



Integration that makes sense

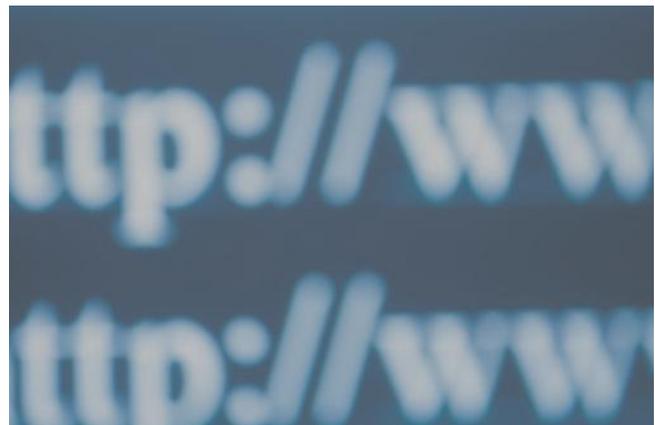
Mitigating Risk with “Fungible” Open Source

Many papers and articles have been written on how to determine if open source is right for your organization or how to assess the risks of using open source for mission-critical infrastructure or applications. Open source projects like Apache and Linux have clearly demonstrated the quality that open source can offer, but questions remain about the support system for open source technology. Business Integration Technology offers an alternative on the question of long-term support.

If an enterprise technical architecture is based on mainstream standards and the implementation of that architecture adheres to best practices that abstract the nuances of specific interfaces to technology that implements the standards, then implementations become “fungible.” Merriam Webster defines “fungible” as:

"being of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in the satisfaction of an obligation."

Isn't that the goal of enduring architecture? Then the architect and implementer can choose an implementation on the merits of the technology - and sleep well at night knowing that the architecture can continue to support best-of-breed technology and support - open source or proprietary - without fearing the failure of an open source project or the withdrawal of a vendor.



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The following quotation is inscribed on the outer edge of the British two-pound coin:

"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants"

Sir Isaac Newton, the famous physicist, mathematician and more, in a letter to his colleague Robert Hooke on 5th February 1676.

A paper by Con Zymaris of CyberSource posits that the open source/free software development and distribution paradigm will eventually become dominant because, like science and mathematics, it accelerates innovation by enabling us to freely build on the innovations of others:

[Shoulders of Giants -- A Paper on the Inevitability of Open Source Dominance](http://www.cyber.com.au/users/conz/shoulders.html)
(<http://www.cyber.com.au/users/conz/shoulders.html>)

Business Integration Technology, Inc. (BIT) is a professional services organization that leverages open source technology or other standards-compliant commercial implementations, adds control and configuration and packages it all into a business solution.

BIT believes that Open Source projects like Apache have shown that Open Source can play an important role in many enterprises' strategy. Other enterprises will choose licensed software for the innovations of the vendor and the support they offer. Whichever choice you make, BIT can work with you to effectively implement a collaborative trading partner network that meets your needs and conforms to your standards. If you would like an independent assessment of how Open Source may fit in your organization or an assessment of the best of breed offerings from software vendors, BIT can help you make the choice that best meets the needs of your organization.

About Business Integration Technology, Inc.

BIT is a start-up with deep roots in the team that built the messaging engine that runs North American Rail. BIT is also a partly-owned subsidiary of Daugherty Business Solutions with over 20 years experience and over 400 consultants in St. Louis, Atlanta and Chicago.

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