

Mindreef and ZapThink: SOA Quality Expertise and Strategies for Successfully Moving from Web Services to SOA

Market-Proven Tools and Strategic Expertise for Improving Design-time Governance and SOA Quality

Moving to a Service-oriented Architecture (SOA) requires evolving practices and strategies in addition to the right set of tools and solutions. The Mindreef and ZapThink partnership combines ZapThink's research and advisory expertise focused on building and maturing sustainable SOA practices with Mindreef's award-winning SOAPscope® SOA Quality solutions to help establish high-quality SOA in the enterprise.

The move to SOA requires new best practices and policies from a central architect group, together with the correct quality infrastructure that ensures policy compliance and fosters trust and quality for new services. To achieve this, developers, architects and entire teams can leverage a bundled package that includes ZapThink consultation on SOA architecture, design-time governance and best practices, advisory services, and access to ZapThink's extensive library of SOA research reports and studies, in conjunction with Mindreef SOAPscope Server™.

Mindreef SOAPscope Server is the industry's first and only collaborative platform for shared, on-demand access to SOA quality expertise and assets. The resulting trust in high-quality services leads to increased adoption and reuse of Web services throughout the SOA. The three key areas of SOA Quality that will be focused in the combined offering include:

Advisory and Implementation for Setting up SOA Councils / Centers of Excellence

The real success of a service-oriented architecture is the combination of best practices, methodologies and approaches, in conjunction with infrastructure to support architectural change. Since SOA requires more than simply using Web Services, and because SOA best practices continue to emerge, successful SOA deployments require thought leadership within the organization that is often represented by a SOA Council or Center of Excellence that keeps the interests and needs of multiple departments as well as the objectives of the business in mind. However, knowledge, experience and understanding of SOA is limited at most companies. A SOA Council requires not only a cultural change, but a platform that can share and promote SOA expertise and success on-demand, for any role on the team. ZapThink and Mindreef now offer a combined approach for setting up SOA Centers of Excellence and Councils, through ZapThink's advisory services and Mindreef's quality platforms to execute SOA thought-leadership goals.

Advisory and Implementation of Design-time Governance

SOA Quality management must be a focus at the outset of design and development. Taking a contract-centric, contract-first approach to building SOA applications encourages teams to seek the products they need to begin ensuring quality earlier in the process. This is particularly true in today's agile development environments. Design-time governance addresses the issues of early quality assurance, policy adoption as well as enforcement, and compliance validation check steps. ZapThink offers advisory services to help companies establish proper governance methodologies, combined with Mindreef's platform capabilities to facilitate the design-time aspects of governance implementation.

Establishing Trust – An Elusive Element of SOA

Companies struggle to understand how much of the architecture should be centralized and how to build up trust between the different departments. Although the primary characteristics of SOA Quality for any business are agility and reuse, trust is what drives service reuse. Since trust is a key enabler of service reuse and helps to eliminate redundant services or rogue services, the ZapThink and Mindreef combined offering can help companies establish organizational methodologies for fostering trust, combined with Mindreef's platform capabilities to then enable such trusted organizational structures.



Companies are looking to maximize the value of Mindreef's powerful SOA Quality platform by also seeking guidance and expert advice about the best ways to evolve their SOA.

ZapThink's services provide SOA Strategies for Enterprise Architects, increasing the quality of their SOA implementations to achieve organizational and cultural SOA adoption as well as business agility.

The Mindreef/ZapThink packaged advisory offering can help end-users make educated, impactful decisions for their business as part of an overall SOA Quality strategy.

In addition to Mindreef's SOAPscope Server SOA Quality Management system, the package includes:

One month of unlimited ZapThink advisory and research

- Research access is provided via ZapThink.com
- Advisory services provided via telephone or email with ZapThink's Senior Analysts.

One day of on-site advisory with one ZapThink Analyst

- Methodology
- Best Practices
- Delivery of SOA Architectural Artifacts
 - Roadmaps
 - Project/Pilot Recommendations
 - Infrastructure GAP analysis
 - Service Modeling