

Paper 141-25

Enterprise Integration Technologies – What is it and what can it do for me? Scott Vodicka, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC

ABSTRACT

Today, businesses are faced with many challenges such as increased competition, acquisitions and mergers, new worldwide markets, and changing hardware and software environments. To survive under these conditions companies must integrate their applications throughout the enterprise. Enterprise Integration Technologies provides the ability to integrate your SAS applications in the diverse information systems arena.

Enterprise Integration Technologies (EIT) is a new bundle of products from SAS Institute, that includes SAS/CONNECT® software, SAS/IntrNet™ software, and SAS Integration Technologies, a new product with Version 8 of the SAS System. The products in this bundle support application integration and access to a SAS server for SAS clients, Web clients, and other thin clients.

Our business intelligence, data warehousing, data mining, and decision support applications are enabled through the technologies in EIT. In the past these applications have relied on SAS/CONNECT software to provide client/server capabilities between a SAS client and server. SAS/IntrNet software opened them up to the world of Web based clients. Now, with the introduction of SAS Integration Technologies a new generation of SAS applications can be delivered, achieving the business requirements for supporting more data, more users, and more questions with less resources.

INTRODUCTION

SAS Institute is known for its award winning solutions for Data Warehousing, Data Mining, Business Intelligence, Web Enablement, and many other solutions. At the core of these solutions are the technologies from SAS Institute that are now a part of Enterprise Integration Technologies. SAS/CONNECT and SAS/IntrNet software provided a foundation on which successful SAS solutions are built. SAS Integration Technologies adds to the foundation by providing additional opportunities to create open client access to SAS software.

Lets take a look at the evolution of these products and their enabling technologies.

For years SAS/CONNECT software has provided the essential tools for sharing data and applications across multiple computing environments. It extends the power of the SAS System's MultiVendor Architecture by giving you control over where and how to execute each part of a SAS application. The important fact to note is that SAS/CONNECT software provides the core connectivity between a SAS client and a SAS server.

When Open Data Access started to gain popularity, SAS announced support for open data access to the SAS Server via ODBC. Starting in 1994, any application supporting ODBC could access data stored in the SAS System.

More time passed until the tidal wave of the Web hit. Riding on top of the wave, SAS Institute delivered web enablement technology for SAS applications with the announcement of SAS/IntrNet software in 1997. SAS/IntrNet was a major milestone for the SAS System. Web clients could access both

the computational and data access power of the SAS® System, which provided these powerful capabilities to a much larger corporate audience and spread the use of SAS throughout the organization.

The question still remained: *How can the SAS System be open to even more clients and integrate with more applications?* SAS Integration Technologies provides the answer.

SAS® Integration Technologies is the cornerstone of our Enterprise Application Integration offering, and provides for effective information distribution. In addition to this, Integration Technologies provides a publishing framework for getting information to the right users at the right time in the right format.

SAS Integration Technologies enables you to meld all of your disparate technologies together into a seamless whole by providing support for:

- Standard component models such as COM/DCOM and CORBA.
You can choose from and use an assortment of programming languages (including Visual Basic, VBA, VBScript, Java, C++, and others) and their development environments to write your SAS applications.
- Open network directory standards.
You can utilize the industry standard directory services that are provided through the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). SAS Integration Technologies enables your SAS applications to use a common interface for administering and accessing information that is stored in an LDAP server.
- Third-party messaging software.
Using asynchronous messaging, your applications can communicate flexibly across different platforms, enabling your SAS applications to efficiently and securely exchange information with a wide variety of other applications in the enterprise.

Proactive Information Delivery

With its support for emerging industry standards, SAS Integration Technologies provides methods for integrating the power of SAS software with other pieces of an enterprise application architecture. In addition, it provides brand new capabilities for automatically distributing information in a timely and effective manner utilizing the new publishing framework.

The publishing framework provides information delivery, notification, and subscription services, which allows SAS programs to distribute almost any kind of information to the people who need it when they need it. Getting the information to the decisions makers at the right time, and in the right format is key to allowing them to make timely, informed decisions and giving them a competitive advantage.

The complete paper is available on the SAS Institute Web site at <http://www.sas.com/rnd/itech/papers/eitover.html>. The paper presentation at SUGI25 describes Enterprise Integration Technologies and reviews SAS Integration Technologies in detail. The presentation will review how to use SAS Integration Technologies to open the SAS server to new clients, to allow

SAS applications to integrate with applications throughout your enterprise by exploiting message oriented middleware and enterprise directory technology, and how your SAS applications can proactively deliver information to decision makers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You may find this paper on the web:

<http://www.sas.com/rnd/itech/papers/eitover.html>

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged.

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