

ALLIANZ GAINS A SINGLE VIEW OF THE CUSTOMER USING A SINGLE POINT OF CONTROL – CENTRASITE™

Challenge

To serve customers better and adapt faster to market needs, Allianz has made a significant commitment to Web-based applications and a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA). When it set out to build a single customer view across different business domains, the IT team at Allianz realized it also needed a single point of view and access to its full SOA landscape.

Solution

With Software AG's CentraSite™ platform now deployed, Allianz can successfully:

- Manage all service-related assets throughout the service development lifecycle
- Enrich metadata and visualize the full SOA landscape to enhance asset re-use
- Enable comprehensive impact analysis to minimize the impact of change requests

Benefits

- Guaranteed design-time governance with tight integration of SOA registry and SOA development tools and platforms
- Optimized re-use of SOA assets
- Improved collaboration with a cross-project view of service development
- Greater alignment with the company's process excellence strategy, thanks to end-to-end business process management and SOA lifecycle governance
- Project completed faster than expected – in less than two months



Allianz is the 19th biggest company in the world, offering banking, insurance, and asset management services to 80 million clients with more than 178,000 employees in more than 70 countries, including Turkey.

As one of the leading insurance companies in Europe, the total turnover of Allianz was in excess of €102 billion in 2007. Allianz, one of the biggest asset managers in the world, manages assets worth €764 billion as of 2007.

Aiming to ensure sustainable and profitable growth in Turkey, as well as the rest of the world, Allianz bases its strategy on retaining and expanding its capital base, increasing operational profitability, sustainable competition and brand equity while minimizing structural burdens.

Get There Faster.™



“We have successfully deployed a design-time governance platform using CentraSite Enterprise Edition that even took shorter than planned, because CentraSite provides outstanding integration and extendability capabilities to work as a central SOA registry on any SOA platform”

Çagın Çagatay | Project Manager | Allianz SOA Competency Center

Taking SOA to the next level

Organizations the world over are adopting an SOA to better align IT with business requirements and improve their ability to rapidly deliver new services to market. Allianz is no exception — and, in fact, the insurer was an early adopter of SOA.

Allianz embraced the principles of SOA in late 2006 and has been developing SOA-based applications ever since to align with the company’s IT transformation strategy. An SOA combined with Web-based applications increases the agility of Allianz, so the insurer can more quickly address unique marketplace requirements.

Adds Çagın Çagatay, Project Manager at Allianz SOA Competency Center: “To gain the full productivity, time-to-market and the flexibility benefits that SOA offers, Allianz needed a solution that worked across the company’s structure, which is divided into two groups, and that offered highly effective governance to ensure the quality, sustainability and reliability of our SOA initiative.”

The key driver behind using an SOA was the ability to manage the development lifecycle and document services, so that later those services could be found easily and re-used appropriately. Dependency and impact analysis were also mandatory so required changes by different stakeholders would be implemented at low risk.

Unless Allianz chose a best-in-class SOA registry, impact analysis would be a manual and time-consuming task. Product managers and business analysts first would need to collect the latest versions of the documentation stored in partly locally and remotely on the network. Then they’d need to try to discover which services would be affected in terms of new functionality and documentation.

Needed: solid SOA governance

The SOA governance solution adopted by Allianz would need to resolve these pressing management and control challenges:

- Enhance the SOA environment with next-generation capabilities to align with the company’s process excellence strategy
- Govern and manage the SOA landscape of in-house solutions based on open standards
- Provide a cross-project view of service development for improved collaboration

Control of SOA seen as key to success

For Allianz, complete visibility and control of all SOA assets is imperative for continued business success. Applications developed by the company using SOA enable it to respond rapidly and effectively to the challenges of a highly competitive and dynamic industry. At the same time, Allianz must also ensure compliance with regulations.

Allianz turned to Software AG for the ideal SOA governance solution: CentraSite, the open standards-based SOA registry and repository.

As a top-ranked solution for SOA governance and service lifecycle management, CentraSite is used to centrally manage Web services along with their underlying metadata and services policies as a means for streamlining re-use, improving developer productivity and reducing IT costs.

With CentraSite deployed in under two months, Allianz has been able to:

- Strengthen its ability to document and manage services and related artifacts as well as their future relationships to processes

- Manage service development lifecycle that’s tightly integrated with SOA development platforms
- Find services more easily and re-use them appropriately
- Improve dependency and impact analysis

In the near future, Alliance will use CentraSite to support change management, policy definition and policy enforcement across the entire SOA landscape.

KEY COMPONENTS

CentraSite

CentraSite offers full SOA lifecycle management by combining a standards-based registry and repository with policy management.

ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG is the world’s largest independent provider of Business Infrastructure Software. Our 4,000 global customers achieve business results faster by modernizing, automating and improving their IT systems and processes to rapidly build measurable business value and meet changing business demands. Using our solutions, organizations are able to liberate and govern their data, systems, applications, processes and services – achieving new levels of business automation and transparency.

Our industry-leading product portfolio includes best-in-class solutions for managing data, developing and modernizing applications, enabling service oriented architecture, and improving business processes. By combining this proven technology with industry expertise and best practices, our customers improve and differentiate their businesses – faster.

Software AG – Get There Faster

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