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The Next Applied

Enabling Hybrid Integration Through – iPaaS

Whitepaper by:

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Purpose

Purpose of this whitepaper is to showcase how iPaaS platform can easily enable the hybrid integration to meet today's Cloud and SaaS (CRM, ERP, BI) Integration requirement. This document is intended for below mentioned audience who are looking to adopt hybrid integration methodology via iPaaS.

- Enterprise Architects
- CIO
- Cloud Architects
- Integration Specialists

Executive Summary

With the emergence of SaaS platforms, open source systems and hype in cloud adoption, integration has become more and more complex. Existing SOA solutions and back-end integration looks meaningless to the CIOs due to shift in the application integration strategies. They have been asking their enterprise architects to enable hybrid and seamless integration to the SaaS platform, without compromising the organization's network security to meet today's digital savvy customer needs. However, it's insisting them to leverage the existing SOA stack, web services and legacy applications which are currently there in the enterprise technology stack.

To overcome the challenges faced by CIOs, technologists and enterprise architects responsible for application integration must adopt a hybrid integration approach. iPaaS (Integration Platform as a Service) is the enabler for the hybrid integration, which solves majority of the technical and business problems faced by CIOs, architects and technologists. In the next few sections, I will focus on iPaaS, its capabilities and the problems it can solve.

What is iPaaS

Integration Platform as a Service (iPaaS)[1] is a suite of cloud services enabling development, execution and governance of integration flows, connecting combination of on-premise and cloud-based processes, services, applications and data within individual or across multiple organizations.

Why You Need iPaaS

Your enterprise needs an iPaaS if you are envisioning a cloud strategy and you have following potential problems to solve:

- To integrate on-premise and legacy application to SaaS platforms

- To provision and enable cloud services and 3rd party platform integration

- To curtail risk associated with data security

- To support frequent changes in the back-end systems to meet business requirements

- To scale integration platform to meet digital and IoT need of the enterprise

Enabling Hybrid Integration Through iPaaS

To enable hybrid integration, one needs to choose the right iPaaS tool. As per most of the IT research analysts Dell Boomi, Informatica and Mulesoft are the leaders in this space, whereas larger enterprise such as IBM, SAP and Oracle do have iPaaS offering available to meet the integration requirements of the large clients they are currently associated with.

When an enterprise decides to adopt iPaaS, it must ensure that Hybrid Cloud Integration tools are in the hands of Integration specialists, who know the data integration needs better than anyone else. This allows a faster integration across enterprise for cloud-based applications and services, better productivity and ROI while adopting iPaaS.

In the below illustration, we have an enterprise that is looking to integrate with SaaS platform for their CRM requirements on cloud. They have an existing ESB in their landscape and are trying to utilize the ESB capabilities to integrate with SaaS platform. Thus leaving potential holes in the security and adopting a solution which is not scalable as required by their business and IT.
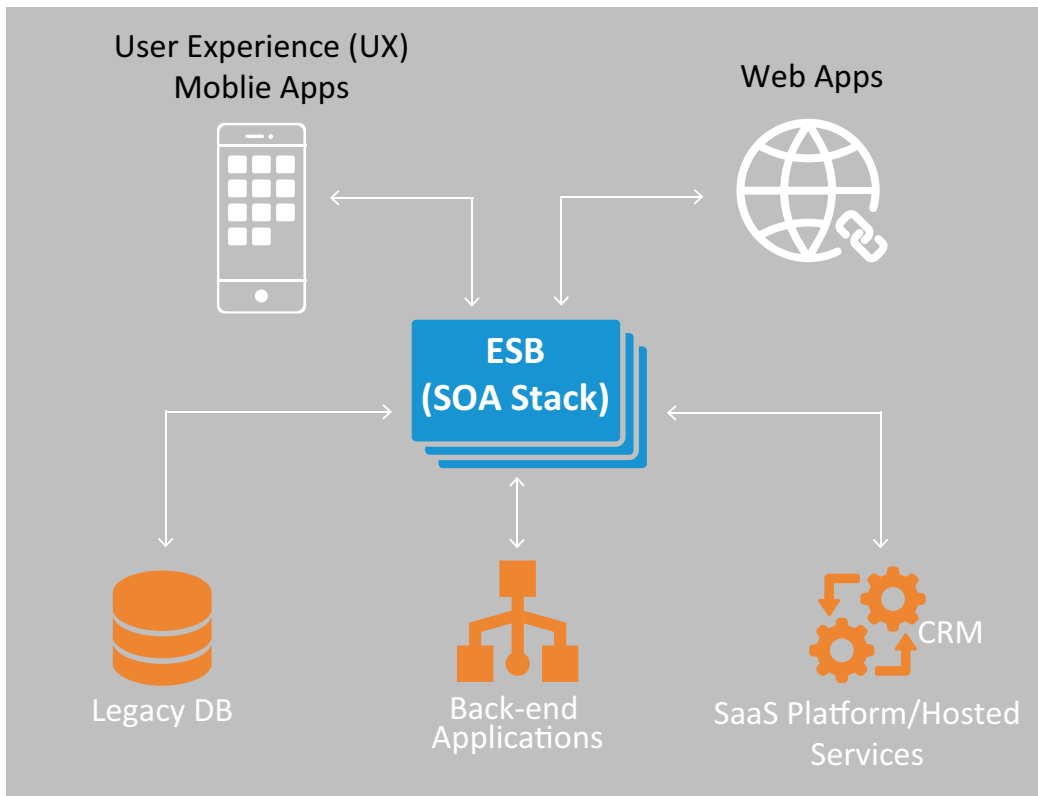

Some of the challenges of this approach are:

• Integration does not meet their data security guidelines to enable cloud services

• Longer cycle times to implement the solution

• Unable to utilize cloud-based data analysis capabilities

• High maintenance cost

• Non-adherence to the on-premise and cloud architecture principles

Considering the challenges faced by this enterprise, hybrid cloud integration offers the impeccable solution to meet their IT and business needs. It assures that data from on-premises legacy systems can be successfully integrated with front-end application, fulfilling the business requirement. It also takes into consideration the security aspect of an enterprise. If required, iPaaS can easily be extended for API enablement. Further, enterprises that are looking for a Hybrid Integration platform as a service, iPaaS can easily become one of the important components.

ENABLING HYBRID INTEGRATION THROUGH - iPaaS
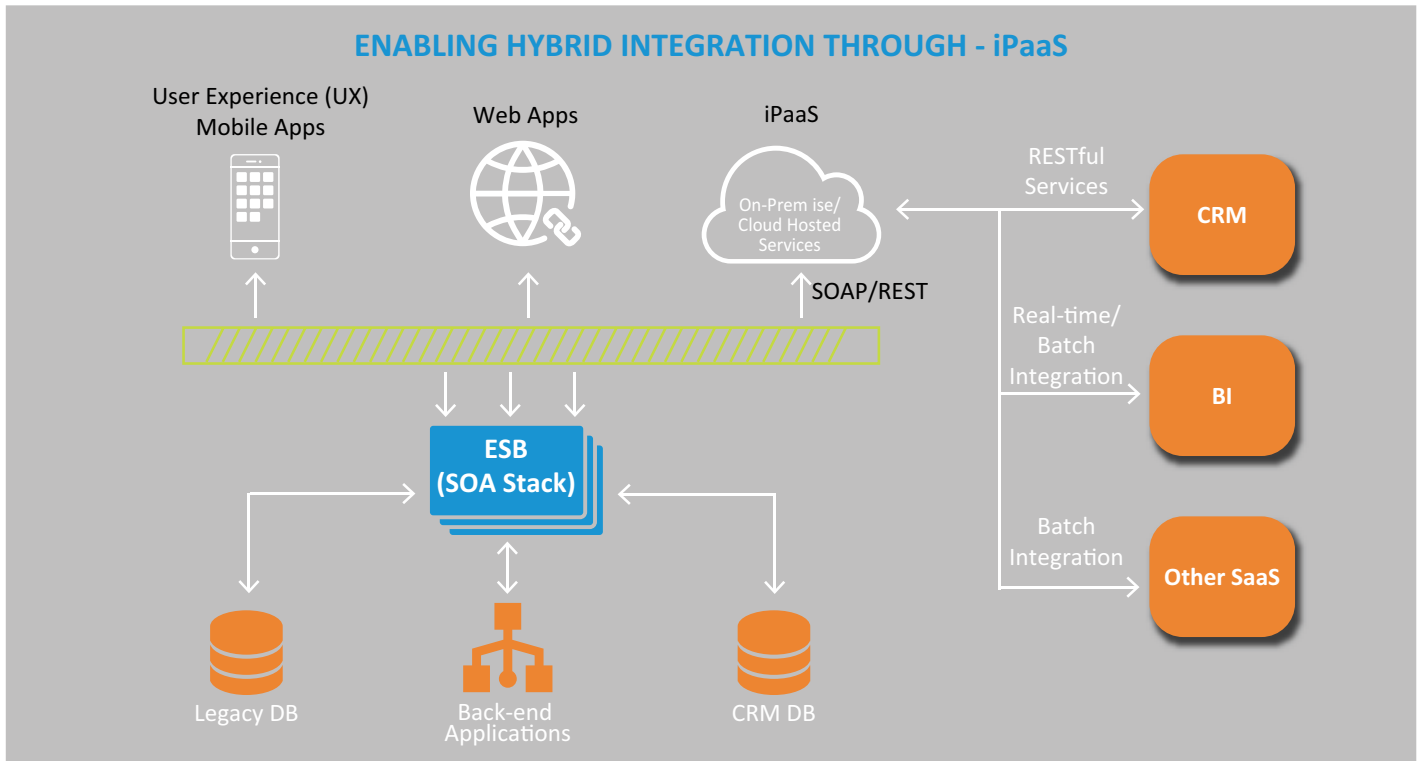
Key Benefits

Some of the key benefits of adopting iPaaS are:

- It can reduce the time-to-market by delivering services faster

- 50% or more savings on the TCO and CapEx

- Greater experience to their customers by driving results through integrated analysis on SaaS Platform

- Solution allows customer to move into cloud-based implementation in phased approach without impacting front-end application

Key Feature consideration for iPaaS Adoption

It is important for an enterprise to look at following key features considering to adopt an iPaaS for its hybrid integration needs:

- It should bridge the gap between Software as a Service (SaaS) and on-premise application (apps in a company's infrastructure) with the hybrid model.

- It should reduce integration costs and optimize resources and productivity in iPaaS (Integration Platform as a Service) and cloud models.

- It must have graphical configuration approach rather than custom coding.

- It must use pre-configured templates based on common integration scenarios to accelerate integration.

- It should offer rich integration capabilities to enterprise applications (SAP, Oracle, JDE, CRM).

- It should not have limited transformation capabilities support for OOTB.

- It must be available as on-premise offering and hosted service on cloud.

- It must have low TCO.

Conclusion

To enable the hybrid cloud integration, it is recommended to use the iPaaS platform either on-premise or hosted as a cloud services. This will not only ease the integration, but will also solve the challenges in the illustration. Further, adopting iPaaS for hybrid integration will also cater the future digital requirements of the enterprise and can enable cloud to cloud, cloud to on-premise, B2B and integration to things for IoT enablement.

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Amit has 13 years of IT exposure in Enterprise Application Integration, SOA, BPM and Cloud adoption and has been providing solutions in the Banking, Retail and Legal Services domain. He is experienced in integration architecture and consulting spanning across different middleware technologies to provide integration back-bone for messaging and digital needs. Currently, he is playing the role of pre-sales Senior Architect in Application Integration space for our niche customers in BFSI domain.

About Mphasis

Mphasis (BSE: 526299; NSE: MPHASIS) applies next-generation technology to help enterprises transform businesses globally. Customer centricity is foundational to Mphasis and is reflected in the Mphasis' Front2Back™ Transformation approach. Front2Back™ uses the exponential power of cloud and cognitive to provide hyper-personalized ($C = X2C_{TM}^2 = 1$) digital experience to clients and their end customers. Mphasis' Service Transformation approach helps 'shrink the core' through the application of digital technologies across legacy environments within an enterprise, enabling businesses to stay ahead in a changing world. Mphasis' core reference architectures and tools, speed and innovation with domain expertise and specialization are key to building strong relationships with marquee clients. To know more, please visit www.mphasis.com

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