# Making the Right Decision about SOA Adoption

## How can you distinguish fact from fiction regarding SOA?

**Do you wonder whether SOA is the right answer to help you improve your business processes?**

**Do you hear only vendors' hype about SOA?**

**Where can you get unbiased advice and expert opinion?**



You may be in the process of making a decision about service-oriented architecture (SOA). You probably find yourself in the uncomfortable position of having little to go on beyond vendor hype about technology solutions and the tremendous benefits of SOA adoption to determine whether SOA can really support your business or mission objectives. For example, vendors assure you that

- SOA can be purchased off-the-shelf, ready for use.
- Your legacy systems—a big investment—can be plugged into the new infrastructure easily.
- SOA standards will allow people in your organization to have seamless access to the data they need to be more efficient and productive.

Unfortunately, none of those promises is completely true.

### You Need More Complete Information

Your process for making decisions is disciplined. Maybe you examine an objective based on its perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Perhaps you devise a decision tree to discover a critical path to success.

To arrive at a correct decision, you'll need information from a knowledgeable, unbiased source in helping to decide whether and how to adopt SOA in your organization.

### You Need Someone to Give You Straight Talk about SOA

A source that knows about SOA and is not trumpeting a particular technology or solution can help you find answers to questions such as

- What does my organization have to have in place to be ready for SOA adoption?
- What is the greatest obstacle to my organization realizing benefit from SOA adoption?
- How will I know whether the technology I choose will work in my organization's environment?
- How can I make the best use of my organization's legacy systems? Are they useful at all in an SOA environment?
- What is the experience of organizations that have adopted SOA?
- How can my organization manage the maintenance and evolution of a service-oriented system? How much will evolving the system cost?

### The SEI Can Be Your Trusted Advisor

The Carnegie Mellon® Software Engineering Institute (SEI) can help you understand SOA and decide how to adopt it effectively in your organization.

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## Why You Can Trust the SEI

The SEI is

- **vendor neutral**
  As a federally funded research and development center, we are neutral by charter. We do not endorse vendor products; instead, we can help you make your own decision about SOA adoption based on complete, accurate information.

- **focused on the transition of best practices**
  Our mission is to convey documented, proven knowledge and practices to provide the basis for sound decisions about SOA adoption.

- **realistic about SOA technologies and standards**
  We continually analyze technologies and standards using a structured, context-driven approach in our laboratory.

- **actively investigating issues significant to SOA adoption**
  For instance, in conjunction with an international panel of experts, we have formed an SOA research agenda.

- **advising organizations on complex, large-scale, legacy system migration projects**
  Through our work with U.S. Department of Defense organizations and civilian governmental agencies**,** we have gained experience with the kinds of issues your organization is probably facing.

## How the SEI Can Help

### SEI Workshops

- **SOA Strategy**
  Find out how business goals and SOA strategies need to be—and can be—aligned.

- **SOA Governance**
  Develop a set of governance policies and procedures that is right for your organization. An *InfoWorld* survey found that lack of governance is considered to be the main hindrance to achieving success with SOA adoption.

### SEI Courses

- **Migrating Legacy Systems to SOA Environments**
  This elearning course introduces managers, software engineers, and decision makers to
  - fundamentals for successfully adopting SOA
  - a method to devise a strategy for migrating legacy systems to an SOA environment

- **Service-Oriented Architecture: Best Practices for Successful Adoption**
  This one-day course provides a firm grounding in the basic concepts and common misconceptions of this popular approach to system interoperability.

- **SMART Training Course**
  You will be trained to apply the SOA Migration, Adoption, and Reuse Technique (SMART) for identification of a strategy and pilot project for migrating legacy systems to an SOA environment.

## SEI Methods and Tools

- **SMART**
  This methodology is helping organizations determine whether it makes sense to migrate legacy systems to SOA environments, decide which services they should develop, assess the changes they need to make in their legacy systems to accomplish the migration, and evaluate possible migration strategies.

- **T-Check℠ Investigations**
  Without making a large investment, you can get a true assessment of how a technology will work in your environment.

- **SEI Certification of SOA-SMART Team Leads** who can conduct SEI-Authorized SMART workshops on behalf of SEI Partner organizations

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### Related Web Sites

- ✓ www.sei.cmu.edu/interoperability/
- ✓ www.sei.cmu.edu/go/soaofferings/

### For Course Registration

www.sei.cmu.edu/training/find/ (Choose the option to search for the courses in the Service-Oriented Architecture category)

### For More Information

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