The Strategy and Realization of Enterprise Integration

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy (by publication)

by

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in

FACULTY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA
August 2007

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Date: August 1, 2007
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Title: The Strategy and Realization of Enterprise Integration
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy by publication

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I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in this thesis.

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Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to my supervisor, Associate Professor Jie Lu, for her enormous academic guidance in my research and publication. I would also like to thank the Faculty of Information Technology. The opportunity to pursue the PhD degree has allowed me to take a further step toward my career goal through a transformation to a more formal academic research. It has provided me with wider exposure to the mediation between academy and industry as well. In addition, I thank the University of Technology, Sydney for facilitating a quality education to enhance my background in academic publications, and for instruction in how to go about being a scholar.

I would like to express my gratitude to my parents. My mother has continued her moral support for my study; my father, who motivated me repeatedly to pursue my career goal, has been in heaven since 2005, and I am obligated to follow my promise in pursuing the goal.

I extend my appreciation to Professor B. Rugg at New York University, for facilitating a good educational environment and sponsoring fellowship in my early academic life. Thanks also to Professor T. Teng at New York Tech. for providing financial aid for me to complete my M.S. degree in Computer Science.

Many thanks to the companies I have served over the past 24 years - IBM, Oracle, EDS, Vodafone, Citibank, and the US Federal Government. They have provided a solid environment in industry research and broadened my IT background. My co-workers at IBM frequently engage in discussion with me about my publication, and have already taken part of the concept into realization, helping me to serve the IT industry better.

Also many thanks to my colleagues at IBM Lab. in Germany; A. Cameron in Australia; and Otsuki-san in Japan. The friendship of these individuals has lightened my life and kept me moving forward in these 20 and more years of my IT career to date.
Finally I would like to show my appreciation to those journal and conference editors-in-chief and reviewers who not only published my papers but also provided valuable viewpoints and strove with me to make the research papers more readable and to maximize the knowledge contribution to the public arena.
Dedicated to

~ my Parents and the Ones in memory ~
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Abstract

In recent years we have experienced exponential growth in business innovation, emerging technology, and integration complexity. With this unprecedented growth, the priority of enterprise integration has shifted from patching solutions to the governance of agility. Enterprise integration mainly deals with interoperability between virtual and physical worlds, which is thorny by its very nature. In order to cope with rising complexity, interference coherence between business, service, and physical components is crucial. Instead of consolidation from fragmentation, an iteration approach is taken in driving concept and strategy into realization. The empirical statistics indicate that the anatomy of ontological research is essential for producing an overview of interoperability. The author’s numerous research projects demonstrate a number of factors critical in generating higher productivity and lower risk. These factors include a higher visibility of atomic elements, a well-specified service, and a precise architectural alignment.

By taking these successful factors into realization, this thesis proposes enterprise vertical integration, employing a three-step strategy of componentization, transformation, and virtualization. Componentization derives an ontology of atomic elements for the service-based foundation. In transformation, service components are produced from these raw elements, using a multi-discipline and three-dimensional approach to achieve component synthesis. The final step, virtualization, is the objective of enterprise integration. Virtualization establishes the enterprise skeleton and achieves a common-service mainstream in the industry. Experiential evidence indicates that this higher-level, three-step approach works effectively in minimizing risk and increasing productivity. There is particular benefit for projects of higher complexity and larger scale.

Given the incessant business change inherent in our chaotic new age of computing, the three-step approach relies on a new framework to streamline realization and cope with project complexity. A Method, Evaluation, Techniques, and Application (META) framework addresses the interference between virtual and physical layers. In this initial process it develops component validation, analysis processes, and synthesis techniques for service transformation.
It then develops service components and common services for service virtualization. This thesis proposes a four-pillared approach to support the META framework. It also proposes sub-area concepts such as “pattern” and “state” to enhance the capability of the framework before moving it into the industry mainstream.

This thesis distinguishes itself from existing literature in that very few studies in this field address real enterprise-scale integration. None of the reviewed literature copes with the fundamental work of enterprise issues such as ontological research or high-level strategy as proposed by this thesis.