

## Integration: The road more commonly travelled.

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A lighthearted presentation covering the following topics:

- What is Integration?
- What should you consider?
- What are some of the options?
  - Examples



## "What is Integration?"



# "Integration is a process of combining or accumulating."

(WikiPedia)



## "To form, coordinate, or blend into a functioning or unified whole."

(Webster's)



## Integration is becoming more and more mainstream....

#### ... actually, there is (and should be) an expectation to have "touch points" available for integration purposes.



In GIS, integration generally involves meshing together spatial and/or attribute data into a homogeneous dataset.



As GIS becomes a core component of the enterprise landscape, the need to integrate GIS with other "traditional" enterprise applications is becoming much more common.



## "So I want to integrate, now what?"



## "What are you trying to do?"

- Business Process Integration
- Data Integration
- Something else?



## "What do you need?"

- One way
- Bi-directional
- Aggregation



## "What other factors do I need to consider?"

- Latency
- Performance
  - Data structure/quantity
  - Transaction load



### "One Source"



### The "One Source" philosophy states:

"We must provide efficient access to information while attempting to consolidate and eliminate data redundancy and duplication whenever possible."



# At the Township of Langley, the "One Source" philosophy is helping drive our integration needs and requirements.



## "What are my options?"

- "Duct tape and rubber bands"
- RDBMS
- Application integration
- Enterprise integration



## "Duct tape and rubber bands"

Do whatever it takes...





As long as you have:

- A full pack of bubble gum
- Swiss army knife
- A license of Access and/or Excel

You can make anything happen!



### RDBMS

## Leverage capabilities of the RDBMS to perform integration at the data level.



Requirement:

- Leverage property information stored within the Land Management System inside the GIS system.
- 2. Minimize duplication if possible



Solution:

Perform a "join" at the database level to aggregate information stored in the GIS and the land management system.



#### Solution:





#### Solution:



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## **Application Integration**

Leverage capabilities of a particular application or development environment to integrate at the application level.



One challenge is the inherent system boundaries... ...as long as the vendor has provided the "touch point"



#### **Application Integration - Options**

Many options provided by the operating system for Inter-process Communication (IPC):

- COM
- Windows messaging
- DDE
- Etc.

... All are accessible using a number of development environments



Requirement:

- Utilize GIS functionality within the Land Management System
- 2. Leverage existing web-mapping tool to minimize the need for end-user training



Solution:

Leverage application level integration touch-points to integrate existing webmapping tool with the Land Management System.



#### Solution:

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#### Solution:





What's happening under the hood?

- Windows messaging
- HTTP POST
- Database operations



### **Enterprise Integration**

Leverage inherent capabilities of a enterprise architecture or middleware to perform required integration.



#### Lengthy and complicated topic...

## ... if you thought we had too many acronyms and confusing terminology before...









Holy SOAP Batman!

I can't access my WSDL, the ESB does not want to respond and it appears that my Middleware might have failed!





You are freaking me out Robin!

WSDL, ESB and your Middleware – do I need to drive you to the doctor?


**Enterprise Integration - Explanation** 

In a nutshell:

- There is a real paradigm shift occurring in how we view the enterprise; integrating systems is a requirement.
- GIS will play even a more important role on the enterprise landscape in the years to come.



#### **Enterprise Integration - Explanation**

Just one of the many new advancements helping enable enterprise integration...

Service-Orientated Architecture (SOA): SOA establishes an architecture from which applications expose methods (building blocks) for other enterprise applications.



**Enterprise Integration - Options** 

Other integration options available:

- BizTalk
- SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)
- Vendor specific (Web services, etc.)
- Too many to list!



Requirement:

Implement integration between the following systems:

- Municipal business license database
- Regional land inventory database
- Motor vehicles database
- Police mainframe





# Horatio says: "Integration is cool!"



"By correlating all owners of dog grooming businesses that recently obtained a class 4 drivers license we determined that the killer has brown hair and lives in a 2 bedroom condo within two kilometers of a freeway onramp – now only if we had a GIS..."



Requirement:

Need to access images in catalog system directly inside other corporate systems



Solution:

Encapsulate business logic for image search inside of a web service and leverage that functionality in other enterprise applications.









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### In Summary:

- Technology is continuing to evolve.
- Integration is becoming a requirement.
  - GIS vendors are helping with this.
- Plan your integrations carefully.
  - Try to think modular/ think big picture.
- We are only just beginning...



# Thanks!