

Overview of Composite ERP™



Advantages of CERP

Traditional ERP poses many challenges to organizations that choose to adopt it. The cost of implementation, customizations and modifications alone often carries price tags many times more than the initial license price. Furthermore, modifications cannot easily be carried over to new versions, making it difficult and expensive to upgrade the software. Organizations have found the fastest and easiest way to successfully adopt Traditional ERP was to change their business processes to fit the way the system worked, rather than trying to customize the system. Over the last two decades during which these systems have been in use, organizations have come to realize that traditional ERP systems are often too rigid to be adapted to changing business needs.

LOGIMETHODS Composite ERP™ (CERP) provides a best-of-breed alternative to traditional ERP systems that provides the same benefits with added flexibility *at* a lower cost. CERP provides flexibility of choice by allowing companies to select best-of-breed packaged applications and combine them with their existing assets: ERP, legacy or other. The goal is to provide an advanced integrated Enterprise Solution that is tailored to fit to your company's unique business needs.

CERP accomplishes its goal through the introduction of a series of virtualized layers (façades) that front the organizations *Data, Application, Business Services* and *Processes*. These seamless virtualizations layers achieve a homogenized application environment from disparate, heterogeneous systems and components, providing faster ROI by enabling the reuse of existing systems.

KEY CERP BENEFITS

CHOICE OF BEST-OF-BREED SOLUTIONS FOR UNIQUE BUSINESS NEEDS:

- Allowing for product selections to be made on the basis of functionality and fit rather than compatibility or vendor lock-in
- Avoiding expensive customization of monolithic solutions to meet your needs

ABILITY TO LEVERAGE EXISTING IT ASSETS

- Leverage existing systems and skill sets
- Focus on new capabilities incrementally in order to achieve ROI faster, rather than retrofitting existing systems.

INCREASED VENDOR INDEPENDENCE

- Freedom of choice
- Stronger negotiating position with vendors

ABILITY TO DEPLOY SOLUTIONS INCREMENTALLY

- Reduced scope, causing less disruption
- Ease of introducing next generation capabilities (e.g., real-time BI, CEP, etc.)
- Reduced risk to the enterprise



Companies can choose the best industry solution to support each business function, without sacrificing integration and real-time information access. In fact, CERP can provide organizations with greater competitive advantage by implementing advanced capabilities on top of standard packaged applications, including real-time BI, Business Activity Monitoring, and Business Process Management across business processes spanning multiple applications and platforms.

Four Building Blocks of CERP

Application Integration Services

Application integration services, utilizing enterprise application integration (EAI) technologies, provide common solutions to enable applications to easily and automatically share data and functionality. For example, EAI provides data translation and transformation services to enable customer data to remain in sync across multiple applications.

EAI also enables organizations to quickly integrate applications in the case of mergers and acquisitions. The application integration services layer provides the foundation to easily integrate the best of breed solutions, or even extend existing ERP systems by implementing customizations and new services outside of the ERP application, thereby making upgrades faster, easier, and less expensive.

Logimethods provides a standards-based integration framework that provides:

- Common Access Technology, which makes underlying application functionality uniformly accessible on any technology platform
- Common Data Representation Technology, which simplifies data access when moving data between technology platforms
- Common Operation Semantics, which provides well-defined operations that are reusable in multiple business contexts



Data Services

The Data services layer provides common solutions for managing enterprise-level data across disparate applications. This includes:

- Managed File Transfers provide a common way to transfer files across applications, which saves time and money and provides centralized security control and a common way to implement point of failure recovery.
- Data Canonicalization provides common data semantics, which are a common understanding and definition of business concepts and relationships. Doing this on an enterprise level for shared enterprise greatly speeds integration while reducing costs.
- Master Data Management (MDM) enables better collaboration across enterprise groups by providing a single version of the truth and increases the quality of the enterprise through the centralized management of reference data and centralized common data quality management controls and processes.



Business Process Services

The business services layer provides greater agility to organizations with an SOA approach and enables new business solutions to be rapidly implemented through a combination of existing and new functionality. This layer abstracts the complexity of creating composite applications by providing standardized interfaces and common transport mechanisms. The business services layer includes:

- Service Mediation, which provides business agility through common orchestration and transport methods, providing location transparency. This means a developer can quickly and easily access existing business services to use in a new solution, without having to know the particulars of where the service physically resides or the underlying technology, thus adding greater agility to the architecture.
- Web Services. New business functionality created in Web Services can more easily be reused across multiple business solutions. A business service may be comprised of one or more underlying web services, providing even greater agility. This is a less expensive and more flexible way to add or modify business functionality contained in packed solutions typically used for best-of-breed ERP functions.
- Service Repository is a directory of existing Web services that provides discovery and governance services, as well as location and platform transparency. The service repository supports reuse of business services, monitors and manages SLAs.



Logimethods provides industry-leading SOA and ESB implementation services.

Business Services

Business Process Services are provided by Business Process Management Software (BPMS) that provides modeling, automation, monitoring and management of business processes through analytics.

With BPM, organizations can implement business processes that span organizational and application boundaries. This enables organizations to create competitive advantage on top of packaged applications. BPM provides greater business agility by enabling business processes to be modeled with a visual tool, and then automated and changed quickly and easily. The monitoring and management capabilities of BPM systems provide real-time visibility and alerts and enable continuous process improvement. Process Management services may encompass both automated and manual processes. While some BPM systems offer support for both styles, the tools generally focus on one category or the other. Logimethods provides pragmatic BPM services as well as a 30-day BPM Methodology.

Analytics

The CERP model enables advanced real-time analytics to be implemented across disparate applications and processes. This is especially advantageous when the underlying packaged applications do not have this capability. Business Activity Monitoring and Complex Event Processing (CEP) can be implemented as a separate service that spans packaged and custom applications, to provide real-time predictive analytics and substantial competitive advantage. Logimethods provides services to help you implement BAM capabilities as part of a BPM solution and evaluate and implement evolving advanced CEP solutions.

Governance

The challenge of distributed solutions is overall management, when different teams separately manage the pieces. As the technical solutions are becoming available, problems involved are often more political than technical. Logimethods provides Data Governance services as well as a comprehensive Governance Framework that includes templates and processes to help you implement a robust governance solution.

Conclusion

CERP is a compelling alternative to traditional monolithic ERP that provides organizations the ability to assemble their ERP system based on their organization's individual requirements and processes, thus providing a truly advanced enterprise solution that is tailored to fit a company's unique business needs.



To find out more about **LOGIMETHODS Composite ERP™**, contact us at: solutions@logimethods.com or visit www.logimethods.com/solutions-composite-erp.php

About Logimethods

Logimethods specializes in the optimal use of technology to deliver Business Integration solutions with rapid ROI in the most demanding environments. Using pragmatic and cost-effective approaches, we help large organizations to align, simplify, and integrate their IT environment for greater efficiency, increased asset reuse and higher level of process performance. Logimethods partners with its clients to enable their strategic and tactical initiatives, providing expertise and resources in all phases of major programs to reduce risk and ensure success. For more information, see www.logimethods.com

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