

ARIS SOA Architect

Business Processes as the Basis for Service-Oriented Architectures

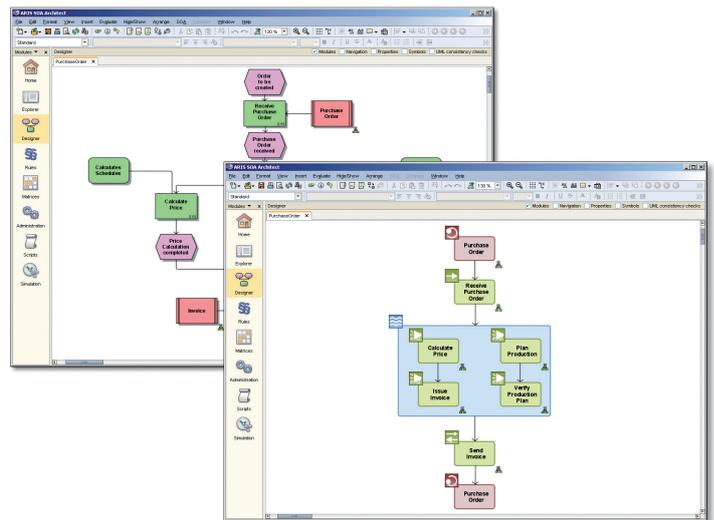
Service-oriented architectures overcome the rigid relationship between IT systems and processes by breaking down IT applications into modular, reusable services. These services are orchestrated into technical processes, enabling them to map business workflows in IT systems. When a business process is altered, technical service orchestration is also adjusted and executed accordingly. The key gain is fast, easy IT implementation of new business workflows.

Leveraging the benefits of SOA is only possible if the business processes to be supported are properly documented. Otherwise, the technical service processes will fail to match departmental requirements. Business processes are therefore critical for service-oriented architecture planning. This business process-based approach is called business-driven SOA.

ARIS SOA Architect enables companies to convert business processes into executable technical processes. Deriving technical processes from business process structures gives organizations a fast and flexible means of implementing innovative business strategies and the underlying IT processes.

BPM + SOA = agility

An SOA begins and ends with an organization's business processes. The service-oriented approach opens up new—and importantly, more flexible—opportunities for implementing business process in IT systems. Business process management (BPM) and SOA complement each other here: A clearly defined enterprise architecture allows the flexible implementation and management of high-quality IT business processes. Compared with the current standardized processes built on the functionality provided by packaged software solutions, processes can be designed with significantly greater flexibility and aligned more closely with corporate strategy.



From business process to SOA

The first step in an SOA project is to record the business processes and the supporting IT environment, and ARIS SOA Architect offers a host of options for categorizing business services just for this purpose. Each service capability can be described and arranged in a service architecture, while the enhanced interface with service filtering functionality enables easy access to the service portfolio. The software automatically maps the business process steps and service descriptions to establish whether suitable technical services exist for the business process activities to be supported. The activities contained in the business process are linked to the associated services to create an enhanced business process structure. The processes can be transformed into technical BPEL processes and executed in the IT system.

In ARIS SOA Architect, all business and technical services are displayed in specific service views, where searches can be made for existing services. In addition, all links between services are transparent. The use of various wizards makes it much easier to import, export, describe, and structure services.

Existing models created to describe IT environments can be reused when designing an SOA, thereby slashing implementation costs. Merging the different implementations of a service eliminates redundancies in the service architecture and simplifies identification of alternative implementations if a service fails.

The business service-oriented methodology in ARIS SOA Architect enables service architectures to be comprehensively described, planned, and managed. Users can design and operate their service landscape based on the OASIS SOA reference model, the recognized industry standard. The organization of services into categories according to a range of criteria means that service management time savings of up to 20 percent can be achieved, since available resources can be focused on the most strategically important services.

A single repository for business logic and IT logic

Combining the business and systems layers of an SOA in a central ARIS repository reveals interdependencies and allows informed intervention. A mouse-click shows which service is used in which process. Thus, if a service fails, there is a way to find out fast which business process is impacted and who needs to be informed with regard to the commercial and IT responsibility. The result is a complete semantic service repository in ARIS. The automatic transformation of business processes into executable BPEL files also greatly simplifies and accelerates the synchronization of business requirements and technical execution.

Benefits at a glance

- ▶ Business-oriented description of services ensures easy access for business analysts
- ▶ Mapping service architecture provides a visual overview of the service portfolio
- ▶ SOA methodology is fully integrated with IDS Scheer's enterprise architecture methodology
- ▶ SOA metamodel for business SOA management
- ▶ Intuitive search interface for access to business service repository
- ▶ Intuitive documentation and analysis of business processes
- ▶ Automated derivation of platform-independent, executable BPEL processes from business processes
- ▶ Establishment of a comprehensive SOA repository for all business and technical elements of an SOA.

