Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) Initiative: Kickoff Forum

SOA Use Case: Introducing NU Learn

June 9, 2014
Introducing “NU Learn”

• A training management system for the University.
  – Faculty, staff and students

• Training programs that focus on business practice, compliance and staff development.
  – Replace existing solutions for research compliance

• A comprehensive, long-term solution that will evolve as an expanding circle into an enterprise wide system.
What is Saba?
Saba is an Island
Found in the Caribbean
Saba is also a Hosted TMS Solution
Why Now?

• Training needs—driven by compliance obligations and organizational efficiency— are ubiquitous in a complex organization like NU
  – Our strengths have fundamental weaknesses-- less than ideal efficiency in how we convey and document “the right way”

• Stand-alone solutions are awkward and create recordkeeping silos.

• The need today is acute—the technology is transformative & has enormous potential
But No System is an Island

Saba

Facilitates required training/job competencies
No System is an Island

But who needs to be trained?

Saba
No System is an Island

What roles do they fill?

Saba
No System is an Island

What unit(s) do they work in?

Saba
No System is an Island

What classes are they required to take?

Saba
No System is an Island

Can I get a view for that?

Saba
No System is an Island

No, you can have a service.
Service or Event Message?

*That is the question!*
It’s a question of “Fit”

• Saba is architected as a silo
• BUT, it supports event messaging
• Given the high use potential of NULearn, messaging looks appealing:
  – Less traffic to enterprise data providers
  – Less exposure to downtime
It’s a question of fit

Data
Stored in NULearn
Sourced from Authority
Updated in real time
Challenges

Disambiguation of identity

SES

FASIS
Challenges

Primary role
Solution

Enterprise Service Bus

SES
FASIS
ISIS
Integration App
Saba
Solution

Enterprise Service Bus

SES  FASIS  ISIS  Integration App  Saba
Integration App

• Applies business rules
  – Specific to NU Learn
  – Disambiguates ID OR notifies for action
  – Sets role “trumping rules”

• Notifies NU Learn of changes

• Is loosely coupled
  – Changes will not impact other consumers of the event messages
Timing

• A partnership among friends & allies
  – NUIT
  – HR Information Systems
  – Office for Research/ ORIS

• Phase 1 is a commitment to stand up research safety training & create a common look to OR training.
• Phase 2 and beyond include a wider application of the system across campus with more enable features.