

# Loosely Coupled Thinking

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## Thinking about Process and Workflow...

A while ago I blogged some various points about SOA that some people thought was interesting. Lets try the same with workflow:

- Like SOA, the workflow model is fractal. Activities within a workflow may contain other activities which, in turn, may be a part of another workflow (perhaps it really *is* turtles all the way down).
- Each participant in a global choreography model has public and private views of their role in the model.
- There is no "conductor" within a global choreography model.
- Hierarchical state machines manage and track the state of each participant's view of the global choreography model. The state machines rely upon message-based communications, not RPC mechanisms. State machines include entry and exit guards that may trigger additional messaging.
- Process compensation is not a silver bullet for exception handling. Put more simply, there is no such thing as a "roll back" in a business process. Sometimes compensation is simply not enough.

More to come.