

WEB SERVICES ON WALL STREET

ESBs can ease SOA expansion

By Darryl K. Taft NEW YORK

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS the perfect service-oriented architecture?

Some say absolutely not. Hub Vandervoort counters, "Not quite yet."

Vandervoort, vice president of strategic services for Sonic Software Corp., in Bedford, Mass., says that an ESB (enterprise service bus) represents "the best platform for building a large-scale SOA."

Indeed, Vandervoort, who spoke with eWEEK at the Web Services on Wall Street conference here, said there are "a lot of improvements necessary toward achieving the perfect SOA. There are a lot of people that can do real work and make real money without a perfect SOA."

The question of whether Web services and SOA have arrived is settled, he said. "I'm seeing rapidly accelerating use of XML in the midoffice."

Martin Coen, global head of business development at London-based Iris Financial Engineering Holdings Ltd.,

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SOA: Money in the bank

By Darryl K. Taft IN NEW YORK

SEEBEYOND TECHNOLOGY CORP. AND SUN MICROSYSTEMS Inc. Tuesday announced a jointly developed product targeting the financial services market.

At the Web Services on Wall Street conference here, SeeBeyond and Sun announced SeeBeyond Financial Services SOA (service-oriented architecture), or SeeBeyond FS-SOA. The solution focuses on corporate actions for financial services organizations.

Larry Scott, vice president of global financial services at SeeBeyond, based in Monrovia, Calif., said the solution represents a "combination of our composite application development capability and Sun's portal management technology. With this partnership, we're going after the entire brokerage community."

SeeBeyond FS-SOA automates the management of processes related to corporate actions and provides improved governance, reduced risk, reduced costs and enhanced customer service, Scott said.

The offering will initially focus on corporate actions



Products debuted at the Web Services conference.

and automates these actions using Sun's Web-services-enabled portal, Scott said. In addition, the solution provides prebuilt, customizable, reusable services and business processes.

"What Sun and SeeBeyond are doing is focusing both of our organizations on delivering SOA platform technol-

ogy, whether at the information level or the application or component level," Scott said.

Indeed, "Web services is such a precedent now and has created a set of standards the industry has coalesced around," Scott said.

The SeeBeyond-Sun solution was built in response to federal legislation passed over the last three years that calls for asset management companies to monitor and manage corporate actions notifications, Scott said.

At the Web services meeting, Sun detailed innovations in SOA, sharing information on its solutions for financial services.

The SeeBeyond FS-SOA solution is based on SeeBeyond's ICAN (Integrated Composite Application Network) Suite and features prepackaged components for building financial integration applications, Scott said.

SeeBeyond hopes to address the way SOA enables edge-of-the-network applications, according to Scott. "Our goal is to wrap and reuse, not rip and replace," old legacy systems.

SeeBeyond and Sun announced a partnership last October to enable SOA appli-

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Web services to propel CICS

By Darryl K. Taft IN NEW YORK

IBM IS COUNTING ON WEB services to bring its 35-year-old CICS transaction processing monitor—and the legacy applications built on it—into the 21st century.

Speaking at the Web Services on Wall Street conference here, Phil Hanson, IBM's CICS product manager, said the next version of the product, 3.1, will ease the transition of legacy applications to SOA (service-oriented architecture) environments.

Indeed, "this story's been rolling out as we talk about the SOA story and Web services," Hanson told eWEEK. "It's been especially big with our banking customers where they have big changes, like interest rate changes. A move to Web services [is] much easier than rebuilding an application when they need to make a change."

Hanson, based in Hursely, England, said the SOA environment takes IBM's banking and financial services customers "to the world of on-demand banking solutions. We've seen a lot of interest from the banking industry and the insurance industry."

Hanson talked about CICS Transaction Server 3.1, due next month, and how it enables CICS integration with Web services and how CICS' provision of run-time support enables CICS apps to act as both Web service providers and requesters.

Hanson discussed how CICS Transaction Server 3.1 lets enterprises extend their core investments in CICS skills and applications to new markets as the basis for new on-demand solutions.

"There's a whole world of things that deal with this,"

Hanson said. "Like SLAs [service-level agreements] and how to make sure the environment is effective."

Developers can use IBM's WebSphere Studio Enterprise Developer as the IDE (integrated development environment) for building new CICS applications, Hanson said.

Hanson said CICS Transaction Server 3.1 provides increased ease of integration, Web services capabilities that extend CICS applications to SOAs, support for the SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) security protocol, enhanced application transformation, optimized CICS data exchange capabilities and the ability to leverage a single development tool (WSED) for application transformation and integration, improved performance and system management, and simplified administration. e

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asked, "How much do we see SOA or Web services in the trading area? Almost never." Coen said Web services provide request response times in the 1- to 2-second area, which is not suited to real-time applications. "That's the rub that stops SOA from going on trading floors."

However, although trading demands speed and agility, "adopting SOA with fit-for-purpose tools can bring huge competitive advantage," Coen said, adding that it is possible to migrate SOA to the investment world through smart implementations.

'Adopting SOA with fit-for-purpose tools can bring huge competitive advantage.'

"Questions of adoption will continue, but ... Web services are here to stay," said Krishna Sudarshan, chief technology officer at Volante Technologies Inc., in New York.

Dan Fraser, distinguished engineer with London-based Paremus Ltd., said that while Web services will find their niche, the future is in fabrics that can tie together the large portions of the data center.

Vandervoort said Sonic's strength in the financial services space lies in extending trading systems beyond the firewall. "We provide the only secure, high-SLA [service-level agreement] platform that can deliver all the things a trader needs."

However, "our architecture is better supported if you use something like an ESB," Vandervoort said. "An ESB is a more flexible architecture for handling rapid responses." ESB benefits include cost reduction and agility. e

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ation development, Scott said.

The companies then entered into an agreement regarding RFID (radio-frequency identification) in the retail space, where SeeBeyond announced its plans to participate in the development of the Sun RFID ISA (Industry Solution Architecture) for retail.

Meanwhile, Nigel Woodward, global manager of capital markets at Sun, said cost reduction tops the agenda for most financial services' IT groups, with compliance coming in second.

"There's still a driver to keep costs under control," Woodward said. "We're seeing a whole series of different



Woodward: Cutting costs is Job 1.

dynamics coming through. We'll see a lot more buildup, not just EAI [enterprise application integration], but SOA and Web services."

Woodward said performance increases with Solaris 10 on x86 boxes will help push

Sun further onto the trading floor. In addition, "grid is on everybody's mind, and Sun is present in the grid world as well," he said.

Rima Patel Sriganesh, a member of the Sun technical staff, discussed Java 5, or J2SE (Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition) 5.0, known as Tiger. Sriganesh also talked about the upcoming version of the language platform J2SE 6.0, known as Mustang.

"We will make the source code available to you frequently, almost weekly," Sriganesh said. The code will be available at that frequency for academic and research users under the Java Research License, or "Sun's version of open source," she said. e