Uncovering the secrets of high-performance SOA

by Phil Wainewright

EARLY ADOPTERS have found that the much-touted flexibility of SOA carries a hefty performance penalty.

Integrating real-time information from different systems brings real advantages, but they are offset by the extra time it takes to bring the information together. Using standards-based web services removes much of the complexity and lock-in of earlier integration platforms, but existing infrastructure is ill-equipped to handle the extra overhead of XML.

In this special briefing paper, *Loosely Coupled* brings together a collection of essays by our analysts, examining the various techniques and technologies that are available to enterprise architects facing the SOA performance challenge. Through a combination of appropriate design and technologies, it is possible to greatly enhance the performance of a services implementation without sacrificing the benefits of SOA. The collection of essays we present here will help answer the key questions.

"SOA is so flexible – if it's not applied properly, it can kill you. There are many more things that can go wrong with SOA than without"
— Israel del Rio, Starwood Hotels, *page 2*

"We wanted to reuse [what] people had already made. None of the products we looked at did it"
— Tim Crew, SOA Software (formerly Merrill Lynch), *page 5*

"This lets us do many of the functions of middleware much faster and better documented than before"
— systems architect, US financial institution, *page 8*