

Project Note

Choice of product for an enterprise service bus (ESB)

An enterprise service bus was being selected for a bank's SOA infrastructure. Zühlke assisted with product selection by providing impartial expert opinions on leading suppliers and carrying out an intensive proof-of-concept procedure.

Task

DZ BANK is the fifth largest bank in Germany and is acting as central bank for approx. 1,000 cooperative banks. As a cooperative commercial bank DZ BANK is a well-known partner in Germany and abroad and can count on a long lasting business experience. The bank's already established EAI platform was to be expanded with the installation of a service-oriented platform. This new platform was to be added to the legacy integration architecture so the latter could also handle service-oriented requirements. Part of the platform was an enterprise service bus (ESB) that served as the backbone of the architecture and therefore had to fit precisely into the SOA concept. Zühlke assisted the customer in selecting the optimum ESB product.

Implementation

Working closely with the customer, Zühlke devised a requirements list of over 200 business and technical criteria. Requirements were drawn from the bank's SOA concept and from the experience Zühlke had gained in similar projects. Conformity with standards, support of non-functional requirements and interoperability were three of the major focal points. The list served as the basis for the examination and evaluation of the products from the eight leading ESB suppliers on the market. Topping off the evaluation were analyses of the architectural concept and interviews with the manufacturers. A proof-of-concept procedure was carried out on the two best products using a sample distributed investment-banking application developed by Zühlke for integration in the ESB. In this practical environment, the two products could be compared in a concrete example. The final product decision was based on a detailed juxtaposition of the products' respective strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and risks.



Technical Data

Platform:
Sun Solaris

Database:
Oracle

Web-Service-Stack:
Apache Axis1, Apache Axis2, JBoss

Integration technology:
IBM Websphere MQ,
SOAP, JMS

Customer benefits

- Zühlke drew on its methodological expertise and experience from other product evaluations to structure the evaluation process.
- With Zühlke's independence and understanding of technology, the ESB was able to be chosen in a neutral, competent procedure based on the selected SOA strategy.
- A complex but manageable proof-of-concept environment was set up quickly, allowing the products to be examined under realistic conditions.

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