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New Integration Platform Delivers Antidote for IT Complexity

By Edward Marootian, Jr.

It's no secret that over the years IT has had to employ an ever-growing array of tools and technologies to achieve its business goals. It's also no secret that the integration of those tools and technologies has entailed costly consulting engagements and remained extremely brittle, often breaking with the next product release of a vendor's product. These problems have also hampered IT's ability to respond to business requirements, making IT an impediment to business agility.

At CA, we've been concerned by the level of complexity introduced into IT, which rather than simplifying IT has frequently complicated it. So that's why we're excited about the upcoming introduction of CA Catalyst, our next generation integration



and application platform that we believe will prove to be an antidote to IT complexity.


The CA Catalyst enables IT to confidently integrate Enterprise IT Management (EITM) applications, by introducing two significant contributions: First, over time we'll gradually implement a common message- and event-based interface for exchanging information across all of our management systems. The integration will be more than just the low-level formats and protocols, and will include *semantic* integration delivering a common information model and standard management operations.

Second, we'll add a service orchestration engine for coordinating and updating Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) actions across those systems. In short, CA Catalyst will be a system-management-focused SOA backplane and automation engine. CA Catalyst will also incrementally deliver the Unified Service Model (USM), bringing benefits to EITM such as those seen in ERP or CRM systems, but with an incremental and open implementation.

As more products are written to the CA Catalyst, organizations will find that they can automate business processes across their CA products. So, for example, changes to personnel information that yesterday might have required manual changes using CA Identity Manger, CA Service Desk and CA Service Catalog could be automated as a single process.

The architecture will also facilitate the creation of whole new business applications built on Catalyst-compatible management systems. Without a consistent interface and information model, developers have had to perform tedious integrations before achieving the benefits of new solutions. Now developers will be able to use common system attributes and a common messaging system to exchange information between the products. All of which translates to a faster time to value for our customers.

This also means that your investment in CA's products and non-CA products will be protected. As new changes are introduced to applications, you'll be able to take advantage of them, leveraging their functionality throughout your IT environment. CA will also ensure that CA Catalyst builds on industry standards and comes with pre-built integration with CA and non-CA products and systems.



You might hear other vendors claiming to deliver similar capabilities, pointing to an ESB or referencing their Configuration Management Database (CMDB), but that's really a small part of what we're doing. A CMDB says nothing about how information is shared between applications and an ESB says nothing about the ability to respond to external events. CA Catalyst provides both of these components, but extends their process functionality to give developers a means for orchestrating actions across our applications and to respond to external system events.

CA Catalyst will be a powerful architecture when it's released, one that we think will revolutionize the way you run your business. We hope you'll agree.

Edward Marootian, Jr. is Vice President of Product Management and Strategy for the Platform Services Group at CA. In this role, he manages the product and technology portfolio including CA's common components, the CA IT Process Automation product and CA Catalyst. Previously, Edward was Vice President of Product Management and Strategy for the Office of the CTO at CA, managing the common component portfolio and responsible for the development of CA's integration platform strategy. Prior to this role, Edward was Vice President of Strategy and Architecture in CA's Infrastructure Management business unit. Before joining CA, Edward focused on developing and marketing Open Source and Linux-based solutions. Earlier in his career, Edward also worked in the former Soviet republic of Armenia in the areas of economic development and privatization.

Edward has BS from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy - Tufts University.

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