

BPM ISN'T YET THE “KILLER APPLICATION FOR SOA”, ANALYST'S EUROPEAN SURVEY FINDS

Macehiter Ward-Dutton's in-depth survey of European organisations shows how business process improvement and SOA initiatives tend to exist in their own separate worlds.

Cambridge, UK – 29 July 2008 – IT-Business alignment experts Macehiter Ward-Dutton (MWD) today highlighted the findings of a new survey of European businesses which focuses on the levels of adoption and maturity of business process improvement and business process management (BPM) initiatives.

One of the key findings was that in Europe the vast majority of business process improvement initiatives are still primarily focused on early process discovery and process modelling – rather than implementing continuous process improvement programmes. What's more, 91% of study participants indicated that instead of turning to specialised process modelling and management environments, their preferred tool for modelling processes and discovering potential improvements is most likely to be a standalone diagramming tool – something like Microsoft PowerPoint or Visio. Although IT departments are seen as trusted partners in these initiatives, they tend to be led very much by business teams. Furthermore, despite vendor rhetoric to the contrary, most process improvements are implemented by rolling out an off-the-shelf packaged application (73%) or delivering a custom software development project (63%) rather than using specialised BPM tools and platforms.

“The findings of this survey should provide a real wake-up call to anyone tempted to drink in too much of the current industry hype swirling around how BPM and SOA slot together seamlessly,” said Neil Ward-Dutton, Research Director and lead analyst on MWD's BPM research programme. “Our study shows that although there are clear conceptual links between these two ideas, it's important for anyone in enterprise IT to be careful in how and when they try and make the connection – particularly in the minds of business teams.”

This survey was the first in a twice-yearly programme of primary research focused on BPM activity in Europe, which MWD conducts as part of its BPM Continuous Advisory Service. Further details of this service are available at: http://www.mwdadvisors.com/promotion/bpm_cas.php.

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About Macehiter Ward-Dutton

Macehiter Ward-Dutton is a specialist IT advisory firm which focuses exclusively on issues concerning IT-business alignment. We use our significant industry experience, acknowledged expertise, and a flexible approach to advise businesses on IT architecture, integration, management, organisation and culture.

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