

Project Note

ESB Evaluation for University

Zühlke assists a University to select a service orchestration environment to support their migration to a Service Oriented Architecture. The client benefited from Zühlke's SOA experience and minimised their own staff's workload.

Task

University College London has an extensive application landscape with many legacy systems and a mix of databases from multiple sources. Some of the applications are composed of multiple subsystems managed by different organisational units and connected in an ad hoc way, leading to reliability and maintenance issues. In support of their strategy to move towards a Service Oriented Architecture UCL asked Zühlke to assist them in the selection and evaluation of a suitable Enterprise Service Bus and process orchestration component.

Implementation

This short project was structured into four sections:

- Requirements gathering and evaluation scenario definition,
- candidate product selection,
- hands-on technical evaluation of candidates,
- reporting conclusions.

Zühlke interviewed key stakeholders at UCL and produced a requirements matrix combining client input with our experience gained from previous SOA engagements.

Zühlke worked with UCL to agree both a short-list of three candidate products, and an appropriate multi-step implementation scenario to form an important part of the evaluation process, assessing product ease-of-use as well as functionality.

Zühlke then created a stub application for the scenario using two different databases and some simple web services, carried out time-boxed implementations, and completed the requirements matrix assessment for each candidate product. Finally a report was written and delivered to UCL, together with virtual machines containing each implementation, and a record of the implementation process and issues encountered with each tool.



Technical Data

- VMWare
- Oracle SOA Suite
- Microsoft BizTalk
- Mule
- JDeveloper
- Visual Studio
- Windows Server
- Spring
- SOAP
- Oracle Database
- MySQL

Customer benefits

- **SOA Experience:** UCL benefited from Zühlke's significant experience of Service Oriented Architecture and independent product evaluations.
- **Best selection:** The detailed assessment of each candidate tool will enable UCL to select the product which best meets their technical and commercial requirements.
- **Less staff workload:** The evaluation exercise was carried out efficiently with minimal additional workload for UCL staff.

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