultants and your staff. And when we are through, your team will be trained in the environment and able to carry on the effort.

The EAI engagement consists of the following lifecycle phases, also offered as independent engagements:

Readiness Assessment – A free analysis of the scope, technical environment, and available resources for the first (or next) data warehouse or enterprise integration project.

Facilitated Discovery – independent facilitation of joint discovery sessions to establish in-house consensus on project technical, business, and analytical requirements, and to explore feasibility.

Review of Applications & Inspection of Data (RAID) – a focused, methodical analysis of existing systems and source data for accuracy, focusing on requirements and a detailed plan for the proposed project, highlighting gaps and issues that could cause unexpected delays.

Information Architecture – a comprehensive plan containing detailed logical schemas for database, data flow, and data transformation to support business requirements for analytical functionality, regulatory restrictions, comprehensibility, etc.

Technical Architecture – a comprehensive solution containing detailed physical schemas for ETL design, infrastructure design, and data access and delivery design to support the information architecture.

Development & Maintenance – creation of the “physical reality” to architectural specifications, i.e., installation, configuration, coding, testing, tuning, deployment, and maintenance.

Information Delivery – installation, configuration, and when appropriate, portal integration of the selected data access tools as well as the development of the ad-hoc query and standard reporting environments and reports.

Technology Training – customized programs to educate users and IT staff in software tools, modeling techniques, and lifecycle methods used during the implementation.

Each enterprise integration project will provide greater return on investment if initiated within the context of a pre-determined strategic framework. SISG's **Strategic Information Planning** and **Strategic Technology Planning** services lend vision and cohesion to the cumulative integration projects.

DELIVERABLES

The EAI comprehensive engagement offers all the deliverables from each of its component phases discussed above; see individual brochures for details.

TIMEFRAME

The timeframe to complete an EAI lifecycle depends on the size and complexity of the integration and the readiness of the organization to undertake the task. Please refer to SISG's

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Readiness Assessment service offering for additional information about the “readiness” of your organization.

CLIENT BENEFITS

By allowing us to guide the integration of application data, clients of SISG enjoy the benefit of

- A well-studied and proven approach
- Experience in data movement techniques
- Extended advantage of legacy system benefits
- Improved business processes
- Reduced timeframes for building new applications

LEADING TECHNOLOGIES

SISG can support these and other leading technology solutions:

SOURCE/TARGET APPLICATIONS	DATABASE MANAGEMENT	DATA INTEGRATION /ETL TOOLS	ANALYTICS PACKAGES	META DATA MANAGEMENT	DATA ACCESS & ANALYSIS	WEB INTEGRATION
Oracle Financials	Oracle	Informatica Data Integration Suite (PowerCenter, Connectors, etc.)	Informatica Analytics	Informatica SuperGlue	Informatica PowerAnalyzer	IBM WebSphere Application Server
SAP	DB2/UDB	MQ Series, MQ Integrator	Jaros Analytics	ERwin	Actuate	IBM WebSphere Portal Server
Siebel	Informix	SeeBeyond	PeopleSoft EPM		Brio	BEA WebLogic Application Server
PeopleSoft	SQL Server	Tibco	SAP Business Warehouse		Business Objects	IBM Directory Server
Other custom-built applications	Sybase	Other JMS-compliant messaging toolsets			Cognos	

Our consultants are also proficient in the following core competencies:

ARCHITECTURE	PACKAGED DATA WAREHOUSE	INFORMATION DELIVERY
Normalized Data Modeling	Customer Relationship Management	Standard Report Design
Dimensional (star schema) Data Modeling	Supply Chain Management	Design for Multi-Dimensional Analysis
Advanced Data Modeling	Financial Management	Real-time Alerts
Extract, Transform & Load	Human Resources Management	Portal Integration
Real-time Application Integration	Weblog Analysis	

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