

What's Wrong With Application Software? Business Processes Cross Application Boundaries



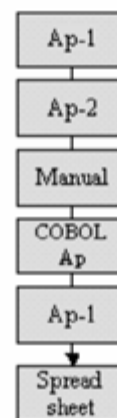
Featured Author - Jim Brown - February 27, 2003

Introduction

Application boundaries are artificial walls created by the software industry, not businesses. Business processes and the people that execute them shouldn't have to care about application boundaries. It shouldn't matter to them that taking an order from their customer starts in the CRM system, accesses the custom pricing algorithms in the legacy COBOL application and then finalizes the order in ERP. The reality is that it shouldn't matter, but it does. A lot.

For businesses to most effectively use enterprise software, the applications need to be pulled together into common, cohesive business processes. As part of the series "[What's wrong with application software](#)" we will discuss the challenges of today's multi-application software portfolio. The reality of today's application environment is that no single application meets all of the needs of a business, or frequently even the needs of a single business process, so multiple applications must work together to support the business

The Reality of Business Processes



Multi-Application Software Portfolios

Let's face it: every company would like to have a single, integrated enterprise application that meets all of their needs. Business processes would be seamlessly supported because they would be contained within a single application. Users would never need to leave the comfort of their favorite application.

The existing legacy applications in the business could be phased out and replaced with functionality from the single, integrated enterprise application. Many business executives, particularly the CIO, would love to have this luxury. This was the vision that many people were following when they bought and implemented their ERP

About the Author

Jim Brown has over 15 years of experience in management consulting and application software focused on the manufacturing industries. Jim is a recognized expert in software solutions for manufacturing and has broad knowledge of applying ERP, Product Lifecycle Management, Supply Chain Planning, Supply Chain Execution, and e-business applications to improve business performance. Jim served as an executive for software companies specializing in PLM and process manufacturing solutions before starting his consulting firm, **Tech-Clarity Associates**.



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