

## Maximize Your Investment in Service-Oriented Architecture: Leveraging the IBM Software Foundation

### The Software Foundation Advantage Defined

Underlying software applications, including those from Oracle (including PeopleSoft and JD Edwards), Lawson, SAP and others, is a set of middleware products that provide the foundation for database, LDAP tools, web servers, and other components. This foundation is designed to support the software applications and, as service-oriented architecture and web-based services become prevalent in the marketplace, can provide the platform to grow, modify and deploy the software applications seamlessly and cost-effectively.

Many software applications currently utilize components of IBM's middleware stack, commonly called IBM Software Foundation. While actual IBM products included in deployment of the foundation differ slightly depending on the ERP software vendor, they all contain common elements that can be built upon for enterprise integration, security,

collaboration, and system management beyond the core applications. CIBER believes that by understanding the full value provided by the IBM Software Foundation, it is possible to establish and execute a vision that encompasses your entire enterprise, including applications from multiple software vendors, to achieve true business value and competitive advantages.

### Total Cost of Ownership: Your Software Foundation ROI

With any technology investment there is a financial commitment, and success is measured by the return on that investment. In determining the benefits of leveraging the software foundation, a total cost of ownership (TCO) model needs to be created to evaluate the cost/benefit relationship and value to the business. Most TCO models take into account four cost factors:

1. Acquisition
2. Implementation
3. Migration
4. Support (e.g. personnel, maintenance, and upgrade)

Assuming there is a non-IBM middleware product installed within your enterprise, you will need to consider the costs to educate your staff on the IBM product. However, this can be offset by lower acquisition costs typically provided by the software vendor than if the product were purchased on the open market. In addition, we have found that the non-personnel support costs can be dramatically less due to the software vendor providing a bundled support offering. Considering the support that can be obtained directly from IBM, the total annual support costs tend to be less than those offered by other vendors that might supply only a portion of the non-IBM middleware. All-in-all, TCO studies over a three-year period trend toward IBM as being the leader when all of these factors are taken into consideration.

## An Integrated Environment: From Your Core Applications to Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets

In most business environments, software is obtained from multiple suppliers. Even if the total ERP system at a manufacturing company or an HR/Financial system at a university is a complete solution, there are usually other application components purchased, managed or even developed outside of the core system. These might be as mundane as an electronic spreadsheet or as robust as a warehouse management system. Regardless of the other applications, we feel that to leverage business value from the information within the total enterprise, an information and application integration methodology should be implemented.

Companies that utilize scalable web server middleware, such as IBM's WebSphere Application Server, one of the most common components of the IBM Software Foundation, are able to have a completely scalable system that is truly cross-platform, and provides the cornerstone of application integration. Data integration is another common requirement in enterprise implementations. Your business might also be running applications on IBM DB2, Oracle DB, Microsoft Access, or Microsoft SQL Server. IBM's WebSphere Information Integrator offers companies a full integration of their data into a singular view for an executive dashboard or reporting requirements and eases the implementation of a new modular design.

## Moving to Service-Oriented Architecture

Hardly any discussion regarding the future of IT can be held without addressing service-oriented architecture (SOA). Software vendors are increasingly moving to SOA as the architecture for business applications. As businesses continue to grow and require flexible systems to support their innovation, the architecture provided within an SOA environment allows businesses to modify, change, or implement new processes in a rapid and cost effective manner. The foundation provided by the IBM Software Foundation supports SOA so that a company can exploit the benefits and resulting cost savings implicit in an SOA environment.

## CIBER Helps You Achieve Your Full Potential

With deep skills in the IBM software products and very mature practices specializing in the leading software solutions, CIBER is uniquely positioned to help you leverage the IBM Software Foundation to benefit your total enterprise. We provide assessment, selection, planning, implementation, integration and post-production support to help your business gain a competitive advantage within an SOA architecture based on IBM products.

## About CIBER's Technology Solutions

CIBER Enterprise Solutions' Technology Solutions practice helps customers drive maximum results from their technology investments, enhancing business productivity while reducing capital requirements and operating costs.

Contact info:  
Tom Hughes  
thughes@ciber.com  
513-263-6497