IBM’s SOA Governance Model

SOA Governance

Governance:
- Establishing chains of responsibility, authority, and communication to empower people (decision rights)
- Establishing measurement, policy, and control mechanisms to enable people to carry out their roles and responsibilities

IT Governance:
- Establishing decision making rights associated with IT
- Establishing mechanisms and policies used to measure and control the way IT decisions are made and carried out

SOA Governance:
- Intersection of Business and IT governance focused on the lifecycle of services to ensure the business value of SOA

SOA Governance is a catalyst for aligning business value from IT governance
SOA governance effectively manages the service lifecycle by governing key processes across the entire lifecycle

Effective SOA governance must:

- Help define guiding decisions around these processes
- Properly enforce these guiding decisions
- Communicate these guiding decisions effectively
- Evolve these guiding decisions with changing needs
- Ensure that the perspective of both service providers and consumers are properly met

What constitutes an SOA governance model?

- **Principles**—guiding objectives and/or goals and associated metrics to ensure they are met
- **Role and responsibilities**—the roles and associated responsibilities that will facilitate business and IT alignment and properly establish decision rights
- **Guiding decisions**—policies, guidelines, best practices and standards
- **Methods**—consistent approach to establishing SOA governance and applying it across the lifecycle
- **Foundational governance processes**
  - Exception and appeals
  - Compliance
  - Vitality
  - Communication
- **Platform**—enabling technology (registry, monitoring, etc.)

*Governance processes should make it easy to do things the right way and hard to do them the wrong way. Build schools, not prisons. The goal is to help people conform to best practices, not police them.*

Mark Ericson, chief technology officer (CTO), Mindreef
The Phases of Methodology; the SOA Governance and Management Method

**Design the governance approach**
- Define / modify governance processes
- Design policies and enforcement mechanisms
- Identify success factors and metrics
- Identify owners and the funding model
- Charter / refine an SOA center of excellence
- Design the governance IT infrastructure

**Scope the governance need**
- Document and validate the business strategy for IT and SOA
- Assess current IT and SOA capabilities
- Define / refine the SOA vision and strategy
- Review current governance capabilities and arrangements
- Lay out the governance plan

**Put the governance model into action**
- Deploy governance mechanisms
- Deploy the governance IT infrastructure
- Educate and deploy on expected behaviors and practices
- Deploy policies

**Manage and monitor the governance processes**
- Monitor compliance with policies
- Monitor compliance with governance arrangements
- Monitor IT effectiveness metrics

**Lay out the governance plan**
- Design the governance IT infrastructure
- Document and validate the business strategy for IT and SOA
- Assess current IT and SOA capabilities
- Define / refine the SOA vision and strategy
- Review current governance capabilities and arrangements
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**SoA on your terms and our expertise**

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## SOA governance factors to consider

1. Garner C-level backing across the board  
2. Engage the business and drive business value  
3. Establish an SOA funding model for the long term  
4. An enterprise architecture facilitates initial establishment of SOA governance  
5. Commit to roles, responsibilities and resources  
6. Socialize the governance model