13 Years of Service Oriented Architecture@Credit Suisse: Lessons Learned – Remaining Challenges

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Credit Suisse IT Division – Key Facts

- **Large and complex environment**
  - Significant technology footprint and high degree of complexity
    - 67k users supported in 550 locations, 4 major data centers plus failovers, 95k workstations / laptops
    - 17’100 internal & external employees
    - Complex processing environment (>6’000 applications) evolved over many years

- **Considerable IT spending** – CHF 3.7bn 2011 budget, with a growth rate of 8% over the last 5 years
  - CHF 1.8bn investment into new functionality in 3’000 projects

- **Ongoing commitment to efficiency**
  - Continuous focus on sustainable IT unit cost reduction
    - We already deliver some of the best infrastructure unit cost efficiency in the industry (e.g., servers, mainframe, storage)
    - Delivered 20% reduction in blended workforce rates over the last four years

- **Contained maintenance cost growth** over the last few years, maintaining our ability to invest in new capabilities and led to a leading maintenance / investment ratio

- **IT as catalyst for the bank's growth**
  - IT delivery of projects and services is consistent and meets businesses expectations
    - User satisfaction generally increased over past few years, although 2010 partly saw a decline
    - IT production services increased availability significantly through globally aligned and regionally executed stability programs
  - IT continuously seeks to enhance the bank's operating efficiency
  - Industry recognition for some of our innovative IT solutions, e.g., Best treasury/cash management (European Banking Technology Awards); best use of IT in Wholesale & IB, HALO – best trading platform, cash flow & liquidity – best compliance project (Financial Sector Tech Award)
Convergence to more agile and standardized operating model to improve our capabilities

Shared components
- Single sources of reference data
- Common SOA
- Common domain and business services model

Consistent client experience
- Single sign-on
- One portal, multiple solutions

Product processing
- Shared, legal entity-agnostic global processing platforms

Risk mgmt and financial control
- Unified risk and finance platforms, based on agreed front-office data

Common infrastructure
- Common infrastructure based on consistent architectural standards that support our systems in a scalable, agile, and cost efficient manner
Managed evolution of very large systems requires stable interfaces

- Hard to replace a very large information system as a whole
  - High cost (>1bn CHF, estimate for Swiss platform)
  - Development time too high (>5 years)
  - High risk, as both technical and business prerequisites shift over time

- Managed evolution is the only feasible approach
  - Stepwise transformation of landscape, renewing component after component
  - Multi-year effort which gradually implements the target architecture

- Well encapsulated components exposing managed interfaces are a prerequisite for managed evolution:
  - Technically renew components, without affecting clients
  - Consolidate redundant data and functionality behind common interfaces and simplify
  - Seamlessly operate a technically heterogeneous system resulting from the evolutionary approach
Comprehensive Integration Architecture

- UI Integration, arranging desktop real estate, managing UI context
- Core standards: HTML5, Java portlets

- Process integration, managing process context
- Exposing UI components for process control (task list …)
- Core standards: BPEL

- Function and data integration (core SOA)
- Based on managed interface contracts
- Exposing UI components and functions for process composition
- Core standards: XML, WSDL, IDL, FTPS, SOAP, IIOP, MQ, domain standards (ISO 20022, SWIFT, FPML, FIX)
SOA Experience @ Credit Suisse
3 case studies

Credit Suisse Information Bus
Opening the mainframe for modern front-ends.

Global PB SOA
Wrap diverse international banking backends

Workflow as shared service
Flexible business processes

1998

2011
Case 1: Credit Suisse Information Bus (CSIB)

Facts
- Started in 1998, more than 1000 services built up to now
- All applications on the Swiss Platform offer and/or consume services today

Objectives
- Enable Managed Evolution of Mainframe Platform
- Component architecture for the Swiss Platform
- Reuse of core data&functionality (mainly) residing on the mainframe for modern front-ends

Technology
- Orbix - CORBA for synchronous services
- WebSphere MessageBroker / MQ for messaging
- Connect:Direct for files

Footprint
- About 1000 public CORBA services, 70 message publishers
- 400 Mio. CORBA calls & 120 Mio. messages delivered per month
Measure Progress
Use of services follows availability

- Wide use of services follows a critical mass of available services
- Today ~ 5 billion service calls a year in Switzerland
- Fully decoupled platform some years ahead
- Core banking system on mainframe completely decoupled from remainder of platform
Measure Progress - Services built as needed

- Build services as they are needed
- Gradually decouple domains
- Use existing functionalities
- Bulk services from 2009
Governance – bottom-up requests, top down QA

- **Project**
  - Service Development Request
  - Service Change Request

- **Initialization**
  - Basic Request

- **Design**
  - 2. Quality Check
  - Extended Design for reuse

- **Implementation**
  - IDL Specification

- Quality Checks:
  - 1. Quality Check
  - 2. Quality Check
  - 3. Quality Check

- Other Steps:
  - Complete Service Definition
  - Generate Service Documentation
  - Private service
  - Reuse existing service
  - Governance
  - Governance – bottom-up requests, top down QA
Governance - Interface Management System

- Searchable Service Catalog
- Data type repository with UML/WSDL integration
- Governance workflows
- Lifecycle management
- Extensible code generator (MDA)
- Integration with other tools, like application repository or accounting
Measure Reuse

Reuse is very uneven

- Re-use of services varies based on type of service. Reference Data Services have the highest re-use.

- About half of the services are reused

- Average re-use degree is 4 – 4 different client applications using a service
Technology Migration CORBA -> WebServices

- Initial performance of new middleware will hardly match the existing, mature infrastructure.
- Thorough performance analysis with gradual improvements on all layers of the stack is required.
- More verbose protocols (XML, SOAP) harder to implement efficiently.

Example:
- Initial results of web service performance against CORBA.
- Mainframe as server, Java Client.
- Service retrieves details for 900 accounts.
- Elapsed time in ms.
CS Information Bus - experiences

**Strengths**
- Well-accepted, high proliferation, good re-use of services
- Solid middleware foundation
- Governance: Combination of bottom-up approach and top-down QA works

**Challenges**
- Management becomes difficult because of size (+1000 services)
- Business object model (BOM) required as a framework in which to manage the service landscape (currently in development)
- Long term migration towards Web Services, without compromising performance

**Lessons learned**
- Strong governance is essential
- Organization needs time to learn
- Bottom-up approach helped in gaining critical mass, but...
  - ...supporting service design with common data model would greatly improve service quality and simplify QA
- Need improved interface management system (IFMS)
- Formal service descriptions could be the basis for code generation
Case 2: Global Private Banking SOA

Facts
- Started in 2005
- About 200 Services built up to now
- Services implemented in different countries (Monaco, UK, Germany, Singapore)

Objectives
- Re-use the same frontend applications with different local backends
- Initial driver: Standardized front desk application
- Currently we see a wave of new frontend applications

Technology
- Web Services (only synchronous communication needed)

Footprint
- Comparatively small number of interactions today.
- Large growth due to implementation of global strategy
From many clients using the same service to many providers offering the same service

Various sales channels

Single global front-end

Service provider defines semantics

Implicitly defined with single service provider

Challenging with multiple service providers

Explicit semantics, especially explicit information model needed.

CS Information Bus

International SOA

Swiss backend

International backends
Business Object Model – Common model semantically aligns information

- We need to define the precise semantics of data exchanged through services
  - SOA means many producers communicating with many consumers
  - Bottom-up service design needs overarching information model to ensure semantic consistency
  - Top-down approaches to service design require information model defining the overall structure

- Business Object Model serves these purposes:
  - Provides reference naming data elements
  - Typed data elements for correct representation
  - Relationships and annotations give semantic clarity
  - Model is adopted on a conceptual level as a basis for defining service data
  - Model used as a basis for implementing business objects
  - Establishing awareness of model as an abstraction of the requirements variations across locations
Business Object Model – Linking heterogeneous implementations to common semantics

- Owned by domain – with all the responsibilities
- Refinement and traceability
- High-level ownership

- Scope of a single application
- Foundation for logical / physical design
- Stewardship (like ITOwner for apps)
Global Private Banking SOA - experiences

**Strengths**
- Re-uses proven governance developed with the CSIB
- Adds logical data model to improve transparency and quality

**Challenges**
- Dealing with the heterogeneity of different locations and their local backends
- Dealing with a large diversity of teams and responsibility in the different locations
- Long-term blur of distinction between Swiss and International platforms

**Lessons learned**
- The business object model really helps. Need to introduce it for all SOA environments
- We are still learning how to balance local agility needs and global coordination/quality requirements
Case 3: Workflow infrastructure – Process Integration

Facts
- Started in 2000
- Currently broadly used internationally

Objectives
- Decouple process management from application logic
- Flexible service orchestration to support adaptation of application landscape to different business processes

Technology
- Oracle BPM (current technology), IBM MQSeries Workflow (past technology), based on BPMN

Footprint
- In use globally in more than 25 Applications, with about 150 processes types. About 100’000 process instances per month.
Workflow Infrastructure – Architecture embedding

Input
- Authorization
- Directory
- Modelling

Workflow Infrastructure
- Worklist
- Process Portlets
- Process Services

Java Application Platform

Usage
- Application Services

Output
- Data Warehouse

Process Events

Authorization
- User Details
- Business Process Model

Produced by: Stephan Murer
Date: 16.9.2011
Employee Onboarding – Setting up IT Accounts

**Challenge:**
New hires could wait several days to begin work until they have access to all systems.

1. **Hire new employee**
2. **Create HR record**
3. **Create user identity**
4. **Create email account**
5. **Set up IT accounts**
6. **Issue smartcard**
Process automation - from days to minutes

Pain Points

• Several days to set up IT accounts for new employees
• "Quick hires" delayed in being productive
• Different processes for different regions
• Complex processes and lengthy trouble shooting
• No reliable metrics for process improvement

Workflow Solution

• Workflow Platform automates IT accounts creation in "near realtime"
• HR events used to trigger account setup
• Process steps are orchestrated as SOA services
• Core process steps unified globally
• Metrics gathered by process monitoring

Benefits

• Improvement of overall employee onboarding experience
• Immediate productivity for "quick hires"
• Reduced complexity
• Unified processes across regions
• Continuous process improvement enabled by gathered metrics
Service orchestration through managed interfaces

In production since August 2011
Average turnaround time < 1 hour

CS eXchange Bus (CSXB)

IT
Accounts*

User Identity

BPM Platform
(Oracle BPM)

CORBA

MQ

CORBA

MQ

HR

Operator

HR Admin

Manager

SOA-based integration

*IT account provisioning is handled by several different systems, which are not shown here in detail.
Workflow as shared infrastructure - KPIs

- Shared infrastructure used by multiple applications
- Central engineering, support and consulting team
- Infrastructure available in all major hubs
- Since 2010 transition from legacy solution (IBM MQSeries workflow) to new technology (Oracle BPM)
- Decouple workflow apps from server product as much as possible

### Number of workflow applications

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Workflow Infrastructure - experiences

**Strengths**
- Widely accepted across the firm
- Clean isolation of workflow engine through robust APIs proved successful. Engine is being exchanged without too much impact on applications.

**Challenges**
- Often off-the-shelf applications come with built-in workflow capability and don’t lend themselves for external orchestration.
- Competition from domain specific orchestration tools, leading to early successes, but failing in enterprise-robustness and end-to-end orchestration.
- Business architecture needed to transform high level business processes into executable workflows

**Lessons learned**
- Properly encapsulate your infrastructure
- Work closely with business
- Potential identified to use infrastructure in straight-through process
SOA is everywhere in CS

- Front-to-back integration => Data quality through well-defined interfaces
- BIAN => Market-wide service standardization
- E-Commerce portal, Global Front Systems => Desktop Integration
- Financial Messaging Hubs => Standardized message formats (SWIFT, ISO 20022, FPML, ...) link internal and external applications
- Reference data distribution => Consistent reference data across the application landscape
- Swiss platform renewal => replicated services for resilience and performance
- Datawarehouse => Managed bulk services feed data into warehouses
Where we reach the limits – Areas for research I

- **Security remains a challenge**
  - Secure passing of the original initiator to all services involved (in the absence of sessions)
  - Second line of defense: Application level firewalls analyzing service traffic, distributed logging of service invocation, service monitoring for unexpected use
  - Fine-grained access control

- **Managing large service networks**
  - Version/release management with 1000s of services and 100000s of clients, semantic compatibility
  - System Management, service-level control, fault-tolerant designs, capacity management, service replication
  - Testing of complex component networks
  - Accounting of service use
  - Development governance, balancing reuse with demand-driven development
  - Cross platform interoperability
Where we reach the limits – Areas for research II

- Semantic alignment
  - Keeping large service landscapes semantically aligned, federation
  - Semantics in dynamic service discovery
  - Systematically linking integration architecture to business architecture (information model, process model, function model)
  - Blending external standards with internal extensions

- High volume, low latency implementations
  - Market data, 100000s of messages per second, distributed to many clients, publish subscribe pattern, sub-ms latency expectation
  - Special HW, FPGA
  - Special Network-Devices
  - Simplified protocols

- Cloud services
  - Service markets
  - Domain-based interface standardization
  - Security
  - Pricing
Thank you!

QUESTIONS