Progress.
OpenEdge 10

Sonic Collaboration Server™

Integrating OpenEdge applications with strategic business partners using B2B protocols and Web services

HIGHLIGHTS

Collaboration modeling

Trading partner management

Comprehensive security

Dynamic partner binding

Configuration-driven

KEY BENEFITS

Protects security and privacy of internal systems

Accommodates diverse partner needs

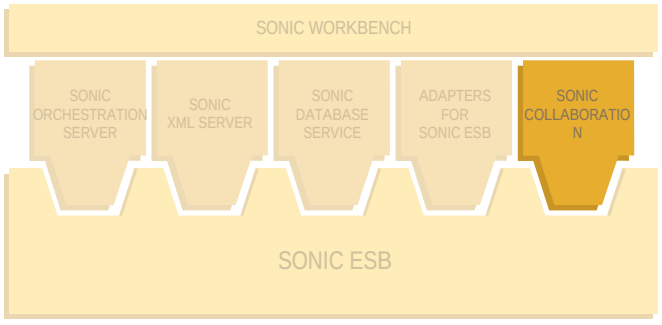
Fast and flexible integration with internal systems

Graphical tools are easy to use

A service-oriented architecture (SOA) provides a great opportunity to improve business agility to gain a competitive advantage. The Progress® OpenEdge™ business platform allows organizations to take advantage of SOA to build agile applications, with business logic encapsulated into software services that are reusable across any number of applications and databases.

But extending your SOA beyond the firewall to integrate with partners can be a challenge. Interoperability with partners requires an enterprise to interoperate with multiple platforms via a variety of network transports and protocols. The requirement for security is crucial, since you are potentially exposing your internal systems to threats from beyond the firewall. Flexibility is also essential, so that you can evolve applications and business logic as business requirements change.

Both Application Partners and enterprise IT can successfully manage partner integrations by relying on the Sonic Collaboration Server™ to integrate OpenEdge applications with new partners—and change interactions with existing partners—without disrupting existing operations. The Sonic Collaboration Server enables flexible, secure, and scalable integration with external applications so the enterprise can increase operational efficiency, streamline development efforts, extend the useful life of existing applications, and develop tighter working relationships with suppliers, customers, and partners.



PROGRESS SOFTWARE

SIMPLIFYING INTEGRATION WITH YOUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

The Sonic Collaboration Server extends the capabilities of the enterprise service bus to integrate external business partners with OpenEdge applications using B2B protocols and Web services. It allows you to fully manage partner interactions, including those that require partner-specific protocols. You can also implement ongoing security checks.

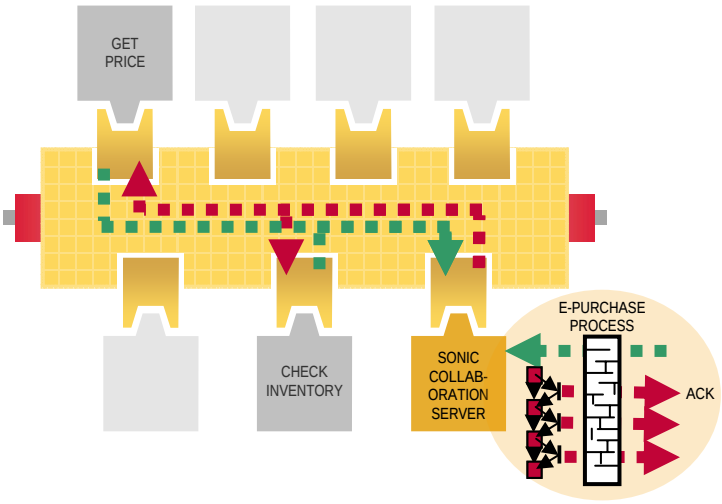
OpenEdge business applications can be safely extended beyond the enterprise and rapidly integrated with external applications. The Sonic Collaboration Server provides an intuitive graphical environment to model the processes inherent in your business relationships with partners. Using administrative controls, you can define how any service or process on the enterprise service bus can use Collaboration Server to invoke partner collaborations—or be invoked by partner applications. You can associate specific partners with specific internal services so that you can easily tailor interoperability to meet the need of each partnership.

The implementation of a SOA suitable for partner integration requires the ability to easily tailor the relationship between internal processes and collaborations with partners without creating hard-coded or hidden dependencies between them. Collaboration Server leverages Sonic ESB® to allow you to integrate partner applications within your SOA framework.

The Sonic Collaboration Server can incorporate any enterprise service bus service or process in a B2B interaction to allow you to successfully integrate OpenEdge applications with the applications of external partners. It dynamically manages partner profiles, making it easy to respond to changing application integration requirements.

It builds on the foundation of the Sonic ESB, a standards-based enterprise service bus that enables companies to integrate their OpenEdge applications with multi-vendor applications and databases. Sonic ESB provides a centrally managed, yet globally deployable foundation for an enterprise-wide SOA by integrating applications as standards-based, event-driven services.

Collaboration Server manages inbound and outbound communication with the partner, including polling for new messages, message packing/unpacking, management of digital signatures, encryption, sending acknowledgements, error handling, any necessary retries, timeout handling, etc.



Ensuring the Security of OpenEdge Applications

Collaboration Server provides flexible options for protecting applications, processes, and information. You can configure customized levels of security that define how each partner's applications can access the OpenEdge applications. Collaboration Server provides comprehensive support for encryption, authentication, authorization, digital signatures, and non-repudiation. By deploying Collaboration Server inside your firewall with secure communication through the DMZ, you can protect the security and privacy of OpenEdge applications and data.

Integrating Business Processes

Collaboration Server is deployed as a set of services on Sonic ESB, and it interacts with other services and processes on the enterprise service bus to enable OpenEdge integration with partner applications. Partner collaborations can be started by other services, and these collaborations can also, in turn, invoke other services on the enterprise service bus. This allows you to easily link partner collaborations to OpenEdge applications or processes.

Like all Sonic ESB services, Collaboration Server can be administered remotely from the Sonic Management Console.

Collaboration Server includes the Collaboration Editor, which defines the business process that drives interactions with a partner. The editor also allows you to easily define how a partner interacts with your existing internal services and processes. You can therefore define the business logic embedded with a partner interaction without needing to know the specific details of how messages are sent and received from the partner. This allows the process flow—not the choice of protocols or transports—to dictate the design of the collaboration.

Standards-Based OpenEdge Integration

Integration inevitably demands broad support for a variety of protocols or transports. The Sonic Collaboration Server comes with built-in support for Web services, ebXML, and RosettaNet RNIF 2.0 for transmission of messages over HTTP and email. Collaboration services as well as protocol and transport adapters are all independently scalable to meet your increasing system throughput demands. You can configure inbound messages on different transports for response by specific collaboration services to ensure priority processing for critical partners.

Future-Proof OpenEdge Integration

When integrating internal and external applications, service dependencies—especially those hidden dependencies coded inside applications or processes—make change difficult because modifications could potentially have undesired or unknown consequences. When internal business processes interact with the business processes of partners, they must do so without embedding partner-specific interaction logic within the process itself.

Collaboration Server spares internal processes and services from needing to know the technical intricacies of partner interactions. Because partners can be added and removed without affecting the logical flow of the interaction, collaborations can be efficiently reused to support new partnering relationships. You can graphically configure the relationships of each architectural element, whether the elements are internal processes or services, a collaboration service, or a partner interaction. No coding is required, so you can add partners or change collaborations without system disruption.

Integrating OpenEdge Via Web Services

OpenEdge Release 10 offers native support for Web services. Any OpenEdge applications can directly access any Web service, and any OpenEdge Application Server-based application can be deployed as a Web service.

While Web services today provide connectivity and interoperability attractive for simpler and lower-cost partner integration, they lack the security controls needed for partner integration. In particular, allowing external Web services to send messages through the firewall to internal systems—potentially triggering internal processes—presents unacceptable security risks for most enterprises. But Collaboration Server provides a secure way to integrate OpenEdge with partner applications using Web services. You can configure any collaboration to use Web services. Partner-specific security requirements and access controls are applied to inbound SOAP messages. And inbound and outbound SOAP messages are mediated by a broker deployed in the DMZ to protect internal systems from unwanted messages.

Integrating OpenEdge Across the Extended Enterprise

Faster turns. Better forecast accuracy. Lower operating costs. Partner integration presents business opportunities for both Progress Application Partners and the enterprise, and Collaboration Server allows you to successfully, reliably, and securely manage partner integration with OpenEdge within an SOA framework.

The SOA approach allow you to build a set of principles and best practices for interoperability while enhancing the flexibility needed in a changing business world. The standards of Web services and the enterprise service bus provide the framework for making business-process enabled OpenEdge applications flexible, efficient, and integratable. The combination of OpenEdge with Sonic Collaboration Server provides an end-to-end standards-based business integration strategy for connecting the systems and processes of the enterprise with those of its key business partners.

The Foundation of the Sonic SOA Suite

You can further enhance OpenEdge integrations via the Sonic SOA Suite™, which builds on the foundation of the Sonic ESB and adds the Sonic Orchestration Server™, Sonic XML Server™ and Sonic Database Service™ to form a comprehensive, ESB-based distributed services platform for integrating applications using a standards-based SOA.

DEPARTMENTAL TO ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION WITH OPENEDGE AND SONIC SOA INFRASTRUCTURE

Integrating applications across the enterprise has never been more critical, as companies struggle to stay ahead of the competition. Progress Software understands the integration challenges faced by the enterprise, and the OpenEdge platform with Sonic ESB helps organizations

> Seamlessly connect heterogeneous applications and systems across highly distributed environments.

> Deploy incrementally, one integration project at a time, eliminating the need for major up-front investments.

> Achieve continuous high performance and scalability, especially during peak periods.

> Realize low cost of ownership, helping to reduce operational and IT costs.

Through technology innovations, OpenEdge and Sonic Software's SOA infrastructure and enterprise messaging products have helped numerous clients rapidly and flexibly integrate services and applications within the departmental landscape and across the enterprise.

For additional information on Sonic Collaboration Server and OpenEdge platform support, please contact your local Progress Software sales representative or visit www.progress.com.

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