

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

BEA SYSTEMS

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.



BEA Systems

URL: www.bea.com	Headquarters : San Jose, CA
Founded: 1995	Funding: NASDAQ: BEAS

Product Summary

BEA Systems has long been a leader in providing solutions for distributed computing, and is extending their market leadership to increasingly solve integration and business process-related problems. The BEA WebLogic Enterprise Platform, their flagship product, includes two major product families that are aimed at solving business process-oriented challenges: BEA WebLogic Integration and the BEA WebLogic Workshop.

Based on their leading J2EE application server, the BEA WebLogic Integration product provides application integration, business process management, and B2B integration functionality for the enterprise. Specifically, BEA WebLogic addresses three critical functions of process management: process definition (modeling), process execution, and process monitoring. Users can design business processes using the BEA WebLogic Integration Design Studio, that provides a visual interface to model processes. The system can also import BPEL-compliant business processes.

Once designed, the process is converted to a native Java format called the Java Process Definition (JPD) format, and loaded into the application server for execution. JPD processes provide an event-based mechanism that is triggered by the arrival of an XML message that matches the criteria stored in the event. Each event can then make use of "actions" to invoke applications, interface with human operators, transform data formats, send and receive XML messages, or send email. Upon completion of a business process, BEA WebLogic Integration generates summary information for each of the constituent tasks. This summary information can be used to create statistical reports to monitor the effectiveness of business processes and human workflows.

The WebLogic Workshop application furthers the WebLogic Integrator value proposition by providing a user interface for connecting Web Services together, with support for asynchronous messages and Web Services conversations. Focused not on high-level business process definition, but rather lower-level application-centric processes, Workshop allows developers to "stitch together" Web Services into coarse-grained, orchestrated Services. The product supports asynchronous messaging through the use of a callback location (e.g., a URL) that the service can invoke when the request is completed. If a callback cannot be specified,

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 BEAJ2. 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.

the developer can set up a timer control, which periodically checks the Service to determine whether the data are ready. Finally, the company provides its well-known transaction monitor Tuxedo as a way of providing reliable, transacted Web Services implementations.

Key Differentiators

- Has the leading market share for J2EE-based application servers and is leveraging that strength to produce integration and process management solutions
- Strong support for BPEL as well as BPML and WSCI specifications
- Supports asynchronous messaging through callbacks and timer controls.
- Uses the Java Process Definition (JPD) technology as a means of supporting business process within J2EE.
- Leverages strong transaction monitoring product, Tuxedo

ZapThink Take

BEA, along with Microsoft and IBM, is a very strong player and top contender for leading the market in a variety of Web Services-related product categories, including integration and business process. BEA's product direction with respect to business process is similar to that of IBM and Microsoft – a two-pronged approach in which they extend the application server to include new pieces of functionality while at the same time providing a separate product focused solely on business process and integration. However, it is not clear whether BEA intends the application server to be the “center of the process universe” or if the process functionality in their WebLogic Workshop product will eventually become merged with that of their WebLogic Integrator product.

Another point of confusion is BEA's support for process standards. BEA was deeply involved with both the BPEL4WS set of specifications as well as WSCI. While BEA is increasingly putting BPEL support in their products, it's not evident that they are supporting WSCI or BPML any time soon. Most importantly, it's not clear which set of specifications BEA intends to pursue. While they might be putting their fingers in all the “standards pies,” at some point BEA will have to figure out which set of specifications it will recommend to its legions of developers as the preferred way to define and execute business processes in BEA products.

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

