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Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Web Services: The Road to Enterprise Application Integration (EAI)

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Realizing SOA with Web Services

Web services are software systems designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network. This interoperability is gained through a set of XML-based open standards, such as WSDL, SOAP, and UDDI. These standards provide a common approach for defining, publishing, and using web services.

Sun's Java Web Services Developer Pack 1.5 (Java WSDP 1.5) and Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) 1.4 can be used to develop state-of-the-art web services to implement SOA. The J2EE 1.4 platform enables you to build and deploy web services in your IT infrastructure on the application server platform. It provides the tools you need to quickly build, test, and deploy web services and clients that interoperate with other web services and clients running on Java-based or non-Java-based platforms. In addition, it enables businesses to expose their existing J2EE applications as web services. Servlets and Enterprise JavaBeans components (EJBs) can be exposed as web services that can be accessed by Java-based or non-Java-based web service clients. J2EE applications can act as web service clients themselves, and they can communicate with other web services, regardless of how they are implemented.