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Results through Innovation



SOA

A look at the first steps

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What are we covering today ?

- Business challenges
- Different approaches
- Case Study: Vero SOLVIT PoC

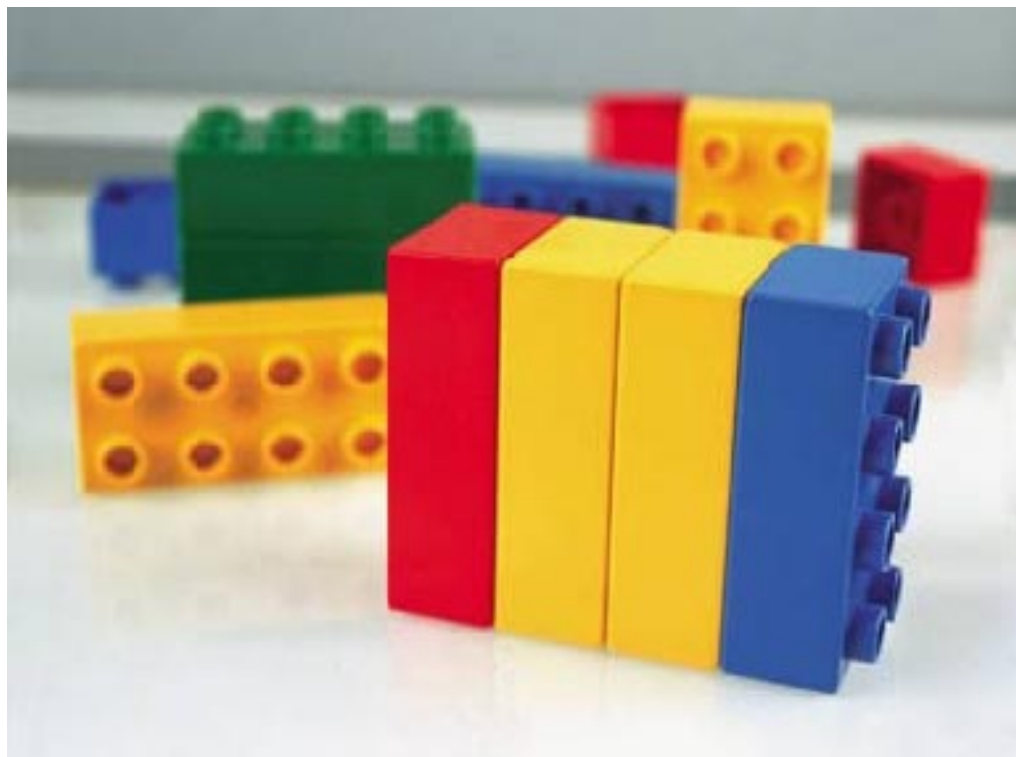


Business Challenges

- Doing more for less
- Differentiating the business
- Improving time to market
- Opening new business channels
- Technology as a competitive advantage
- Retaining systems investment



How does SOA help ?



“Enterprise Lego Bricks”



Top-Down vs. Bottom-Up

- Where do you start an SOA ?
- Top-down – Modelling the business, identifying services and processes, have IT implement
- Bottom-up – Service enable systems, implement SOA plumbing, plug together services to met business needs

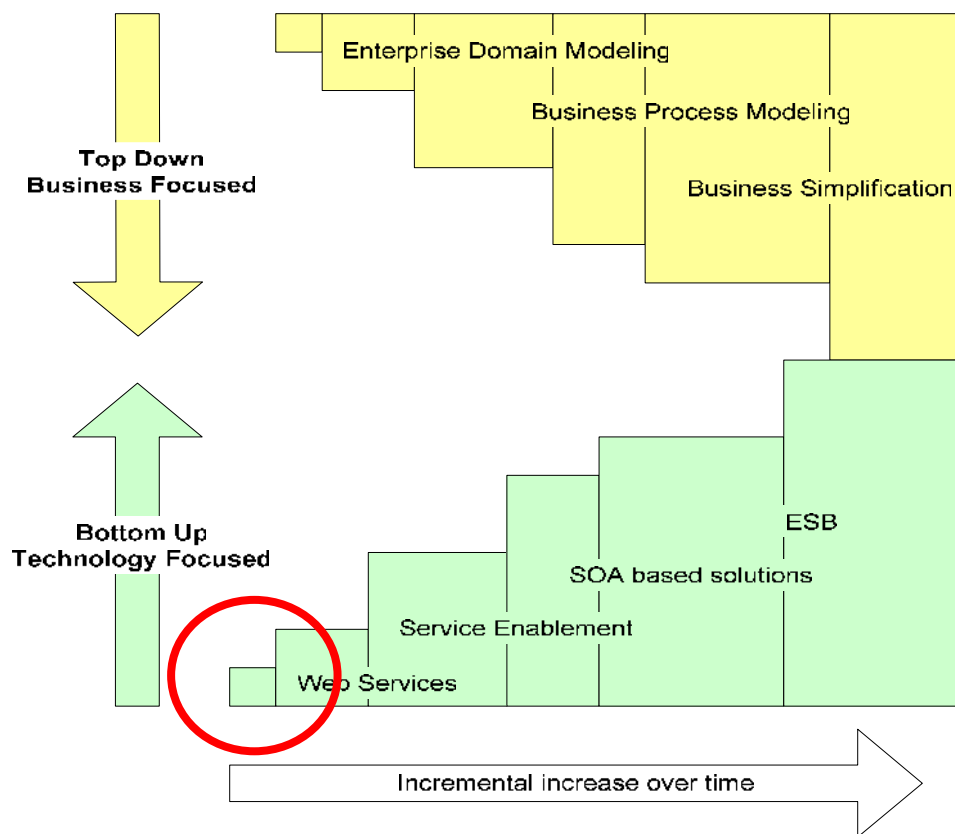


Problems

- Pure Top-down: Enterprises are complex & large, changing and evolving. Large effort: “boiling the ocean”. Systems hard to align with business’s vision
- Pure Bottom-up: Services created that are not useful to the enterprise. Lots of technology little business benefit



Need to do both (& incrementally)





Leading the industry

- Specialist insurance and risk management
- Services business and individuals
- Multiple brands including Vero, Vero Marine, Vero Accident & Health...
- Joint venture with AA – 'AA Insurance'
- Winner Australia and New Zealand Insurance Industry Awards 'General Insurance Company of the Year' 2006
- Recognised by IBANZ as Insurer of the Year 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006



Strategic Decision

- Strategic decision made to embrace emerging technologies such as web services to build an SOA for the enterprise
- Development of a road map for the building of an incremental enterprise SOA with visible deliveries and benefits to the business



SOLVIT

- Cornerstone system for Vero
- SOLVIT is a green screen, RPG based solution running on an AS/400
- Would need to be a first-class citizen of any SOA within Vero



The approach

- Development of a Proof of Concept (PoC) to show that SOLVIT could be a first-class citizen of an SOA
- Optimisation were engaged for their expertise in web solutions, architecture and knowledge of IBM technologies

PoC – SOLVIT Architecture

- Code supporting user interaction does not typically encapsulate a single application function making use of this code for services difficult
- However a large amount of batch processing code created when migrating acquired companies data to SOLVIT
- This batch processing code aligned well with services

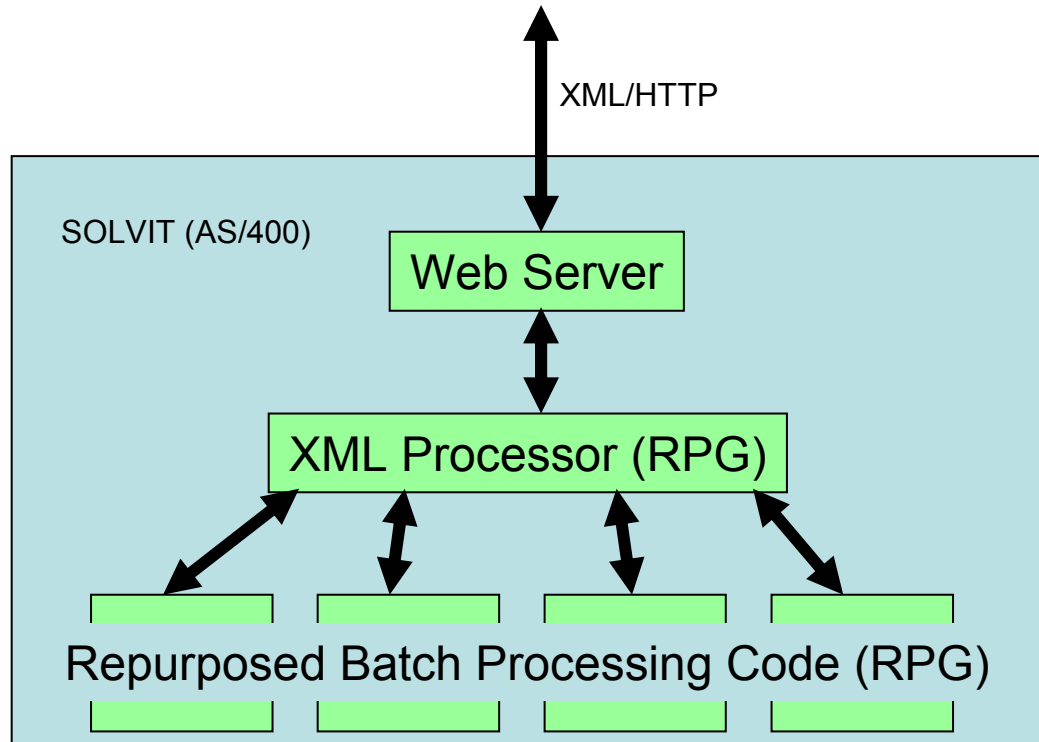


PoC – Part I

- Repurpose the batch processing code into component level services
- Create an XML Processor that can process an XML request, call the repurposed batch code passing in the appropriate inputs and then convert the output back into XML
- Configure a web server on the AS/400 to receive HTTP posts, call the XML Processor and return the response back to the caller



PoC – Part I, cont.

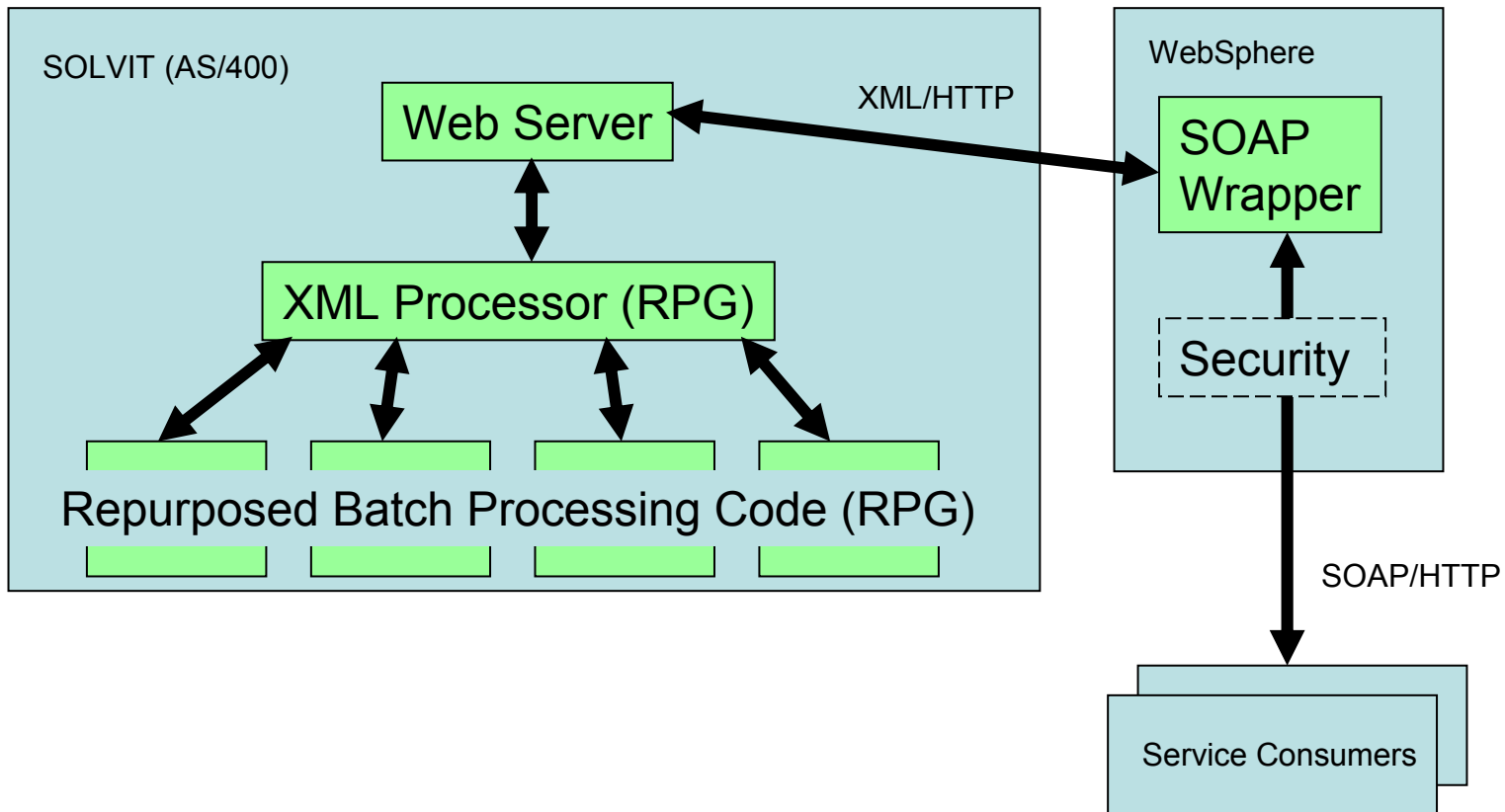


PoC – Part II

- The XML moved in and out of SOLVIT is very SOLVIT specific and does not adhere to any open standards (such as SOAP)
- So a SOAP wrapper was built in Java and deployed on WebSphere
- This wrapper converted SOAP requests, which use an enterprise schema, to and from the SOLVIT specific XML
- The SOAP wrapper also acts as a security chokepoint



PoC – Final Architecture



The Results

- PoC was successful
- Process allowed solution to be tuned
- Met all performance, scalability and reliability requirements
- Provided indicative effort estimates for service enablement of the SOLVIT platform



Following the PoC

- Further service enablement of SOLVIT
- Delivery of new systems opening new channels
- Alignment with ongoing business improvement stream



Business benefits for Vero

- Supports Vero's need to deliver products and services through multiple channels and brands
- Retains and enhances investment in existing robust and scalable systems
- Creates an environment to rapidly launch new products and services





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Thank You

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