

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

AKAZI

Analyst: Ron Schmelzer

All Contents Copyright © 2003 ZapThink, LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in any form without prior written permission is forbidden. The information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. ZapThink disclaims all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of such information. ZapThink shall have no liability for errors, omissions or inadequacies in the information contained herein or for interpretations thereof. The reader assumes sole responsibility for the selection of these materials to achieve its intended results. The opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. All trademarks, service marks, and trade names are trademarked by their respective owners and ZapThink makes no claims to these names.



Akazi

URL: www.akazi.com	Headquarters : Grenoble, France
Founded: 1999	Funding: Privately-held, Venture-backed: FCPR I-Source, Convergent Capital, Teamlog.Net, FCPI Spof Venture

Product Summary

Based in France, Akazi produces *FlowMind*, their flagship Business Process Management System. FlowMind manages interactions between participants (which Akazi calls "actors") and system software. Akazi had proposed an XML-based language for process management called the Business Process Definition Language (BPDFL) which was subsequently contributed to the BPML. The company is now heavily involved with BPML's standards efforts, including BPML.

FlowMind provides a visual tool for graphically stringing together resources of all types. The product contains different modules adapted to different types of participants in the system: modeling and prototype development capabilities targeted at business analysts, process automation and operational deployment features targeted at IT engineers, process templates and customization targeted at professional services organizations, process participation aimed at various different actors in the system, process monitoring capabilities targeted at supervisors, and ongoing process operation aimed at the line-of-business process manager.

The execution infrastructure is entirely developed in Java and is executed in a J2EE environment. Based on the Model-View-Controller (MVC) architecture, the system is comprised of a central process engine based in Java. Servers interact via RMI, and process persistence is based on a relational database that support JDBC. FlowMind uses a process repository that leverages a JDBC-accessible database. The product can expose this repository in XML format (although not using Web Services). Finally, the product leverages a number of standards to connect to end systems including LDAP, Java Remote Method Invocation (RMI), WebDAV, and Java Connector Architecture (JCA), and SMTP. The product also includes a connector for the MEGA International's MEGA Process product.

TAKE CREDIT FOR READING ZAPTHINK RESEARCH!



Thank you for reading ZapThink research! ZapThink is an IT market intelligence firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our target audience of IT vendors, service providers and end-users a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

Earn rewards for reading ZapThink research! Visit www.zapthink.com/credit and enter the code AKFLOW. We'll reward you with ZapCredits that you can use to obtain free research, ZapGear, and more!

For more information about ZapThink products and services, please call us at +1-781-207-0203, or drop us an email at info@zapthink.com.

Key Differentiators

- Support for BPMI's specifications including BPML
- Strong role-based activity support for interaction by different types of process users.
- 100% Java based – but not clear how Service-oriented

ZapThink Take

While providing an adequate solution for process definition and execution targeted at mainly Web-oriented business processes, it is not clear if the Akazi FlowMind solution supports Service-Oriented Process, if at all. The product has very strong support for Java, and it can thus be assumed that as the J2EE platform increasingly makes use of Web Services, so too will Akazi's FlowMind solution. However, there is little, if any, evidence that the company has supported the notion of recursive process definition using SOAP wrappers, support for asynchronous service and process invocation, and support for key orchestration and choreography standards. It is also unclear how much Akazi supports the BPML specification as their product literature shows no evidence of any of BPML influence or direct support.

Related Research

- *Service-Oriented Process Report (ZTR-WS108)*

-- continued --



About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an IT market intelligence firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our target audience of IT vendors, service providers and end-users a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

ZapThink's role is to help companies understand these IT products and services in the context of SOAs and the vision of Service Orientation. ZapThink provides market intelligence to IT vendors who offer XML and Web Services-based products to help them understand their competitive landscape and how to communicate their value proposition to their customers within the context of Service Orientation, and lay out their product roadmaps for the coming wave of Service Orientation. ZapThink also provides implementation intelligence to IT users who are seeking guidance and clarity into how to assemble the available products and services into a coherent roadmap to Service Orientation. Finally, ZapThink provides demand intelligence to IT vendors and service providers who must understand the needs of IT users as they follow the roadmap to Service Orientation.

ZapThink's senior analysts are widely regarded as the "go to analysts" for XML, Web Services, and SOAs by vendors, end-users, and the press. They are in great demand as speakers, and have presented at conferences and industry events around the world. They are among the most quoted industry analysts in the IT industry.

ZapThink was founded in October 2000 and is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Its customers include Global 1000 firms, public sector organizations around the world, and many emerging businesses. ZapThink Analysts have years of experience in IT as well as research and analysis. Its analysts have previously been with such firms as IDC and ChannelWave, and have sat on the working group committees for standards bodies such as RosettaNet, UDDI, CPExchange, ebXML, EIDX, and CompTIA.

Call, email, or visit the ZapThink Web site to learn more about how ZapThink can help you to better understand how XML and Web Services impact your business or organization.

ZAPTHINK CONTACT:

ZapThink, LLC
11 Willow Street
Suite 200
Waltham, MA 02453
Phone: +1 (781) 207 0203
Fax: +1 (786) 524 3186
info@zapthink.com

