

Open Source Middleware

If you've gone through an enterprise middleware migration you know how tough it can be. The IT staff must deal with timing, cost, technical challenges of transition, lost production while the software is switched, and ensuring security once the migration is completed.

It's a mistake to choose middleware solely on the basis of functionality without figuring in total cost of ownership (TCO) and ease of future changes. Proprietary solutions may meet an immediate requirement, but they lock your organization into a single vendor, which can result in expensive licenses and create hurdles to future software upgrades.

Disappearing Middleware

Here's a real-life example. A vendor is acquired, and the acquiring company decides to discontinue support for what had been a competing product line. At this point customers will be forced to switch to a new, proprietary middleware architecture. The organization has accomplished the switch, but has expended cost without necessarily getting new value. Plus, customers may be forced to retrain their programming staff, another unforeseen cost. And when you're done, you may be back where you started, locked into a proprietary vendor.

This scenario is occurring for users of Oracle Application Server (OAS), but with a twist. Oracle announced end-of-life for its OAS in favor of Weblogic from BEA Systems, which Oracle acquired in 2008. Support for OAS components is scheduled for cancellation through 2014. OAS users are being forced into purchasing

new Weblogic licenses to re-acquire functionality they already own.

Given the importance of middleware, and the realities of tight federal IT budgets, it's time to break that cycle and migrate to a different future. Migrate to Red Hat JBoss and you have lightweight, low cost, flexible middleware with no vendor lock-in. Because it's open source, JBoss gives you the reach-back into the open source community with its continuous, peer-certified improvement process. The innovation that surrounds open source gives an organization's in-house developers a large external support team.

JBoss by Red Hat backs up your organization with industry leading support.

JBoss has been developed in the open source model, therefore it's lighter, more efficient and less expensive than proprietary solutions. It is fully compliant with J2EE standards, meaning your developers can create reusable, platform-independent applications, so you avoid the expense and uncertainty of vendor lock-in from the outset.

Open Source = Lower Cost

With open source, the organization also gains lower total cost of ownership. Here are two ways:

- Red Hat prices JBoss on a yearly subscription model. You avoid capital outlays for licenses and especially for the surprise and unwelcome license fees that can occur when vendors declare end-

of-life and move you to another proprietary solution. The JBoss subscription is based on cores used (not processors/CPUs), and they are renewable annually.

- Lower TCO extends to the entire software infrastructure. JBoss includes developer-facing tools that support agile, test-driven development; and automating builds via tools such as Jenkins. This, plus Maven support, speeds up application development and improves code quality. It also enables the organization to do more with the developers it has.

Fast and No Surprises

The JBoss environment is both virtualization- and cloud-friendly. JBoss Enterprise Application Platform 6 starts up in seconds and runs in tens of megabytes of memory in its default configuration.

To assist in migration, Red Hat consulting brings tools to help you assess the scope of your specific intended implementation. You'll know in advance how long it will take and what it will cost. Plus Red Hat JBoss has the support of independent software vendors and integrators in all public sector vertical markets.

There's no need to be a prisoner of proprietary vendor lock-in. Organizations can avoid the risk, cost and effort of end-of-life middleware situations by avoiding them in the first place. Break the proprietary lock-in cycle with its expense and uncertainty by using open source. •

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