

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

MINDREEF SOAPSCOPE SERVER SOA COLLABORATION FOR SERVICE LIFECYCLE TEAMS

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Abstract

As companies leverage Service-Oriented Architecture to increase their business agility and reduce the cost of integration, it is increasingly important for organizations to collaborate on the design, development, testing, and support of Services across the enterprise. Mindreef is augmenting their SOAPscope Web Services diagnostic tool with Mindreef SOAPscope Server, a SOA lifecycle collaboration platform for teams of architects, developers, testers and support personnel. SOAPscope Server is a platform that allows such teams to handle governance, documentation, testing, diagnostics, and lifecycle support for Services within enterprise SOA implementations.

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The Rise of the Service Lifecycle Team

The transition to Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) introduces many changes in the enterprise beyond the technical changes that implementing the new architecture requires. Because business Services abstract heterogeneous IT functionality, creating and supporting those Services requires a wide range of experienced people who understand the workings of the various underlying systems and other infrastructure, as well as the business processes that compose those Services. Furthermore, dynamic, business-focused Services change more frequently than traditional applications, since SOA enables the business to respond to continual, often unpredictable change.

As Services in the enterprise proliferate as companies build out their SOA implementations, therefore, companies must change the structure of their technology teams to enable flexible, agile Service development, testing, and support. Unlike traditional IT teams, these Service lifecycle teams include a wide range of diverse personnel from both IT and lines of business, including business analysts, architects, developers, testers, and support personnel. Fundamentally, SOA cannot scale without effective collaboration among the members of these teams. Furthermore, as enterprise SOA implementations grow, consistent communication among such SOA implementation teams must allow participants to collaborate regardless of each individual's role, skill set, or development environment.

Mindreef SOAPscope Server: Enabling Large-Scale Service Lifecycle Collaboration

Mindreef's first product was SOAPscope, a Web Services diagnostic tool for individual users. Mindreef's goal with this product was to solve the emerging problems of Web Services reliability through effective diagnostics as companies scaled up their Web Services implementations. The company's long-term goal, however, is to create a collaborative diagnostic platform for SOA implementations. Today, the number of Services in the enterprise is exploding, as is the number of people involved with the creation and consumption of those Services.

SOA cannot scale without effective collaboration. Mindreef is addressing this challenge of SOA collaboration with a new product: *Mindreef SOAPscope Server*. SOAPscope Server is a Service lifecycle collaboration platform for the Services teams comprised of architects, analysts, developers, testers and support personnel. SOAPscope Server addresses SOA collaboration requirements by providing a platform independent, SOA-specific communication medium, which also provides sufficient information to reproduce a SOA scenario for the purposes of development, testing, and support.

SOAPscope Server focuses on four areas of collaboration: SOA governance, Service testing, Service diagnostics, and pre- and post-deployment lifecycle support. SOAPscope Server provides its Service lifecycle collaboration capabilities through a server-side component as well as an optional client component for Service consumers. It offers a shared workspace as well as Service simulation capabilities. SOAPscope Server supports the broader community of

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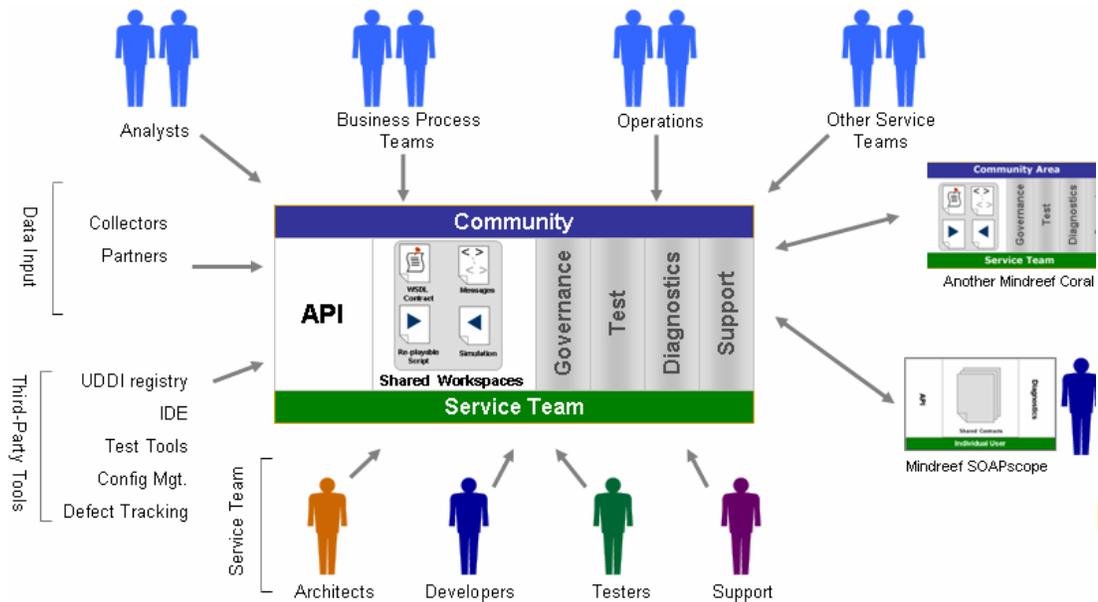
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individuals who produce and use Services, as well as the more specific Services team, which includes architects, analysts, developers, quality assurance personnel, and the post-deployment support team. In addition, SOAPscope Server is able to scale gradually to match evolving SOA implementations by growing incrementally in the same pragmatic way that customers build out their SOA initiatives.

Among SOAPscope Server’s strengths are its multi-role testing and lifecycle support capabilities that allow for each member of the Service lifecycle team to have a specific role in the testing process. Lifecycle support starts with SOAPscope Server’s community section that exposes Service contracts so that they are simple to investigate. SOAPscope Server then facilitates the assembly and communication of a reproducible scenario that includes all relevant artifacts and simulation data. Business analysts can then explore Service capabilities, and architects can simulate Service capabilities and test for policy conformance. SOAPscope Server then enables Service developers to unit test functional capabilities. Client developers who are responsible for creating Service consumer applications can use SOAPscope Server for its server simulation functionality. Quality assurance personnel can then use SOAPscope Server for functional, performance, interoperability, and conformance testing. Finally, once Services are in production, support personnel can use SOAPscope Server for identifying and reproducing inappropriate Service behavior to diagnose problems that users report. Post-deployment support is a particularly important capability for SOAPscope Server because Services don’t have their own user interfaces.

Service Lifecycle Collaboration with Mindreef SOAPscope Server



In the pre-production phase for Web Services, SOAPscope Server enables architects to encode policy and practices as rules. Once architects define a Service contract, developers can design WSDL definitions for those Services such that they always comply with existing governance and validity rules. Service consumer developers can then access contract documentation to understand the functional capabilities and policy restrictions applicable to each Service. Implementation and support personnel can then use SOAPscope Server’s simulation capabilities to test performance in the before the Service actually goes live. These personnel can also apply quality and performance metrics to the Service. Finally, the

SOAPscope Server product enables quality assurance personnel to automate tests and perform continuous regression and integration testing within its workspaces.

During the post-production phase after Services go live, Service users report problems and provide their SOAPscope Server workspace to the support team, who reproduces the problem using that workspace. Support then attaches the workspace to a defect report. Next, the Service developer solves the problem using the reproducible workspace and simulation capabilities in SOAPscope Server. The tester then turns the problem into a regression test, leveraging the original workspace from the user. Finally, the production team creates builds, tests them against the regression suite, and analyzes them against corporate practices. As the final step, they deliver the updates to the user community. SOAPscope Server therefore provides Service lifecycle teams a consistent approach to designing, developing, testing, and supporting the Services in a SOA implementation.

The ZapThink Take

Many companies implementing Web Services today have moved beyond the pilot stage and are now rolling out large numbers of business Services as part of enterprise SOA initiatives. As a result, there is an increasing need to scale not only their Service runtime environment, but also how they build, test, and support Services in production. It is clear that for building and supporting the continually evolving Services that SOA enables, SOA requires the collaboration a range of skilled personnel over the entire Service lifecycle.

Prior to SOAPscope Server, design tools, Service testing tools, Service management, and support tools have all been separate, often incompatible products. With their SOAPscope Server product, Mindreef aims to unite these capabilities to provide a more comprehensive, Service-oriented approach to Service lifecycle collaboration.

Product Features

Mindreef SOAPscope Server

Overview:

Mindreef SOAPscope Server is a Service lifecycle collaboration platform that supports cross-functional teams responsible for creating, evolving, deploying, and supporting diverse Services in the enterprise.

Features:

- *Governance* – SOAPscope Server communicates best practices to developers and other members of the Web Services team and communicate those policies through a lightweight infrastructure based on RSS, and plug into existing enterprise IT governance solutions and approaches.
- *Automation of Service Documentation* – SOAPscope Server automatically creates Service documentation, taking advantage of existing WSDL files and other artifacts. The product provides documentation best practices and helps to standardize documentation within Service contracts themselves.
- *Collaborative diagnostics* – SOAPscope Server helps to diagnose Service problems by capturing information about

all artifacts related to Service metadata and execution, and provides the ability to simulate Web Services scenarios.

- *Lifecycle support* – SOAPscope Server includes a community view that allows users to experiment with Services, as well as the ability to capture, share, and reproduce problem scenarios, enabling support personnel to solve problems once, and prevent them thereafter.
- *Multi-role testing* – allow for each member of the Service lifecycle team to have a specific role in the testing process, including business analysts, architects, Service developers, client developers, and quality assurance personnel.

Value Proposition:

Mindreef SOAPscope Server reduces the time it takes to develop and deploy Services, and improves the ability for companies to support their Services while guaranteeing the agility and reuse goals for their SOA initiatives as they scale SOA to the enterprise level.

Profile: Mindreef

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Funding:

Kodiak Ventures, Polaris Ventures

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Related Research

- *SOA Tools and Best Practices Foundation Report* (ZTR-WS107)
- *Service Orientation Market Trends Report* (ZTR-WS110)
- *DataDirect ZapNote* (ZTZN-1181)



About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an IT advisory and analysis firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into the architectural and organizational changes brought about by the movement to XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our three target audiences 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 helps its customers in three ways: by helping companies understand IT products and services in the context of Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and the vision of Service Orientation, by providing guidance into emerging best practices for Web Services and SOA adoption, and by bringing together all our audiences into a network that provides business value and expertise to each member of the network.

ZapThink provides market intelligence to IT vendors and professional services firms that offer XML and Web Services-based products and services in order to help them understand their competitive landscape, plan their product roadmaps, and communicate their value proposition to their customers within the context of Service Orientation.

ZapThink provides guidance and expertise to professional services firms to help them grow and innovate their services as well as promote their capabilities to end-users and vendors looking to grow their businesses.

ZapThink also provides implementation intelligence to IT users who are seeking guidance and clarity into the best practices for planning and implementing SOA, including how to assemble the available products and services into a coherent plan.

ZapThink's senior analysts are widely regarded as the "go to analysts" for XML, Web Services, and SOA by vendors, end-users, and the press. Respected for their candid, insightful opinions, 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 November 2000 and is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Its customers include Global 1000 firms and government organizations, as well as many emerging businesses. Its analysts have worked at such firms as IDC, marchFIRST, and ChannelWave, and have sat on the working group committees for standards bodies such as RosettaNet, UDDI, and ebXML.

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

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