

Project Note

Concept: Service-oriented integration platform

Zühlke developed a concept for a service-oriented integration platform for the Structural Engineering Department of the city of Zurich. The purpose of the platform was to reduce the maintenance costs and complexity of the system landscape.

Task

The Structural Engineering Department of the city of Zurich (Hochbaudepartement der Stadt Zürich, abbreviated 'HBD') implemented a new project management system which needed to be integrated in the existing system landscape. This landscape with many interfaces causes high maintenance costs. A central integration platform based on service-oriented architecture (SOA) should reduce costs and complexity. Various concepts were drawn up, e.g. for architecture, security, infrastructure and operations. In the first step, the interface between the standard ERP system to the integration platform needed to be verified in a Proof of Concept (PoC) procedure.

Implementation

Zühlke experts determined the requirements to be met by the integration platform in several workshops. Based on this knowledge, they then drew up concepts for various areas and reviewed them with the IT managers at the structural engineering department. With a service-oriented solution, existing systems (e.g. SAP) and future ones can be integrated at a reasonable cost and on schedule. Zühlke installed a platform for integrating the IT systems based on the Microsoft BizTalk Server. In the first implementation phase a construction process management application was connected to the existing ERP system. The interfaces were implemented with nine web services. Zühlke developed an adapter for BizTalk Server to connect the application to the ERP system. All plans were checked at an early stage so that any changes that were necessary could be made. The team took the operation and maintenance of the later system in to account in the planning and design phase.



Hochbaudepartement
der Stadt Zürich



Technical Data

- RUP/UML,
- MS BizTalk Server
- MS .NET Framework
- Web Services
- Windows Server
- Visual Studio .NET

Customer benefits

- Everyone involved gained a common understanding of the project through the work in moderated workshops.
- HBD profits from Zühlke's expertise in EAI/ SOA and integration.
- Risks were minimised by conducting a Proof of Concept procedure early on.
- The plans were reviewed at an early stage so that needed changes could still be made.
- Zühlke employees' good communication skills improved the work with the different stakeholder groups.

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