The webMethods Integration Platform provides everything an organization needs to achieve Global Business Visibility through true end-to-end integration.

With the webMethods Integration Platform, organizations can integrate their heterogeneous systems and partners on a reliable, scalable and secure infrastructure. The standards-based nature of the webMethods Integration Platform ensures that organizations can incorporate all their systems into the platform. It also lets organizations take advantage of e-business standards and Web Services-Based Integration to extend its Global Business Visibility outside of the internal organization.

With the webMethods Integration Platform, organizations can design business processes that will drive development. They can quickly and easily deploy processes that incorporate different systems and data sources across their network. They can monitor, manage and optimize these processes once they go into production, keeping the enterprise agile. With the webMethods Integration Platform, organizations can get the full value from their technology and achieve Global Business Visibility throughout their entire enterprise.
To achieve Global Business Visibility™, an organization must truly integrate its people, systems and business processes.

Achieving Global Business Visibility

Global Business Visibility is a comprehensive view of a company’s extended enterprise and the underlying business processes in real time. It is a global view of every customer, every vendor, every project, every order and every asset across the entire enterprise — no matter how far it extends.

To achieve Global Business Visibility, an organization must truly integrate its people, systems and business processes. Enterprise applications, legacy systems, databases and Web services must all share information, while maintaining data integrity. The processes that are supported by these applications should run seamlessly across applications. Decision makers should be able to easily define and manage business processes in real time so the enterprise can stay agile and competitive.

The webMethods Integration Platform is the foundation of Global Business Visibility. It enables organizations to integrate their heterogeneous systems, leverage Web services and manage business processes, industry standards and protocols. With the webMethods Integration Platform, enterprises can unleash the power of their information and achieve true Global Business Visibility.

Benefits of the webMethods Integration Platform

The webMethods Integration Platform provides the integration infrastructure that organizations need to tie together all of their disparate systems. With the webMethods Integration Platform, organizations can substantially increase their return on investment from their existing IT systems. The flexible and reusable nature of the webMethods Integration Platform means organizations can integrate existing systems, rather than deploying new monolithic systems or making sweeping changes to existing applications — and they can do it quickly. The standards-based, extensible nature of the webMethods Integration Platform allows enterprises to assimilate new and maturing technologies easily into their existing integration solution. It is also the only solution that can effectively integrate J2EE, .Net and legacy applications.

The webMethods Integration Platform employs a unified architecture to enable end-to-end integration across the extended enterprise. The standards-based, service-oriented architecture also makes it easy to deploy applications as Web services. This platform is designed to meet the most demanding operational requirements, including the performance and scalability to handle enterprise-level business transaction volumes and the reliability to ensure 24 x 7 availability. The webMethods Integration Platform also offers advanced security features and reliable end-to-end transaction support.

The webMethods Integration Platform is designed to take customers to production quickly and keep their systems running smoothly. In addition to the powerful integration technology the platform offers, there are a series of easy to use tools to support rapid integration design and implementation. Once in production, there are also robust tools for effectively monitoring and managing the solution.

With systems connected to the webMethods Integration Platform, enterprises can create cross-functional business processes to increase productivity, reduce costs, create new revenue opportunities and improve customer relations. The webMethods Integration Platform can help organizations create a more efficient supply chain and streamline internal business processes.
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Web Services
webMethods is an established leader in the adoption of Web Services into the integration landscape and was an early pioneer in creating the specifications for Web services. Its work in refining and furthering these standards continues today, underscored by the recent election of webMethods to the Web Services-Interoperability (WS-I) board of directors. webMethods is committed to promoting Web services standards and ensuring interoperability of these standards, starting with our support of the three existing Web Services-Based Integration standards: WS-SL, SOAP and UDDI. With the webMethods Integration Platform, any business process can be instantly exposed as a Web service, or can call any existing Web service, whether built on webMethods or not. The company name even speaks to its capabilities — in development terminology, method means service, so in other words, webMethods means Web services. The webMethods Integration Platform complements and extends Web services capabilities by providing what Web services alone do not: security, transactionality and reliable delivery.

J2EE and .Net Integration
J2EE and .Net represent the two prominent architectures for the development of new applications. Many integration solutions allow access to one of these architectures, but not both. However, most organizations will likely have both architectures in-house, therefore creating the need for integrations that span not only J2EE and .Net, but also legacy applications — all in one operation. webMethods is the only integration solution with the independence and capability to bring together the J2EE, .Net and legacy worlds on one integration platform. As a result, webMethods is the most effective integration solution, bridging the application development environments with all of the IT assets in the enterprise. This removes any barriers to building the composite applications that represent today’s complex business processes.

Legacy Access
In spite of predictions of its imminent demise, the mainframe and the legacy data that resides on it is still an important component in the IT portfolio of many organizations. The ability to access this information and integrate it effectively with other IT assets is an important factor to successfully integrating the enterprise. The webMethods Integration Platform allows integration of mainframe and legacy applications without the limitations and drawbacks of traditional mainframe integration approaches. Through the webMethods Mainframe component, organizations can include applications running under CICS or IMS/VTM on IBM-compatible mainframe computers in their integration solution. They can also Web service enable legacy systems. All of this is accomplished with a unique, non-invasive approach that effectively reaches the information needed without having to install software or code on the mainframe itself.

Trading Partners
The webMethods Integration Platform presents a unified solution for rapidly adding trading partners and managing their interactions. It takes integration beyond the internal organization and extends business processes over the Internet to create integrated value chains. This capability is based on a highly secure and scalable XML-based environment that enables Internet-based integration of enterprise applications with customers and partners. It provides collaborative tools to simplify creating, securing and managing trading partner agreements. As a result, these customers and partners can very quickly become tightly integrated with the supply chain or marketplace initiatives of the host organization, increasing collaboration and creating efficiencies that drive real value to the enterprise. The trading partners functionality of the integration platform also enables EDI processing capabilities, allowing organizations to consolidate EDI activity and save literally millions of dollars on EDI costs. Trading partner integration is yet another area where webMethods is a leader in standards-based integration, supporting established and emerging e-business and industry standards such as RosettaNet, ebXML, UCCNet, CDX, Chem eStandards, SWIFT, FIX, EDIINT, AS1 and AS2.

Adapters
webMethods provides a broad number of adapters to provide unmatched access to all the information sources possible in today's extended enterprise. This includes adapters for packaged, legacy and custom applications. These standards-based adapters allow for rapid integration of heterogeneous systems, providing fast, efficient access to your important information sources and eliminating the need for developers to understand low-level details of individual application interfaces. Adapters are already pre-built for major enterprise applications, databases and data warehouses. Several enterprise applications, including SAP, i2, J.D. Edwards and BroadVision, also embed webMethods technology in their integration infrastructure. For custom applications, there is an adapter development kit for the quick creation of adapters using webMethods’ standard framework. webMethods’ broad catalog of adapters ensure that all of the data in an organization is within reach.

Broad Standards Support

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The standards-based nature of the webMethods Integration Platform allows complete flexibility in designing the overall integration approach. The webMethods Integration Platform not only offers powerful integration technology, it also offers a suite of tools to support each phase of the integration lifecycle. The integration lifecycle consists of four phases: Model, Integrate, Manage and Optimize. This lifecycle provides the framework and methodology for the creation and ongoing maintenance of any integration system.

**Model**
The webMethods Integration Platform includes an easy-to-use graphical design tool that lets business analysts visually depict the flow of information among systems, organizations and people. This standards-based Business Process Modeling functionality provides the capability to model full end-to-end processes that span both internal and external tasks, including the inclusion of human workflow steps directly into the integration.

During the modeling phase, the tasks are defined strictly on a business level, providing a true top-down approach to integration where business processes drive the integration process. The result is a graphical, high-level view of the business process.

The standards-based business process modeling environment is based on the constructs from emerging standards specifications such as BPEL4WS. It focuses on providing a unified environment for modeling processes across Web services, J2EE EJBs, .Net Services and standards-based connections to legacy and packaged applications.

**Integrate**
The second phase of the integration lifecycle consists of taking the business processes just modeled and implementing the integration logic that ties the processes to the systems, people and partners that make up the enterprise. As in the Model phase, this is accomplished with a fully graphical interface, providing the ability to configure the details of the services that will make the business processes work without the need to write code. This graphical interface also provides the capabilities to address the integration logic for integrations that support the extended enterprise by reaching outside the organization directly to customers, partners and suppliers.

During the Integrate phase, the integration team can access libraries of pre-built services provided by webMethods or create their own custom services. This includes functions within the graphical interface to link together services to build out the integration logic and a graphical data-mapping environment.

Included in the Integrate phase is the capability to define how the integration logic will be deployed to the distributed webMethods environment. Through functions in the graphical interface, the services that represent a given integration can be exposed in a standardized fashion for orchestration and deployment.

**Manage**
The true value of any integration really only begins once that integration is placed into production. It is also true that the time an integration spends in production will eclipse the time spent in developing that integration many times over. Accordingly, webMethods has created unique tools that let organizations manage integration components during production. The goal is to provide the insight needed to optimize processing, identify the root cause of production failures and troubleshoot problems with individual transactions.

To monitor and manage the deployed solution, webMethods provides both real-time and historical views of run-time performance. These graphical views allow insight into the business process and components running on the webMethods Integration Platform, including system management and business process views. All of these views are designed to help the support staff maximize efficiency and availability.

The business process view provides the capability to track the status and the transient data associated with a specific instance of a business process. A broader system management view is also available to provide a visual, interactive console from which to manage the distributed components of the integration platform and the business process supported by those components. The result is an unmatched capability to monitor and manage from the detail of a single transaction to the health and welfare of the entire integration platform.

**Optimize**
During the Optimization phase, organizations can utilize process level metrics and key performance indicators to ensure that processes are operating efficiently and effectively. The idea is to expose the proper level of information at both the detail and platform-wide level necessary to provide the information needed to maximize performance, availability and efficiency. Maximizing these elements can have a direct effect on total cost of operation, as well as reduce or even eliminate costly outages or related failures.

The information captured about the webMethods Integration Platform also provides pertinent data points for enabling Business Activity Monitoring (BAM) solutions for analysis and optimization. BAM combines these technical data points with the data about an organization’s business processes to provide critical insight into the operation of the organization. This in turn provides invaluable insight into targets for real, substantive improvements to operational processes.

webMethods has entered into significant partnerships with leaders in the Business Intelligence and Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) technologies to provide organizations with the first fully-functional platform for BAM.

The webMethods Integration Platform is designed with each of the integration lifecycle phases in mind to take customers into production quickly and keep their solution running smoothly once in production.
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