

# SOA SOLUTIONS FOR EDUCATION FROM RED HAT

Education in the UK is faced with both operational and informational challenges. Organisations must manage complex public and private information, that is likely stored in more than one place. And this is further complicated by the data's continued growth.

Service silos, which have evolved from tactical needs and expanded over time, can become increasingly distanced from each other. Virtual learning environments (VLEs), student information systems, research networks, services for collaborative work with your industry and academic partners, not to mention business infrastructure systems – all of these require dedicated resources. This impacts cost, agility, and user experience. Education must counteract the negative effects of disparity to manage existing needs, attract students, and pursue research projects in an increasingly competitive academic landscape.

Integration of information and services is a key factor in the decisions that drive everything from investigative research to management of data.

A service-oriented architecture (SOA) for education must address issues of data and communications interoperability, without requiring large amounts of organisational change. Traditional SOA technologies ignore the data, and only tackle protocols. Educational organisations are choosing Red Hat SOA to address both data and communication issues in a way that integrates easily with existing procedures.

## A BETTER WAY TO WORK WITH DATA ACROSS DIVERSE SYSTEMS

Red Hat SOA solutions for education begin with the MetaMatrix Enterprise Data Services Platform. MetaMatrix Enterprise Data Services Platform is a powerful management system that provides tools for creating data services, a repository for storing data service

definitions with relevant metadata, and a robust execution environment that provides enterprise-class performance, data integrity, and security. MetaMatrix helps transform the data you have into the data you want. It allows multiple, distributed data sources – relational databases, XML documents, flat files, or web services – to be transformed into one read/writable data source with a common interface that gives you a single view of any entry or user.

With MetaMatrix, you can have real-time access to the critical data that determines the day-to-day operations – and future – of your organisation.

## SERVICE INTEGRATION

Once data has been converted into a more useful form, MetaMatrix connects to another data source: JBoss Enterprise SOA Platform. The SOA Platform is a high-performance enterprise service framework based on open standards. It supports a federated architecture, and provides process orchestration, message routing, and registry capabilities in conjunction with additional data connectors.

Enterprise SOA can help your organization create and manage workflow processes that require multi-user input, such as elective visits, double-blind marking or standards-setting. It also allows users to view and handle enterprise data – like student information or grades – in a consistent way across many applications. VLEs, ePortfolios, and Student Information Systems are just a few examples of supported applications.

The JBoss Enterprise SOA Platform allows you to eliminate manual processes, create re-usable services with many different applications, and manage communication between multiple separate services. With the power, freedom, and innovation of open source software and the accountability of the leading open source technology provider, you can trust the technology will help you reach your goals, and never be an obstacle to overcome.

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