

# Service-Oriented Architecture

## What is SOA?

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) is an architectural style that supports service orientation.

Service orientation is a way of thinking in terms of services and service-based development and the outcomes that services bring.

A service is a logical representation of a repeatable business activity such as:

- Check customer credit
- Provide weather data
- Consolidate drilling reports

It has a specified outcome, is self-contained, and may be composed of other services. It is a black box to its consumers.

An architectural style is a combination of distinctive features in which enterprise architecture is done, or expressed.

The SOA architectural style has distinctive features:

- It is based on the design of services that mirror real-world business activity.
- Service representation uses business descriptions.
- It has unique requirements on infrastructure.
- Implementations are environment- and context-specific.
- It requires strong governance of service representation and implementation.
- It requires a “litmus test” that determines a “good service”.

## SOA

Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) is a style of IT architecture that delivers agility and Boundaryless Information Flow™. It is deployed on an increasing scale in enterprises today.

The SOA Work Group exists to develop and foster common understanding of SOA in order to facilitate alignment between the business and information technology communities.

The SOA Source Book is a collection of source material produced by the SOA Work Group for use by enterprise architects working with Service-Oriented Architecture.

## The SOA Work Group

The Open Group formed its SOA Work Group in October 2005 to address the rapidly-growing interest in SOA.

It is a Work Group of the joint customer and supplier councils of The Open Group. Every Silver, Gold, and Platinum member can participate in its activities.

Nearly 400 people from 70 member companies are involved in its work. It has six projects, and also supports work by Japanese member companies in the SOA Japan Work Group, and Chinese member companies in the SOA China Work Group. It publishes its current conclusions in the SOA Source Book.

Find it on the web at [www.opengroup.org/soa](http://www.opengroup.org/soa).

## Mission

The SOA Work Group exists to develop and foster common understanding of SOA in order to facilitate alignment between the business and information technology communities.

It does this by conducting a work program to produce definitions, analyses, recommendations, reference models, and standards to assist business and information technology professionals within and outside of The Open Group to understand and adopt SOA.



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## Completed projects

The SOA Work Group has recently completed:

- A common definition and reference model for SOA Governance, including re-usable processes and structures for SOA Governance

It has also supported The Open Group Board's project that has delivered:

- The Open Group SOA Integration Maturity Model (OSIMM), which provides consultants and IT practitioners with a means to assess an organization's Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) maturity level

## Current projects

The SOA Work Group is currently working on:

- The SOA/TOGAF™ Practical Guide, which will describe style-specific adjustments to TOGAF, to enable a trained TOGAF practitioner to use TOGAF to develop an SOA
- A vendor-independent SOA Reference Architecture that describes the characteristics of a typical SOA environment and is appropriate for use with TOGAF
- A formal Ontology for SOA that will more precisely define the concepts, terminology, and semantics of SOA in both business and technical terms, to increase understanding, and be a potential basis for model-driven implementation
- A reference framework for Service-Oriented Infrastructure (SOI), with a technical guide to SOI design and implementation, and a White Paper on the evolution of SOI
- An analysis of SOA and Security, and guidance for enterprise architects on how to produce secure service-oriented architectures
- Guidance on how to evolve legacy systems to SOA

## The SOA Source Book

The Open Group SOA Source Book is a collection of source material for use by enterprise architects working with Service-Oriented Architecture. It consists of material that has been considered and in part developed by the SOA Work Group. It includes the SOA standards and other SOA publications approved by The Open Group, plus interim material that does not necessarily represent the final output of the projects concerned.

The Source Book reflects input from a large number of people from a wide range of Open Group member companies, including product vendors, consultancies, and users of SOA. In some cases, these people have brought concepts developed, not just by themselves, but by groups of people within their organizations. The input has been refined and further developed through discussion within the Work Group.

The Source Book is available at [www.opengroup.org/soa/source-book/intro](http://www.opengroup.org/soa/source-book/intro).

## About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability. The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and Open Source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service.

Further information on The Open Group can be found at [www.opengroup.org](http://www.opengroup.org).

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