



SOA Reference Model



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In February 2005 [OASIS](#) formed the [SOA-RM TC](#) (Service Oriented Architecture Reference Model Technical Committee) and assigned it the responsibility of developing an SOA Reference Model. The reference model will not be tied to any particular implementation or set of standards but will define a shared vocabulary and identify the common elements of a service oriented architecture (i.e Service, Service Description, Service Advertising, Data Model, Contract etc).

The benefits of the reference model is that it offers a guide to people developing SOAs and provides a context for discussing and comparing SOA implementations. All good things in my opinion, especially with so many companies starting enterprise-wide SOA initiatives.

It will be interesting to read what the SOA-RM technical committee has to say about Web Services, since they are core to most SOA discussions. Personally, I would like them to address Web Services in the context of the WSDL, REST, SOAP, XML and WS-*, but this may be out of scope for the reference model.

There is a presentation about the group and its charter.

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While the reference model itself will not contain things like SOAP, WSDL etc. (due to the abstract nature), it is very conceivable that we could create a sub TC to build an actual reference architecture for SOA. Such a reference architecture, based on the reference model, could include concrete bindings, protocols and specifications.

Jim Alateras is an independent consultant specializing in open source and emerging technologies. He has degree in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and has been working in the software development space for more than 18 years holding many different positions including Programmer, Team Leader, Senior Technical Architect, Consultant, Engineering Manager and CTO. He has worked on the product development side and large scale application development for both larger organizations and start-up companies. Jim has participants in several open source projects, presented at open source conferences and has written several articles and contributed to books. Currently, he is working, developing products and best practices, in the Web Services, Semantic Web and Business Process Management space.