

Asia's public sector the forerunners of SOA adoption in the region

The Public Sector is one of the leading industries driving SOA adoption in Asia, a study from Springboard Research has revealed.

According to the market research firm, end-user survey results and vendor interviews clearly identified this sector as a key segment for SOA products and solutions.

Government interest in SOA is particularly noticeable in Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore; however, many government organizations in China and India have also deployed SOA or are in the process of pursuing SOA projects.



Dane Anderson

"There is a growing realization among Asian governments that SOA can help to serve citizens better and become more efficient in the delivery of services," says Dane Anderson, vice president of Research for Springboard Research.

"SOA helps governments combat their ongoing struggle of uniting technology platforms across hundreds of departments, and enables them to share information and offer more integrated services across whole of government initiatives," he adds.

Besides deploying SOA in many of their departments, government organizations are also trying to promote SOA by encouraging others to adopt it. Additionally, some of the governments in the region are also looking at SOA to strengthen and retain their competitive edge. For instance, both Hong Kong and Singapore look at SOA as an engine of economic growth. In fact, both of these governments have been taking an active interest in promoting SOA through public-private partnerships.

"We believe that all governments who have invested in creating digital infrastructure to support governance functions and citizen services will move towards SOA.

This will happen as governments are already beginning to realize that they will need to integrate processes across departments and encourage resource sharing in order to maximize benefits from their IT investments," notes Ravi Shekhar Pandey, senior analyst with Springboard Research.

"Nevertheless, the adoption of SOA in the government sector will still face several hurdles. Issues like control and ownership of shared services and bureaucratic opposition to process re-engineering is likely to slowdown deployment of SOA in the public sector," he concludes.

The Springboard Research report, SOA in Asia Pacific- Towards More Business Friendly IT, examines the key trends in the Asia Pacific Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) market. It involved a survey of 2,615 CIOs and IT decision-makers from Australia, China, India and Singapore. It also profiles leading SOA vendors in the region, their offerings and business strategies. ◇

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IDC: Growing appetite for enterprise mobility in the APEJ

Professional consumers (prosumers) in the Asia-Pacific excluding Japan (APEJ) region are using enterprise mobility applications and services to carry out business or office work.

At the moment however, the usage of enterprise mobility applications is largely restricted to voice and SMS, and certain basic applications such as SMS applications and value-added services like call forwarding and call conferencing.

"The increasing number of prosumers has thrown up opportunities as well as challenges for enterprises. Their enthusiasm to use enterprise mobility applications can be leveraged by enterprises for productivity enhancement. Organizations planning to deploy enterprise mobility need to consider the usage preferences of prosumers within the companies in order to ensure greater end-user adoption of enterprise mobility applications," says Shalini Verma, senior market analyst for IDC's Asia/Pacific Enterprise Mobility Research.

Prosumers use mobile devices to fulfill their personal and business requirements. They have a direct relationship with mobile service providers (SPs) but their companies pay for the mobile service charges.

The report is based on findings from IDC's Asia Pacific (excluding Japan) Joint Mobility Survey, 2006 that gauges prosumers' usage trends related to mobile devices and applications in the Asia Pacific region.



Besides providing an in-depth understanding of enterprise mobility-related usage patterns and preferences of prosumers in the region, the study also offers recommendations to end-user organizations.

The survey reveals that in the future, respondents would prefer to use applications that have a more direct impact on their workflow. These applications include mobile email, mobile enterprise applications, file and data synchronization, and access to corporate intranet. Mobile email finds the highest favor among prosumers with 47.5% of the respondents wanting to use mobile email in the future.

Prosumers have cited data speed as the key driver and the lack of data speed as a key inhibitor for adopting enterprise mobility applications. Mobile Operators and enterprise mobility players will need to find more efficient ways to handle data on 2.5 networks, which is the predominant access network currently used by prosumers. In addition, IT Managers will need to increasingly plan their IT initiatives keeping prosumers in mind. ◇

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