

Global Integration Framework

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Abstract

*The discipline of managing information technology as a profession has advanced significantly in recent decades by number of key movements in the development of best practices. The Software Engineering Institute has its Capability Maturity Model (CMM), the Open Group has The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF), the Project Management Institute has developed the Project Management Body Of Knowledge (PMBOK), and the Office of Government Commerce has brought forward the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL). Each of these organizations, and their corresponding best practices, are recognized on a world-wide basis as the standard guidance for practitioners in their respective fields. Now, the Integration Consortium is establishing the GIF™ – the **Global Integration Framework**.*

*The Global Integration Framework brings together industry standards, integration best practices, formal modelling techniques, and other initiatives to create a **prescriptive** approach to systems integration. This paper describes the GIF vision, the target state to be achieved within three years, and outlines the roadmap to achieve it.*

Introduction to GIF

The integration practice is coming of age. The IT community has been integrating systems in some way, shape, or form ever since the second computer was built. In the mid 1990's, the integration field exploded with the introduction of middleware technology as a discrete industry. What followed was the rapid development of myriad proprietary solutions by hundreds of integration software and consulting companies and the introduction of many new proposed standards. That market has since consolidated and matured. Middleware technology has demonstrated that it is here to stay; although it will continue to morph into new forms as innovations drive new solutions to complex business problems. With the maturing of the integration market, comes a new demand; the need for consistent and proven

practices that will carry the industry forward for a long time. The GIF will leverage the PMBOK, CMM, ITIL, TOGAF, and others, and compliment them with a number of additional elements to create a holistic framework for integration activities. The GIF elements include:

1. A universal lexicon of integration terminology,
2. A vendor-neutral reference architecture,
3. An integration methodology including prescriptive templates and standards,
4. A central registry of GIF-compliant interfaces,
5. A software framework (possibly open source) of integration services,
6. An integration data model and associated tools,
7. An education program, and
8. A certification process to validate the skills and knowledge of individuals, the conformance of products, and the maturity of organizations.

The GIF is intended to be prescriptive in nature. In other words, it is much more than the typical guidelines, principles and heuristics. Its purpose is to provide specific integration solutions to specific problem scenarios. This is not to say that there aren't other ways to be successful, but the value of the GIF is that it is based on real-world scenarios that have been proven to work; follow the prescription and you will be successful.

About the Integration Consortium

The Integration Consortium was formed in July 2001 after a number of Integration industry leaders identified as a business priority the requirement to ensure industry trends were communicated with reliability and dependability. The integration industry is rapidly evolving and as a result a need to promote greater understanding of and establish guidelines for integration business practices has been identified.

The Integration Consortium is dedicated to the quest for measurable business value by globally bringing together industry knowledge through experience and interaction, by providing a venue to develop, create and debate.