

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

METAMATRIX

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MetaMatrix

URL: www.metamatrix.com	Headquarters : New York, NY
Founded: 1998	Funding: NA

Product Summary

MetaMatrix uses metadata to create models of information sources. These models form a virtual database that can describe all of the information sources of an enterprise. Any number of applications can thus use the virtual database for data access.

MetaMatrix offers two core products: The MetaMatrix Server and MetaBase. The MetaMatrix Server enables companies to integrate their enterprise information systems into a virtual database that provides users a standard gateway for information access. MetaBase is a powerful metadata repository that streamlines application development. MetaBase offers the following capabilities:

- Dependency Analysis – users can select any metadata entity and search the repository for all virtual and physical metadata that use or are used by the selected item.
- Automatic metadata capture – automatic capture of business and technical metadata from relational and other database systems.
- The MetaBase Modeler – a graphical modeling tool that supports the creation of complex models of entire information systems, enabling users to define relationships among disparate information sources. The MetaBase Modeler also eases the creation of metadata for sources that do not explicitly expose metadata, such as text files and legacy systems.

MetaMatrix also supports Model Driven Architecture (MDA). The model-driven approach creates an abstraction layer that decouples applications from physical data sources. This abstraction gives organizations the flexibility to make modifications to the information assets behind their enterprise applications without affecting workflow. Architects using MetaMatrix's tools can create UML data models and Platform Independent Models that include data access. MetaMatrix combines a metadata management solution based on UML and MOF. Using the MetaBase Modeler, UML-based platform dependent and independent data models can be captured and managed in the MetaBase Repository from which the MetaMatrix Server generates platform specific, run-time data access requests to heterogeneous data sources. Therefore, the MetaMatrix solution allows applications to be developed to platform independent data models.

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ZapThink Take

MetaMatrix is on a very short list of vendors who currently support MDA, and that fact alone makes them an important vendor of SOA tools. MetaMatrix's tools focus on the information integration (also known as data integration) space, virtualizing data sources. As such, it is not a complete SOA solution for building the platform independent Service model. However, The MetaMatrix suite enables architects and developers to manage metadata in a model-driven, Service-oriented fashion, including those metadata that describe the elements and functionality of an SOA.

Related Research

- *Service-Oriented Architecture Tools & Best Practices* Report (ZTR-WS107)

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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.

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