



DISA

The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) is a combat support agency responsible for planning, engineering, acquiring, fielding, and supporting global net-centric solutions across the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). The Net-Centric Enterprise Services Program (NCES) is one of the major components of the DoD's Global Information Grid, covering nine core services: applications, collaboration, discovery, enterprise service management, mediation, messaging, security, storage and user assistance. Over the past two years, individual DoD agencies have been developing Web services to integrate their applications.

"We're seeing the registry being positioned as the heart of the service-oriented architecture. If the SOA requires governance...you can only govern those things you can have visibility across. We don't have good visibility across the department today."

**—Robert Vietmeyer,
Chief Engineer NCES Program, DISA**



Challenge

In support of the DoD, DISA is the provider of global net-centric solutions for U.S. warfighters and all those who support them. Two years ago, individual DoD agencies began developing Web services atop stovepipe applications. With services already created, and now distributed across hundreds of agencies and programs, each disparate and with complex operating environments, DISA was challenged with the integration of these services and more.

DISA and the NCES program had the need to provide a DoD-wide network of cutting-edge, web-based applications to connect the real-time, and near real-time, communities to reliable, and secured, decision-quality information. It needed to enable the end user to execute an intelligent pull of mission-tailored information from anywhere within the network. The next step was to evolve the entire system from a Web services standards-based enablement, to a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) with governance, services recognition and reuse, and dynamic interoperability.

Technology

DISA was looking for a Net-Centric Solution that would make data immediately available to those who needed it—without risk of unauthorized access to protected resources, but allowed discovery of relevant assets and services by users and applications without pre-existing knowledge of their existence. A SOA delivers the technology to make this possible.

To achieve a SOA, DISA wanted to establish a Universal Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) registry for use within the NCES program. Contracts were sent out for bid, and over 30 vendors were considered.

Technical Requirements

The proposal requirements DISA outlined included:

UDDI Compliance—OASIS UDDI implementation, and backward compatibility and compliance with UDDI V2 at the very least;

UDDI V3 Capabilities—For the governance features, DISA was looking for V3 capabilities including support for category Bags on binding Templates and keyed Reference groups;

Platform Support—Support for major operating systems and databases such as Solaris, Windows, Linux, Oracle, DB2, and BEA;

A Taxonomy Management API—To support the creation, internal validation, and customization of taxonomies;

Prior History—DISA wanted a known player in the SOA space with a marked previous performance;

Scalability—With hundreds of thousands of end users located worldwide on mission-critical assignments, the DoD needed assurances that the system would be capable of handling the loads.



Solution

Systinet was chosen to provide the enterprise commercial technology for a UDDI Registry. The company was awarded a \$1.15 million contract with five additional \$200,000 maintenance options over five years. Systinet Governance Interoperability Framework (GIF) partner, AmberPoint, was also chosen to work alongside Systinet to provide an enterprise service management product to help DISA monitor the NCES run-time environment.

The yearly maintenance options will allow DISA to use an annual milestone-based approach to the deployment aligned with the funding. The first such milestone will be to deliver its pilot Service Discovery Core Enterprise Service (CES), based on Systinet's UDDI business services registry, as a transition path to achieving global interoperability within the DoD through the NCES program.

Why Systinet?

DISA was looking for a registry—such as the Systinet Registry—that fully supports all versions of UDDI (V1–V3). DISA was also impressed with Systinet Registry's ease-of-use and taxonomy features, as well as its extensive platform support and proven scalability.

Governments at federal, state, and local levels can achieve their objectives with high-value, standards-based solutions from Systinet. The Systinet SOA technologies affordably link agencies, departments, offices, and remote personnel into cohesive, networked communities of interest—simplifying and speeding both data sharing and task completion. Systinet products are proven, and are widely deployed at all levels of the U.S. Government, including the US Air Force, EPA, and NASA.

To meet demands for increased government efficiency and the need for cross-departmental information sharing, Systinet's SOA solutions help agencies leverage existing IT investments, operate across legacy systems, and better share and reuse IT assets and data. Systinet simplifies the migration to Net-centric operations with proven, field-tested products, including Systinet Registry, chosen by DISA for the Service Discovery Core Enterprise Service (CES), a key part of the wide-reaching Net-Centric Enterprise Services Program (NCES).

Results

“People throughout the trusted, dependable and ubiquitous network are empowered by their ability to access information and recognized for the inputs they provide.”

—John Stenbit, CIO, DoD

Presently, only a few months into the contract, the deployment process and benefits are anticipated. The expected outcome will be unprecedented information sharing, leading to faster decision cycles, further bringing information superiority to the warfighter. Additionally, there should be the enablement of policies designed to break the current model of stove-piped agencies, and allow for a decrease in redundant DoD IT expenditures.

Deployment Summary

Using a funding driven annual milestone approach to the deployment, the DISA NCES program will start with:

Pilot Testing—A small, controlled pilot will be tested within DISA's NCES labs;

Early Adopter Program—A pilot that is capable of interacting with every Federal program, will be rolled out to early adopters as a means of testing interoperability.

Main Benefits

The anticipated benefits include:

Interoperability—Regardless of the platform, applications will no longer be part of a stove-pipe technology system. Instead, they will be accessible from anywhere within the DoD;

Increased Reuse—The services will now be visible and accessible for reuse, thereby reducing overhead costs;

Decision Cycles—With newfound agility and tight decision loops, faster and more accurate information gathering will be realized;

Governance—Systinet Registry along with GIF partner, AmberPoint, provide the centralized controls DISA requires to govern at the architecture level.

“We have had great success using Systinet products on select federal projects, such as DISA's Net-Centric Enterprise Services initiative.”

—Greg Wenzel,
Principal, Booz Allen Hamilton