

SOA: Get Visibility



The Partner Solutions People

1.925.460.2700
www.dwmorgan.com
DW Morgan Company
6685 Owens Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Need to see what's up with your inventory, fast? Getting critical data between players is what you'll need to achieve hyper-efficient and lightning-fast supply chains. A service-oriented architecture will facilitate real-time sharing of important information.

Traditionally, a supply chain was a set of facilities connected by transportation. When you frame your thinking around the physicality of the supply chain, you're placing warehousing and transportation infrastructure as the primary motivation for efficiency.

The emerging real-time supply chain is defined as a set of databases connected by *communication*. Accurate and instant information is the number one competitive weapon a company can use to optimize its supply chain. Most of the information you need is in someone else's database—at a supplier, a partner, or a customer. The old method to capturing that information was lots of duplication of data at each stop along the supply chain. But the answer to all this replication is not to create still more databases for better supply chain management. Instead, manufacturers are turning to service-oriented architectures to go out and request the data they need in real time.

The idea that one application has all the business intelligence to manage a supply chain is unrealistic. In the supply chain, no single application captures all the information, or encompasses all the cross-company processes needed in order to respond to customer demand. It is the set of business processes and rules around the tools that enable productivity and competitive advantages. For true advancement keeps a service-oriented architecture flexible and adaptable to change. If data is loosely bound to applications instead of tied up in a single environment, you have a foundation to support process change and improvement. The key lies in embracing SOA.