IaaS: Integration-as-a-Service

Integration of data across the enterprise has historically been anything but agile. Heavy architectures and complex integration tools have contributed to the ever-increasing ballast and IT's inability to respond to the exploding volumes and new types of data. The IT department of many businesses have their hands tied in the realm of agility and responsiveness because of the inextricable legacy integration frameworks.

Stone Bond's Enterprise Enabler® ("EE") is a notable exception, with its streamlined architecture and single platform for configuration, testing, deployment, and monitoring, whether in the cloud, on premise, or a hybrid. Even with Enterprise Enabler, there are many relevant opportunities to utilize EE's IaaS model.

Integration-as- a-Service is an approach that brings cloud-based integration of data residing both in the cloud and on premise and offering payment options dependent on usage.

Why use IaaS?

If you are on the business side as opposed to the IT side of the house, you often wish you could take control of some of your IT needs without having to suffer the excruciating wait for IT to be able to get you access to specific data you need in a way that is useful. With IaaS, you can contract directly with a provider, work with them to define the data you need and how you need it, and pay on a subscription or as-used basis.

IT departments are themselves adopting Cloud-based integration for many of their solutions. The simpler the integration challenge, the more likely the IT people will find an appropriate IaaS solution.

Because the IaaS is cloud-based, all of the infrastructure and software is hosted and maintained by the IaaS provider, saving your company the cost of hardware and maintenance for the integrations you implement in the cloud. Elasticity of the cloud environment means you can grow and shrink usage, and therefore cost, as your business need change.

Hybrid models

A few integration products, such as Enterprise Enabler, also offer a hybrid model in which some data handling is performed in the cloud and some on premise. This model particularly powerful with EE because of the ability to reuse all components in both environments, and even more importantly the ability to create virtual data models as services for data analytics with no restrictions on data types, formats, or sources.

Limitations and Concerns

- The number one concern is the security of data stored in the cloud. Although the trend is toward greater confidence, mission critical and company confidential data still draws into question whether it is truly safe. Businesses often do not want to expose the possibility of competitors seeing or accessing their data. One approach to control that exposure is to use an IaaS provider that uses databases that are "multi-tenant," which means that a single database houses

everyone's data, but in such a way that they are completely separate and inaccessible to other customers using the same database.

- "Shadow IT, where business people contract with IaaS directly, can be disruptive to the IT department and to the implementation of Key IT initiatives and the smooth transitions and strategies. It also creates an even greater gap between the digital or IoT (Internet of Things) side of the house and the legacy IT.

- Most IaaS handles limited specific sources to specific destinations, with built-in business logic. These may be B2B exchanges, or perhaps moving data from one cloud source to a cloud destination, without the flexibility to handle enterprise endpoints such as SAP or other legacy systems.

- Most IaaS providers specialize in particular business domains, with very specific "plug-in" types of solutions. This means you may have many different IaaS vendors. Most also handle only specific endpoints.

What does Enterprise Enabler bring to IaaS?

- Enterprise Enabler is the only Enterprise grade agile integration platform. A single platform, it is very easy to configure, test, and deploy integrations.

- Greatly reduces the exposure of corporate data because only metadata (mapping, validation rules, alignment, notifications, etc.) is stored in the Enterprise Enabler database.

- The core of EE capabilities is in the ability to federate everything from IoT Internet of Things to legacy corporate systems, to web services, data streams, and many, many other sources. These federated definitions can be exposed as services that include the data workflows or as virtual data models for live query across the federated sources. As part of the Data Virtualization, EE supports transactional write-back to sources from the querying application or dashboard.

- Provides MDM-as-a-Service (Master Data Management) and data workflow processes as a service.

- Hybrid deployment models to handle the full range of Enterprise data integration as needed.

- Wide range of pricing models based on transactions executed, by number of different configurations of integration, by number of workflow process, by number of endpoints.