



Enterprise Application Integration

By David S. Linthicum

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Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) offers a solution to this increasingly urgent business need. It encompasses technologies that enable business processes and data to speak to one another across applications, integrating many individual systems into a seamless whole. Enterprise Application Integration provides a comprehensive examination of EAI. You will find an overview of EAI goals and approaches, a review of the technologies that support it, and a roadmap to implementing an EAI solution. You will also find an in-depth explanation of the four major types of EAI: data-level, application interface-level, method-level, and user interface-level. The book describes in detail the middleware models and technologies that support these different approaches, including: *Application servers, including the use of Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) and ActiveX *Message-oriented middleware (MOM) and remote procedure calls (RPCs) *Distributed objects, looking at CORBA and COM *Database-oriented middleware and standards, including ODBC, JDBC, and OLE DB *Java middleware standards *Message brokers *New process automation and workflow technology This practical guide to implementing an EAI solution 1

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Getting very different computer systems from multiple vendors--whether on desktops, servers, or mainframes--to share data and processing power is one goal of Enterprise Application Integration (EAI). David Linthicum's *Enterprise Application Integration* tours the technologies needed to master EAI. For any IS manager or system architect who needs to see what EAI offers, this title will definitely fit the bill.

The text offers a wide-ranging perspective on the challenges facing EAI, as well as the strategies and technologies that can help it succeed. The author makes a compelling case for getting various "stovepipe" systems (like inventory and financial applications) to share information and processing power. (While data warehousing combines databases, EAI goes further and integrates *everything*--data, methods, and objects.) This text details strategies for effective EAI using a variety of middleware products (like message servers, CORBA, and COM).

A standout here is the attention to mainframe topics like "packaged" applications (especially SAP R/3) that don't lend themselves to integration easily, as well as "data scraping" (which lets legacy terminal applications communicate with newer systems). There is coverage here of tools and solutions from all major vendors, including IBM, SAP, Sun, and Microsoft. Later in the book, Linthicum argues for the strengths of Java for EAI, whether for remote processing or enterprise components like EJBs. He also looks at XML for data exchange in business-to-business e-commerce.

Few authors demonstrate such a wide knowledge of tools and technologies from so many vendors. This is precisely the perspective that EAI practitioners will undoubtedly need. *Enterprise Application Integration* delivers a thorough roadmap to the future of this emerging area of computing. It's a great place to start for any IS manager or software engineer seeking to understand the advantages of EAI for streamlining systems in an ever more connected world. --Richard Dragan

Topics covered: Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) overview, types of legacy systems, EAI and e-business, data-level EAI, application interface-level EAI, method warehousing and method-level EAI, user interface-level EAI, data scraping, guide to the EAI process, middleware models, transactional middleware, XA and X/Open basics, RPCs, messaging (Microsoft MSMQ and IBM MQSeries), distributed objects, CORBA and COM, database APIs for middleware (ODBC and JDBC), Java middleware, integrating SAP R/3 and PeopleSoft packaged applications, supply chain integration and business-to-business e-commerce, XML basics, message brokers, process automation, and the future of EAI.

From the Back Cover

Organizations that are able to integrate their applications and data sources have a distinct competitive advantage: strategic utilization of company data and technology for greater efficiency and profit. But IT managers attempting integration face daunting challenges--disparate legacy systems; a hodgepodge of hardware, operating systems, and networking technology; proprietary packaged applications; and more.

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overview of EAI goals and approaches, a review of the technologies that support it, and a roadmap to implementing an EAI solution. You will also find an in-depth explanation of the four major types of EAI: data-level, application interface-level, method-level, and user interface-level. The book describes in detail the middleware models and technologies that support these different approaches, including:

- Application servers, including the use of Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) and ActiveX
- Message-oriented middleware (MOM) and remote procedure calls (RPCs)
- Distributed objects, looking at CORBA and COM
- Database-oriented middleware and standards, including ODBC, JDBC, and OLE DB
- Java middleware standards
- Message brokers
- New process automation and workflow technology

This practical guide to implementing an EAI solution leads you through all the major steps, including identifying sources of data, building the enterprise metadata model, process integration, identifying application interfaces, mapping information movement, selecting and applying the technologies, testing, and maintenance. Other key topics include integrating packaged applications such as SAP R/3 and PeopleSoft, integrating the supply chain using EAI, the role of XML, and process automation. Comprehensive, practical, and clearly written, this essential resource will help anyone involved in this important business area understand the nature of EAI, its tools and techniques, and how to apply it for a significant business advantage.

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About the Author

David S. Linthicum is an internationally known distributed-computing and application integration expert who speaks at popular technical conferences throughout the United States. He has almost twenty years of experience in the integration-technology industry, most recently as CTO of Mercator Software, Inc. Before joining Mercator, David was the CTO of SAGA Software, and also held senior-level management positions at Electronic Data Systems, AT&T Solutions, and Ernst & Young LLP. He has consulted for hundreds of major corporations engaged in systems analysis, design, and development, with a concentration in complex distributed systems. This is David's third book on application integration.

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