

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

WESTBRIDGE TECHNOLOGY *SOUP TO NUTS WEB SERVICES MANAGEMENT*

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Abstract

Many software vendors entering the Web Services arena are jostling each other with respect to their various business models. Are they a Web Services infrastructure platform or a Web Services security platform? Or maybe they are a Web Services management platform, or even a Web Services gateway or router?

While most vendors focus on one core competency, Westbridge Technology is developing a product that will be all of these things. The Westbridge Technology XML Message Server is fundamentally a Web Services management platform. However, it also offers security features, message transformation and routing, as well as directory administration, all on top of a powerful policy engine. If Westbridge can execute on their vision, they will be a solid contender for the elusive enterprise IT dollar, although they have set the bar quite high.

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Tackling the Full Gamut of Runtime Web Services Issues

Three of the key Web Services market segments that ZapThink follows are Web Services security, Web Services management, and Web Services infrastructure products that include XML gateways and routers. Some vendors focus on one or two of these segments, but typically specialize in a single one. Westbridge Technology, however, offers a single product that provides a strong entrant in each of these three market segments.

Web Services security involves both securing the XML and Web Services within an enterprise and between enterprises, as well as using Web Services technologies to provide IT security to an enterprise and its business partners (for more detail and analysis on this topic, see ZapThink's *XML and Web Services Security Report [ZTZN-WS104]*). Security includes network intrusion detection and prevention, encryption of data, interception of viruses and other malicious code, privacy, and authentication, authorization, and administration services.

Web Services management includes a range of tasks a company must undertake to insure their production Service-enabled IT environment is operating as it should. Any enterprise that implements Web Services as part of their business-critical IT infrastructure must be able to manage those Web Services. As a result, many vendors are throwing their hat into the Web Services management ring, offering a broad range of solutions for managing Web Services as technical resources.

Web Services infrastructure solutions also offer *XML transformation and routing* capabilities. Sometimes enterprises route XML for security reasons (intercepting malicious messages, for example), for load balancing, or for integration purposes (e.g., transforming XML using stylesheets to make it compatible with various legacy adapters).

Westbridge Technology's *XML Message Server (XMS)* offers all of these capabilities, as well as a directory administration module that coordinates the storage of user, interface, role, and policy information in enterprise directory servers. All of these modules run on top of a policy engine that enables the modules to perform a wide variety of operations on any SOAP message. Policies typically apply across all aspects of the XMS, affording security, logging, and other capabilities across all modules.

The Westbridge Technology XML Message Server

Westbridge Technology designed the XMS to be reliable, scalable and capable of performing in mission-critical environments. It has a parallel, federated architecture that provides failover and load balancing. At its core the XMS is a message processing engine that receives,

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processes and forwards XML-based messages. In addition, the XMS provides centralized security, reliability and manageability for XML and Web Services networks via a single console, even across decentralized, heterogeneous, cross-organizational environments.

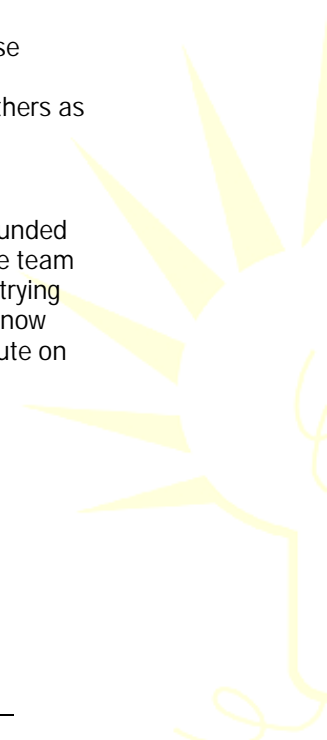
The XML Message Server consists of four modules that can interoperate with third-party solutions:

- The *XML Application Firewall* provides application level security. By viewing the XML payload, this module provides intrusion detection and protection against malicious attacks. In addition, it provides support for authentication, Single Sign-on, privacy, data integrity and role-based access control/authorization.
- The *XML Network Manager* is a real-time monitoring console that can send alerts via multiple interfaces using several different protocols including CSV, SNMP, XML and industry standard databases.
- The *XML Message Broker* performs content-based routing as well as schema-based transformation of messages.
- The *Directory Administrator* manages user information located in LDAP and other directories.
- These four modules all run on top of a *Policy Engine*. Policies apply to all functions of the XMS, including security, exception handling, quality of service as well as reporting and data logging. The policy engine automatically resolves conflicts between global and local policies. Multiple administrators can manage the policies.

The ZapThink Take

ZapThink believes that Westbridge Technology's flagship product has all the elements of a robust, enterprise class Web Services management and security platform. The XMS integrates well with PKI and single sign-on products, network management products, as well as application servers and enterprise server located both in J2EE and .Net environments. The core of the XMS, however, is the Policy Engine, because the XMS is able to manage policies across the entire platform at the message level. This capability enables enterprises to manage service-level agreements, directory servers, users and roles, as well as other components of the enterprise IT environment with whatever level of detail the enterprise requires. Senior administrators can delegate the management of the policies to network/security managers, compliance officers, business system IT managers, and others as appropriate. The policies themselves have a rich rule base defined in terms of service requestors, roles, operation categories, and data elements.

In conclusion, Westbridge Technology is a perfect example of a post-dot.com startup: funded in a difficult financing climate, having the right message, possessing the right executive team as well as a world-class engineering staff. They have set the bar high on what they are trying to accomplish, by planning to provide an enterprise-wide solution. Their product is just now coming to market, however, so it remains to be seen how well they will be able to execute on their vision.



Profile: Westbridge Technology	(July 2002)
Date Founded: 2001	
Funding: August Capital, Granite Venture Capital Partners	
CEO: Kerry Champion	
Employees: 22	
Products:	
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Related Research

- *Service-Oriented Management* Report (ZTR-WS106)
- *Web Services Technologies and Trends* Report (ZT-WEBSRV)
- *XML and Web Services Security* Report (ZTR-WS104)
- *XML Proxies* Report (ZTR-DI101)
- *Web Services Testing* Report (ZTR-WS105)
- *AmberPoint* ZapNote (ZTZN-0608)
- *CapeClear* ZapNote (ZTZN-0120)
- *Flamenco Networks* ZapNote (ZTZN-0150)
- *Infravio* ZapNote (ZTZN-0226)
- *IONA* ZapNote (ZTZN-0140)

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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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