

Scaling Up With iWay



"iWay Service Channels are faster, more reliable, and more flexible than Web services."

John Senior
President
iWay Software

iWay Software has seen remarkable success helping organizations solve integration challenges across a variety of industries. With the recent release of iWay Service Manager 5.5 SP2, also known as Service Manager, Enterprise Edition, we're upping the ante for enterprise customers.

With more than 500 service-oriented architecture (SOA) implementations under our belts, our customers are now looking for true, enterprise-scale deployments, robust security features, 24 x 7 fault-tolerant operations, and high-end scalability. Enterprise Edition, which is included in iWay 2007, delivers on all of these objectives.

At the heart of this release is a new architecture that enables developers to create iWay Business Services using Service Manager and deploy them to industry-standard application servers. Formerly, customers had to install and maintain an instance of iWay Service Manager wherever they wanted to deploy iWay services. The Enterprise Edition separates the design and deployment environments, so developers can now create complex services locally, then deploy them remotely without installing any additional iWay solutions at the remote locations.

This new architecture greatly simplifies integration projects and reduces IT costs. You can run iWay Service Manager channels within any Java™ 2 Enterprise Edition-(J2EE™) compliant application server, including IBM WebSphere, BEA WebLogic, and Apache Tomcat. We'll be supporting other application servers in the future.

We have also made significant enhancements to the iWay SOA Management Suite to help customers govern services across the enterprise. Not only is the iWay SOA Management Suite capable of managing Web services, but also iWay Service Channels – the preferred deployment means of most of our customers. Finally, we have retooled the iWay Integration Workbench to leverage the Eclipse Framework, and released a number of derivative products for specific industry applications.

This architecture has a dramatic impact on costs since it reduces the footprint of enterprise deployments. Because these runtime versions of iWay Service Manager are so much easier to install and manage, many customers will see a payback in administrative savings in a matter of weeks. There is no need for special expertise at each remote location, beyond what the application server environment requires. Current customers will need to upgrade to iWay Service Manager 5.5 SP2 to obtain these capabilities. iWay also offers iWay Service Manager Standard Edition for small to

midsize deployments, which is ideal for remote sites that don't have an application server environment.

Bringing Consistency to SOA Deployments

Being able to manage services is an important part of any SOA, especially as companies become more reliant on these architectures to support mission-critical transactions. While most SOA management products work only with Web services, iWay SOA Management Suite is as broad as the applications, technologies, databases, platforms, and protocols that iWay supports. This is particularly important to iWay customers that use iWay Service Channels rather than Web services. iWay Service Channels are faster, more reliable, and more flexible than Web services. iWay SOA Management Suite includes iWay Service Monitor, which can manage Web services and iWay Service Channels simultaneously, so you can enforce consistent policies across your SOA infrastructure.

iWay 2007 also includes an improved development environment that leverages the Eclipse Framework. Eclipse improves productivity for Java developers by merging various tools and utilities into a single graphical development environment. Now that iWay Service Designer, iWay Explorer, and iWay Transformer are Eclipse plug-ins, they can be used independently. Customers that have the Eclipse Framework can install these iWay tools individually via Web downloads.

Vertical Solutions to Simplify Development

iWay is also releasing derivative products such as iWay Trading

Manager and the iWay SWIFT Ready Framework. These products are valuable for any company that needs to exchange high-speed, scalable, and secure messages. For example, British Telecom plans to use this SWIFT Gold-certified framework to process Euroclear messages. Formerly, British Telecom had to build trading exchanges by hand using

iWay's insistence on continuous improvement has led to 500 major SOA implementations.

middleware software from various vendors. Now the company is relying on iWay for its scalable and secure SWIFT message gateway. No heavy infrastructure or expensive software is required, and the environment guarantees message delivery over multiple synchronous transport protocols.

British Telecom's trading partners can use iWay's lightweight trading appliance to connect via TCP/IP, FTP, AS2, and many supported protocols. Any organization that uses the SWIFT message set to exchange funds across private exchanges will enjoy similar capabilities.

iWay is also introducing iWay Activity Monitor, a business activity monitoring (BAM) tool that enables customers to view, monitor, and report on iWay processes. A global leader in logistics plans to use Activity Monitor to monitor and audit business processes. iWay will capture bills of lading and transfer them into the company's

various package-tracking systems, where workers can quickly produce reports from the data.

Looking ahead a bit further, iWay 6.0 will include add-ons to iWay Service Manager such as iWay Data Manager, a real-time, event-driven ETL tool. Many customers currently use iWay Service Manager to trickle feed their warehouses. Some of these customers have developed sophisticated process flows to handle bulk loading, star schema loads, and so forth. iWay Data Manager will include real-time ETL capabilities to simplify these scenarios, so customers can automatically load information into databases with complex structures. Data Manager also will include more advanced technology for splitting and accumulating data, which will speed up bulk data transfers, either in real-time or batch mode.

iWay's insistence on continuous improvement has helped the business to grow steadily. We now have more than 500 major SOA implementations among large global companies, like Hydro One, Coty, and Bell Canada. Our adapter business is also alive and well, with third-party vendors such as Vitria and Composite Software recently requesting our services. Finally, iWay is pleased to announce a new chief technology officer, John Taylor, who came to us from Software AG. John knows a lot about the integration business, and he will be helping iWay set a course for the future as we continue to scale our software for enterprise use. ●

John Senor is President of iWay Software.