

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

SENSEDIA: FOCUSED SOLUTIONS FOR COST-CONSCIOUS SOA GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

Choosing the right governance tooling requires careful consideration of specific attributes of the enterprise domain, including an inventory of the major SOA resources such as data, Services, and processes, as well as interactions and dependencies, and how all relate to the notions of policy management, service agreements, and security.

SOA governance, both at design time and run time, is a recognized requirement for all SOA initiatives, and as a result, there are several products on the market that address such needs. These products, however, tend to be enterprise-class, comprehensive solutions with enterprise-class pricing. Many organizations, however, require a more focused solution at a more palatable price point.

One vendor who is targeting design time SOA governance at such a price point is Sensedia. Sensedia offers design time SOA governance products that enable enterprises to manage and reuse their SOA and other software development assets. Sensedia's products reduce redundant development, accelerating ROI and improving SOA governance through the identification, creation, management and quality analysis of SOA project assets.

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The Importance of Design Time SOA Governance

Now that Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) is entering the mainstream, there is a clear need to manage the assets associated with SOA projects, as well as maximize the approach's key business drivers: agility and reuse. Thus, the use of a well-defined and well implemented SOA governance system is critical to the success of SOA. Choosing the right governance tooling requires that you carefully consider specific attributes of the enterprise domain, including an inventory of the major SOA resources such as data, Services, and processes, as well as interactions and dependencies, and how all relate to the notions of policy management, service agreements, and security. Clearly, these interrelationships are so complex and far reaching that a SOA governance system is an absolute necessity.

In essence, design time SOA governance works up from the data to the Services, gathering key information as it goes. Thus, you typically begin by defining the underlying data schemas and turning that information into metadata, and perhaps an abstraction of the data. Then, working up from there, you further define the Services that interact with the data, data Services, and then transactional Services on top of that. It is essential as well to specify the details of the underlying Service implementations, in the context of the runtime environments that will host those Services. Next, it's important to define the business processes in terms of orchestrations and workflows. All these activities require management of design time information within the design time SOA governance system, which at its core is an asset repository that coordinates Service-related activities from each Service's inception through development to operational deployment.

SOA governance, both at design time and run time, is a recognized requirement for all SOA initiatives, and as a result, there are several products on the market that address such needs. These products, however, tend to be enterprise-class, comprehensive solutions with enterprise-class pricing. Many organizations, however, require a more focused solution at a more palatable price point. One vendor who is targeting design time SOA governance at such a price point is Sensedia, who offers products and services that enable enterprises to manage and reuse their SOA software development assets. Sensedia's products enable the identification, management and quality analysis of reusable assets, increasing the agility and quality of Service implementations while reducing costs.

Sensedia has operations in the United States with a focus on growing its global presence. Many U.S. companies already leverage SOA when building new software solutions; however, they lack the tools to measure the effectiveness of its use. Sensedia offers the tools that enable companies to keep these initiatives under control by providing visibility to manage existing assets and measure their return on investment (ROI).

The Sensedia Technology

Sensedia offers products that enable enterprises to manage and reuse their SOA and other software development assets. Sensedia's products reduce redundant development, improving SOA governance through the identification, creation, management and quality

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analysis of assets. To achieve these, goals, Sensedia offers three products:

Sensedia Repository:

- Repository for SOA assets that leverages a flexible metamodel
- Enables lifecycle governance for components, Services, and processes
- Improves reuse of assets and enables organizations to measure ROI

Sensedia Discoverer:

- Automatically identifies assets in existing applications for future reuse
- Anticipates ROI and improves impact analysis

Sensedia Dashboard:

- Analysis of architectural key performance indicators (KPIs) with traffic light dashboard
- Complies with enterprise quality standards

A screenshot of the main interface for Sensedia Repository appears in the figure below.

Sensedia Repository Main Interface

The screenshot displays the Sensedia Repository main interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the 'sensedia repository' logo on the left and 'Your company logo' on the right. Below the header, a navigation bar shows 'Welcome Ana Martini' and the last login time '11/05/2008 - 1:58:40 PM'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Home**: A button for navigating to the home page.
- Manage**: A section with a sub-menu for 'Assets' including Register, Submit, Submissions, Search, Portfolio, Import, and Relationship.
- Promote**: A section with sub-menus for 'News' (Register, List), 'Contact Us', 'Notifications' (List, Send), and 'Forum' (Create, Assets, Submissions, Technologies, Search Message, Subscribe).
- Measure**: A section with sub-menus for 'Reports' and 'Charts' (Assets, Accesses, Views, Downloads).
- News and Highlights**: A section displaying news items with images and titles, such as 'Industry reports: SOA is over...' and 'Surface developer tools com... The Accuweather.com Weather 1.0'.
- Available Categories**: A section listing categories like 'Business Process', 'Components', and 'Projects' with sub-items and counts.
- Search Results**: A panel on the right showing search results for 'acc' with items like 'Accuweather.com Weather 1.0' and 'Global Address Locator 2.0'.
- Forums**: A section at the bottom right showing forum posts with titles like 'Openbravo ERP' and user information.

Source: Sensedia

Sensedia Features

Sensedia

Overview:

Sensedia offers design time SOA governance products that enable enterprises to manage and reuse their SOA and other software development assets. Sensedia's products reduce redundant development, accelerating ROI and improving SOA governance through the identification, creation, management and quality analysis of SOA project assets.

Features:

- **Sensedia Repository** – Promotes the reuse of assets through library management and presentation tools. Centralizes the information and documentation of reusable software components, enhances the visibility of existing ones and captures new components and their features. Compliant with a broad range of implementation environments and development tools. Flexible SOA governance lifecycle definition with several out-of-the-box workflows. Sensedia Repository also offers indexing and searching features and collaboration capabilities.
- **Sensedia Discoverer** – Automatically identifies and categorizes the asset portfolio. Harvests legacy application metadata based on reusability indicators and code qualification metrics. Enables architects to manually enhance and change asset information using a central interface to store all uncovered artifacts and assets. Supports the review of assets before deciding to accept asset submission. Architects can automatically capture assets directly from the source tree, interrogate those projects for possible Services, then harvest and review those assets for approval into the portfolio library.
- **Sensedia Dashboard** – Analyzes architectural quality indicators in SOA projects and software components. Extensible quality indicators include: styles rules, unit tests, code duplication, dependency violations, test coverage, and others through a configurable traffic light panel.

Value Proposition:

- Improves asset reuse through the automatic identification of potentially reusable assets and analysis of code quality.
- Improves Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Investment (ROI) for managed software development projects by capturing and calculating key metadata metrics surrounding Service and component creation and reuse methods through customizable reports.
- Improves Service quality through the integrated analysis of quality indicators for components, Services and composite applications.
- Accelerates time-to-value through rapid identification of assets and population of the repository.



The ZapThink Take

Over the last five years or so, the SOA governance market has matured substantially. The market has consolidated, leaving a small number of large vendors dominating the space with enterprise-class offerings. Into this market—during a global downturn—comes Sensedia, with their design time governance solution.

Architects and other IT managers may be wondering whether we really need another SOA governance solution, and whether it makes sense to invest in one that focuses on design time, while other products offer full lifecycle governance. ZapThink expects that for many organizations, the answer will be “yes.” In some cases, a less expensive alternative will be all the organization can afford in these tough times, while in other cases, a strategic SOA initiative will require a tactical approach to individual projects, necessitating limited investment in tooling for the time being. For organizations in such situations, Sensedia offers a viable alternative.

For other organizations, the full lifecycle capabilities of the more established players may be overkill. For those SOA teams that already have run time governance covered, often through existing management solutions, the current requirement may only be for design time governance. In those situations, the ability of the design time governance tool to integrate with run time solutions in the marketplace will be important, and Sensedia is a good fit there as well.

The bottom line, however, centers on the capabilities of Sensedia’s offerings. While the Sensedia Repository alone offers few features the competition doesn’t provide, the combination of Sensedia Dashboard and Sensedia Discoverer with the repository does separate Sensedia’s offerings from the more established players in the market. Any organization who doesn’t feel the big vendors’ SOA governance offerings are a good fit should take a good look at what Sensedia has to offer.

Profile: Sensedia		March 2009
Funding:	Ci&T, Novarum Fund managed by Jardim Botânico Partners	
CTO:	Kleber Bacili	
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Related Research

- *Effective Governance of the Service Lifecycle White Paper (WP-0172)*
- *Governance, Quality and Management: The Foundations of SOA White Paper (WP-0170)*
- *Why SOA Governance Must Start at Development Time White Paper (WP-0161)*
- *SOA Software ZapNote (ZTZN-1201)*
- *WebLayers ZapNote (ZTZN-1176)*



About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an Enterprise Architecture (EA) strategy advisory firm. As a recognized authority and master of Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and EA, ZapThink provides its audience of IT practitioners, consultants, and technology vendors with practical advice, guidance, education, and mentorship solutions that assist companies in leveraging SOA to meet their business needs and presenting viable SOA solutions to the market. We provide this audience a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

ZapThink provides IT practitioners strategic insight and practical guidance for addressing critical agility and change management issues leveraging the latest EA and SOA best practices. ZapThink helps these customers put EA and SOA into practice in a rational, well-paced, and best practices-driven manner and helps to validate or recover architecture initiatives that may be heading down an unknown or incorrect path. ZapThink assists with solution vendor, technology, and consultant selection based on in-depth, objective evaluation of the capabilities, strengths, and applicability of the solutions to meet customer needs as they relate to EA initiatives and as they map against emerging best practices. ZapThink enhances its customer's skills by providing education, credentialing, and training to EAs to develop their skills as architects.

ZapThink helps to augment consulting firms' EA offerings and intellectual property by providing guidance on emerging best practices and access to information that supports those practices. ZapThink provides frameworks for product-based consulting based on ZapThink insight and research, such as SOA Implementation Roadmap guidance, Governance Framework development, and SOA Assessments, and provides a means to endorse and validate consulting firm offerings. ZapThink also accelerates consulting firms' efforts to attract, retain, and enhance the skills of EA and SOA talent by providing education and skills development

For solutions vendors, ZapThink provides retained advisory for guidance on product strategy, as well as marketing, visibility, and third-party endorsement benefits through its marketing activities, lead generation activities, and subscription services. ZapThink enables vendors to leverage ZapThink knowledge to transform their offerings in a cost-effective manner.

ZapThink's Managing Partners are widely regarded as the "go to advisors" and leading experts on SOA, EA, and Enterprise 2.0 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 experts in the IT industry.

ZapThink was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Its customers include Global 1000 firms and government organizations, as well as many emerging businesses. Its Managing Partners 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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