

How do we make our systems more agile and adaptive to our business needs?

Oftentimes customers are trying to resolve a business problem where there is inherent complexity and a problem that is unique to the customer. Do we buy a packaged solution and accept the limited functionality that it can bring? Or do we build a custom application and integrate across a number of applications and platforms? Sounds like an obvious answer; but the truth is there is much more to evaluate about developing custom solutions where and when it makes sense in your organization.

Consider that customers often overlook the benefits that a custom developed application can deliver. In the right circumstances, such as highly unique business requirements or integration of legacy applications, building a custom application makes good business sense. Modern software application tools make building custom solutions more practical and affordable than ever before. In addition, the platform should leverage development and industry standards such as the new web services architectures that will make development and integration of the application easier and the ongoing maintenance more cost effective.

The business world is characterized by rapid change, unexpected shifts and relentless competition. In this environment, companies need the ability to adapt quickly to change, to use change as an advantage. Agility means success. There is a growing consensus in the industry that the way to create this kind of adaptive agile IT architecture is through web services: discrete units of software that interoperate, based on industry-standard protocols, across platforms and programming languages.

The Challenge...

Do we invest in application development or do we work with the packaged applications that are readily available? What's the business case?

Systemgroup Solution

Systemgroup has many years of experience working with customers to develop and deploy solutions that make business sense – whether it is a localized application upgrade or leveraging web services to tie together multiple disparate systems. Systemgroup has made significant investments in what we believe to be a very compelling development platform, Microsoft .NET. The fundamental idea behind the .NET platform is a shift in focus from individual applications, web sites and devices to constellations of computers, devices and services that work together to deliver broad, richer solutions. People now have control over how, when, and what information is delivered to them. Extensible Markup Language (XML) is the underlying technology by which various systems can talk and exchange data. By having a standardized means to connect, integration is now quicker, easier and more flexible – while retaining the security and control businesses require.

The .NET platform allows integration of infrastructure – both internally and externally – into constellations of information that accurately reflect business processes. By unifying systems and processes, many benefits can be realized.



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Business Value of Applications Built Using .NET

By using Microsoft .NET to orchestrate business processes across an organization and with partners, companies are able to improve efficiency. Connecting applications eliminates the redundancy of data in multiple locations, and decreases the error rate of transferring data from one application to another. The value of legacy systems increases dramatically when they can be connected with other complementary applications.



Accident Support Services International operates several collision reporting sites throughout Ontario and required a much higher level of data sharing and reporting among stakeholders (Police, Insurers, Collision Reporting Centers). Systemgroup created a web portal that provided access for both police and insurers, allowing them to retrieve records from 11 different police jurisdictions in real time from their desktops. They realized a number of benefits including improved consistency and accuracy of data gathering, accounting workflow, customer service, revenue opportunities and information sharing mechanism with other stakeholders through the use of online technologies.



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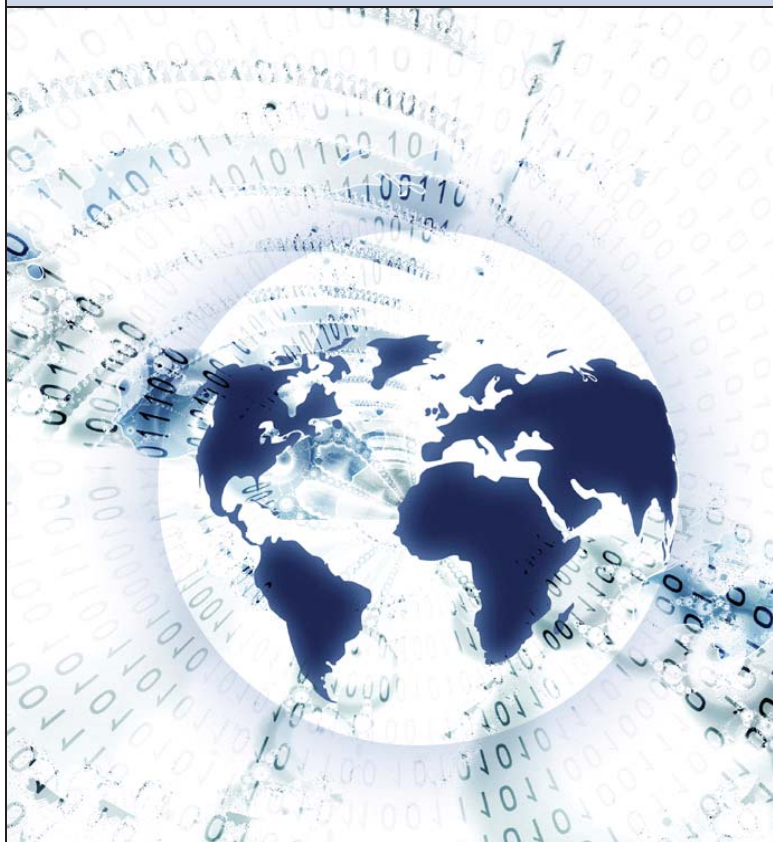
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About Systemgroup

Systemgroup is a team of business and technology people who are passionate about helping customers realize their vision. We attract and hire exceptional people who are able to interact with customers, quickly understand their business issues and translate that knowledge into high value business solutions.

Established in 1994, Systemgroup delivers a broad range of IT and business management consulting to medium and large-sized organizations having successfully completed over 150 projects. Systemgroup is an award-winning Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with competencies including Business Process and Integration Solutions, Custom Development Solutions, Business Intelligence & Data Management Solutions, and Information Worker Solutions.



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