

Adaptive Business Solutions Work Group

This is your opportunity to influence the future direction of a technology that will enable the intelligent enterprise. It is not new, but is now emerging as a key development that will have a growing impact across all industry sectors.

Forums already exist for the standardization of agent technology. This has resulted in a number of successful agent solutions being fielded and the creation of a vibrant agent technology community; however, the technology has yet to find a role for itself in the standard enterprise development toolkit.

We want to take a different approach. The Adaptive Business Solutions Work Group will work towards integrating agent technology into a conventional enterprise technology stack and development methodology. Rather than develop agent solutions that sit apart from existing enterprise applications, we want to find a way to leverage the technology within core operational applications.

Objectives

Our current approach is to create a forum focused on solving real and pressing commercial problems, leveraging agent technology where appropriate. This is a pull approach (pulling the technology into the enterprise technology stack, where appropriate) rather than the push approach that has been used to date (where conventional agent tools and techniques are pushed into an enterprise technology stack).

Existing approaches to enterprise software will be extended with agent technologies and methodologies, where appropriate, to assist the development of agent technology-enabled solutions. (Some of the ideas behind this are laid out in the article *Beyond Composite Applications* in the *Business Integration Journal* (available from www.bijonline.com/redirect?rid=66).

We intend the forum to have a strong solution and domain focus, ensuring that it is relevant to people with real and compelling business problems rather than just software vendors. Logistics (supply chain) and FSI (anti-money laundering) look to be the most likely domains that we will focus on first.

About the Work Group

The Adaptive Business Solutions Work Group is being established to assist the development and deployment of agent technology in an enterprise environment. In this context, an enterprise could range from a commercial organization to a government department and be placed in any industry vertical sector.

Today, more than ever before, we all rely on technology. For most organizations, it's the driving force of their daily operations. But, as everyone who works with technology knows, problems can and do occur. Often they are no more than irritations, but in some cases they are enough to bring an entire organization to a standstill.

Agent technology has a strong track record in delivering solutions that are more flexible and adaptive than when conventionally approached. While organizations that have been involved with agent technologies believe that "agent technologies are the foundation of adaptive systems" (Navi Radjou, Forrester), successful proof-of-concepts or prototypes have faced difficulties when moved to production. The goal of the forum is to break this deadlock and enable the creation of core enterprise applications that leverage the benefits of agent technology.

The Adaptive Business Solutions Work Group will provide the opportunity to exchange information and shape the future of the technology's role in the enterprise; members will gain access to information and ideas on a level that they otherwise could not attain from industry shaping events to academic research breakthroughs. And the flexible structure of membership allows for almost any organization, whatever its type or size, to join and have an equal voice.

Adaptive Business Solutions

How to become a member

Becoming a member of the Adaptive Business Solutions Work Group is quick and easy to do.

If your company is already a member of The Open Group, email Chris Harding (c.harding@opengroup.org) asking to join.

If your company is not yet a member of The Open Group, print out and complete the membership application form at www.opengroup.org/member/membership_agreement.pdf and fax it to +44 (0)870 915 2397. It will be countersigned and a copy returned to you. An invoice will then be sent in due course.

Annual membership fees can be seen at www.opengroup.org/member/membership-pricing.htm.

At the Austin conference

The plenary includes a session on Adaptive and Collaborative SOA and a meeting is scheduled, with the following agenda, for Tuesday, July 24:

- 09:00 Welcome and Review of Agenda
- 09:15 Collaborative and Adaptive IT: Using Agents (James Odell, Consultant)
- 09:35 TV Guide and their Exploration of Agent-based Systems (Michael Miller)
- 10:00 Workshop – ABS Case Study Development
- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 Workshop – ABS Case Study Development (cont'd)
- 12:20 Discussion of future ABS direction and effort
- 12:30 Adjourn

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service, including UNIX® certification. Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

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