Hard Problems in SOA Workshop

Bringing Together the Users, Doers, & Researchers

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Frank Stein
Program Director
IBM Federal SOA Institute
fstein@us.ibm.com

Introduction

- Snake Oil Architecture?

- Business/Mission Needs

- The Charge to the Participants

- Agenda

SOA, Snake Oil-Oriented Architecture?

- In a recent blog (http://www.booch.com/architecture/blog.jsp) Grady Booch discussed the difference between Snake-Oil-Oriented Architecture and Services Oriented Architecture

- After an amusing discourse on snake-oil (and salesmen selling it), going back to the 1800's, he goes on to say:

  > "Now, let me make something excruciatingly clear, lest you misunderstand me and thus send incendiary emails and/or impel my IBM management to take me behind the woodshed for a good thrashing: I am a strong proponent of Service-Oriented Architectures (SOA).

  > However, I tremble at the realization that the fundamental technical benefits as well as the costs and trade-offs of SOA are sometimes lost in the guise of Snake Oil-oriented Architecture.

  > IMHO, **SOA's value proposition begins with the A in its acronym: architecture**. There is sound, proven value in governing and growing a system's architecture; there are also hard decisions that must be made, many decisions of which *cannot* be known a priori (which is why a process shaped around the rhythmic incremental and iterative release of executables is so important). There are many things we already know about what constitutes a good architecture and what does not. Stripped away of all the hype, a Service-Oriented Architecture is essentially a variant of well-proven message-passing architectural patterns. The variance comes in the form that services are cleverly designed to take advantage of the Web-centric infrastructure that pervades many organizations: services allow you to send and receive semantically rich messages through firewalls.

  > Having said that, there follow a multitude of hard technical and process decisions that must be made, which the Snake Oil-oriented Architecture showmen often neglect to tell you about.

  > If you ignore the S in SOA for a moment and shine an uncompromising light on your organization's software development practices, you may come to realize that there perhaps are some simple fundamentals you need to work on first, so that you can then approach the S in SOA in an appropriate, confident manner, and derive the true value from this technology."

- SOA is a means to an end, not the answer

http://www.booch.com/architecture/blog.jsp Thursday, October 12, 2006

Meeting Business & Mission Needs?

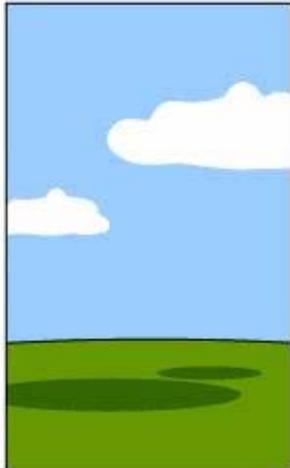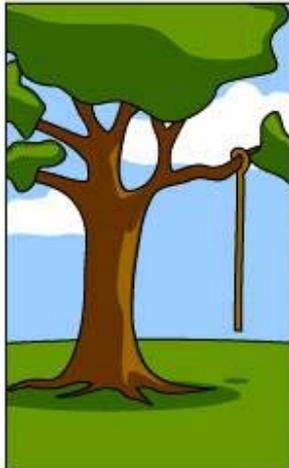How the customer explained it | How the Project Leader understood it | How the Analyst designed it | How the Programmer wrote it | How the Business Consultant described it
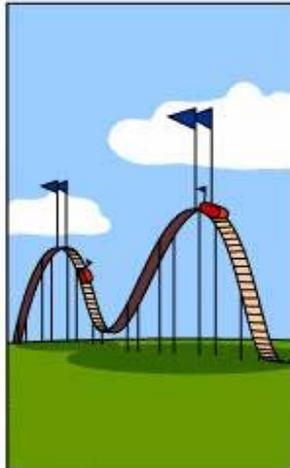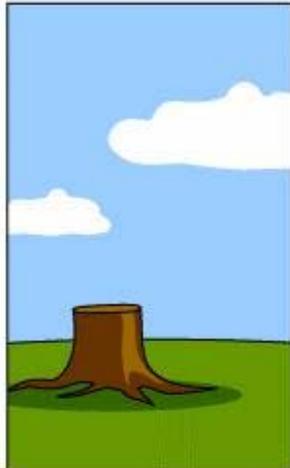
How the project was documented | What operations installed | How the customer was billed | How it was supported | What the customer really needed

Purpose of Today

- Bring together the Users, Doers, and Researchers to Understand the "Hard Problems" in SOA

- Define the Holes

- Specify the R&D Agenda for near term action

- Help Fulfill the Promise of SOA

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 Welcome and Background
- – Welcome: Paul Nielsen, Director & CEO, SEI
- – Purpose and agenda: Frank Stein
- – Background: SOA research challenges: Dennis Smith

- 9:00 – 9:50 SOA Research Challenges Taxonomy: Grace Lewis
- 9:50 – 10:00 Introduction to Working Sessions: Dennis Smith
  - – Names of working sessions and leads
  - – Expectations from working sessions
  - – logistics
- 10:00: - 10:15 – Break
- 10:15 – 12:00 Morning working sessions
  - – 10:15 – 10:45 Orientation; brief position statements
  - – 10:45 – 11:00 Focus on 2 or 3 topics
  - – 11:00 – 12:00 Discussion of selected topics (template to be provided)
- 12:00 pm Working Lunch (provided free of charge)
- 1:00 pm   Continuation of Working Sessions and Brief Out
  - – 1:00 – 2:00 Continuation of discussion
  - – 2:00 – 2:30 – preparation of brief out reports
  - – 2:30 - 2:45 - Break
- 2:45 – 3:30 – Plenary
  - – Brief outs from working groups
  - – Next steps