

CIO MAGAZINE SAYS:

"... EAI projects carry three red flags: 1) consulting costs, 2) maintenance costs, and 3) data definition problems that can drive up the cost. Data definitions usually vary from company to company-or even within a single company. The item-number or part-number issue can drive people nuts.

If a company has trouble defining a 'part' or 'customer', imagine the disparity across company borders. EAI tools have the capacity to address those problems through their ability to transform data as it moves from point to point. However, the legwork of describing the differences and training the EAI tool to map data correctly from one system to another is something that won't be automated."

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MegaConsole for EAI

TPG's enterprise application integrator MegaConsole is a modular add-on component of our core product, MegaXML. It has a strong infrastructure backbone based on the most recent, cutting-edge technologies such as XML and Microsoft's BizTalk Mapper. It's open architecture is completely object oriented, and uses a class library allowing each business to customize its own business logic – the basic infrastructure of remains fixed, except the customized business logic.

"Great return on investment.. !"

"Great ROI ... with MegaXML, we were able to reduce our staff and allocate them to other projects ... 100% accuracy on order processing and 100% savings on our trading partner's chargebacks due to EDI processing errors ... MegaXML also provides us with true 24x7 capabilities."

AVLON

Built to Customize

MegaConsole provides an easy-to-use GUI interface which allows the client to implement a system of custom, tailor-made business rules to facilitate more efficient back-end processing of SCM applications.

This product converts incoming transactions to XML, making them web-enabled and accessible on an enterprise-wide basis. MegaConsole receives EDI data translated into XML along with data definitions in XML schema format. It then processes the data and returns transaction results in various formats such as flat-file, EDI and XML. MegaConsole also applies the client's system of business logic to update appropriate back-end databases and/or distribute the XML data to the appropriate department in real time.

Understanding EAI Tools

Some excerpts from a recent CIO Magazine article on EAI tools are listed below to acquaint you with their related tradeoffs:

- EAI tools are equipped to parse and translate data, and automatically route information according to business processes.
- A robust EAI implementation can cost half a million dollars. There are unavoidable consulting, customization and maintenance costs.
- Resolving data definition incompatibilities drives up the price tag as well. Buy lower-cost EAI tools to achieve more targeted, less broad-based systems integration.
- EAI tools let companies pass data between multiple legacy and enterprise systems through a single messaging hub, rather than build countless custom interfaces to link each system.
- Pursuing a coherent EAI strategy pays off in the long run.
- The simplicity of having a single connector to each app instead of many interconnected legs makes the payoff conceptually strong.
- Big enterprise with multiple projects can achieve a demonstrable EAI ROI more readily than smaller companies.
- EAI provides an engine to help bundle products together from different partnerships and different data sources.
- Benefits of EAI – It provides management with real-time visibility into business processes across the enterprise with business partners. A GUI tool can model work processes by pointing and clicking, and software will reflect those updates in its code for routing data.
- You can continue to use the existing investment in apps underneath this EAI layer, since it is already working and managing the transactions, but use EAI to change processes and reduce cycle times.

The complexity of software and the high-end integration projects mean consultants are a necessity. Smaller companies may balk at today's EAI sticker price and choose to wait, or they may look at a lower-end EAI tools.