NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

META Group

Application Advisory Service

server infrastructure strategies (sis)

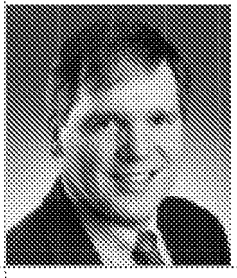
Server Infrastructure Strategies delivers incisive, directed guidance to help IT organizations develop adaptive infrastructure — creating patterns of network and server components that facilitate rapid change from enterprise to e-business applications. SIS focuses on the combination of hardware and software components that constitute the server half of the infrastructure stack — including application, integration, database, storage, and OS servers. Tackling the entire spectrum of issues confronting infrastructure professionals, SIS examines such key topics as high-availability e-business infrastructure, database/data warehouse evolution, storage consolidation, and middleware architecture. SIS takes a bottom-line approach to help organizations realize their most pressing technology and organizational objectives — identifying actionable strategies for maximizing infrastructure agility, robustness, and value.

"To meet evolving business requirements, IT organizations must minimize unnecessary complexity and variation in supporting platforms — while fast-tracking design decisions and cost analysis through best-practice approaches. To be successful, design imperatives must leverage existing infrastructure, define standard application and infrastructure interfaces, and push abstraction of business logic from delivery platforms to higher levels."

Nick Gall

Vice President and Director,

Server Infrastructure Strategies



service scope

Application servers — Software servers that provide the foundation for new business logic: BEA (WebLogic), IBM (WebSphere), Microsoft, etc.

Integration servers/EAI/IEI — Software servers that integrate enterprise applications (EAI) and inter-enterprise processes (IEI): Extricity, Mercator, NEON/IBM, STC, Tibco, webMethods, etc.

e-business middleware — Software infrastructure that provides essential services to applications: TP monitors (Tuxedo), message-oriented middleware (MQSeries, MSMQ), component frameworks (CORBA, COM+, Enterprise JavaBeans), etc.

Database/data warehouse servers — Software servers that store both transactional and analytic data: IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, NCR, etc.

OS servers — The combination of hardware and operating system that serves as the computing platform for all software servers: Unix (AIX/PowerPC, HP-UX/PA-RISC, Sun Solaris/SPARC), NT/Windows 2000/Intel (Compaq, Dell, HP, IBM), etc.

Storage servers — The combination of hardware and software that makes up a storage-area network (SAN): Brocade, EMC, Compaq, StorageTek, Veritas, etc.

benefits

- Improve the skills, increase the value, enhance the agility, and — most importantly — increase the business credibility of the IT organization
- Understand and organize around the life cycle of infrastructure
- Reduce overall server operational costs by understanding when and how to consolidate and migrate servers
- Realize cost-effective and robust storage infrastructure solutions for databases and applications
- Create an n-tier e-business services architecture based on application and integration servers

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Key Issues Related to Coverage

- Inter-Enterprise Integration (IEI) — Crossing the boundaries between enterprises to enable e-business processes that integrate partners, suppliers, distributors, and customers
- Middleware Infrastructure — Applying middleware strategically to create n-tier adaptive application services based on application and integration servers to support multiple points of interaction (browser, wireless, phone) and integration
- Database Management — Understanding highly available/scalable transactional databases for e-business; "hub & spoke" data store and data mart infrastructures; database partitioning for mobility and scalability; replication strategies; federated database architectures; and enterprise license negotiation with database vendors
- Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) — Breaking down the boundaries between stovepipe applications across the enterprise by using asynchronous messaging and message brokering
- Storage-Area Networks — Rescuing storage from the fragmented mix of OS server platforms into an independent and unified storage management asset
- Server Consolidation and Migration — Implementing a stepwise approach to control rampant server proliferation, and leveraging OS server high availability/clustering for e-business robustness
- Infrastructure Development — Creating a coordinated set of capabilities and roles within IT to design, develop, and manage adaptive infrastructure

Service Deliverables

Individual Interaction — Analyst Inquiry Services

- Telephone Consultation
- One Half-Day Briefing*

Group Interaction — Events

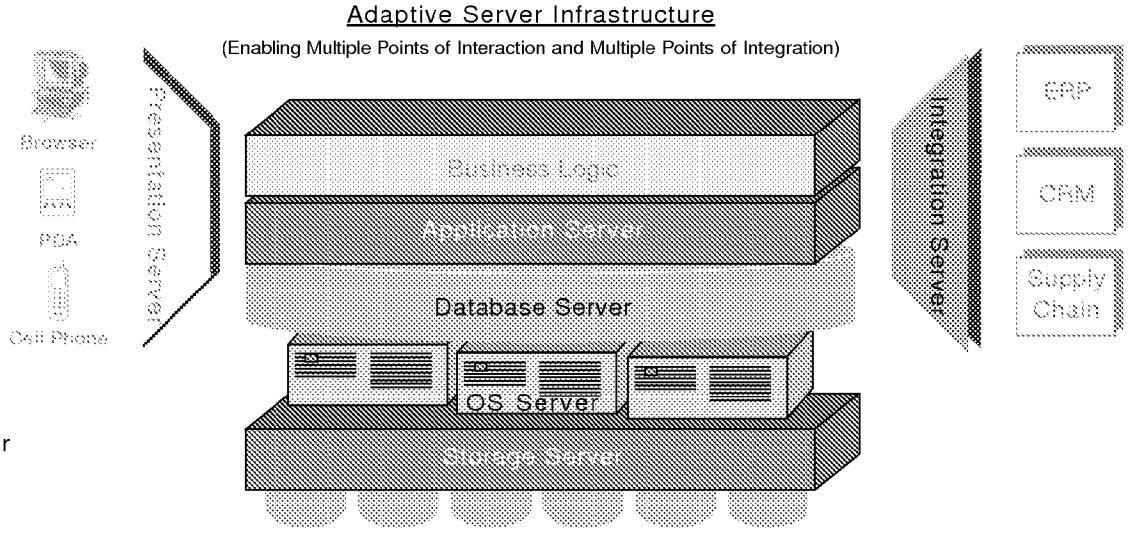
- Two META Group Conference Tickets*
- Complimentary Attendance at META Group Power Summits and Executive Briefings

**Additional tickets/briefings available for a fee*

Research Offerings

- Quarterly Trend Teleconferences
- Monthly Research (META Deltas): Via two of the following delivery methods — extranet, intranet, Lotus Notes, CD-ROM, or paper
- Weekly Trend Updates (META Fax): A published summary of META Group's weekly research meeting
- Ad Hoc Alerts (META Flash): Analysis of key industry events and trends
- Interactive Reports: A multimedia application delivering hour-long audio presentations, full-text transcripts, color slides, and an additional 40-50 pages of supporting research

server infrastructure strategies



SIS covers the infrastructure for items in green

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