

# STATE OF SOA 2010

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (Draft)

June 2010

“SOA IS ENTRENCHED”

---

***On the SOA road.*** Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) has come a long way since it came to industry attention in 2002 as a cure for proliferating, incompatible Web Services. As an industry buzz word 'SOA' does not now fly as high as it used to. At the same time, SOA as an architecture or practice has clearly grown deep roots in technology shops. In IT today, architecture offices and development teams continue to work to cast their application development and integration projects in terms of services that can be reused and interchanged in the future.

A look at the TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010 suggests that SOA is in fact broadly entrenched today. Survey results show that 47.4% of respondents work in organizations where SOA projects are underway, and 30.9% have multiple SOA projects underway. In terms of project scope, this work is seen as 'enterprise-level' in nature in 62.6% of the cases. Formal SOA offices or centers of excellence exist in 13.6% of organizations, up from 9.0% in a comparable 2009 survey.

Remarkably perhaps, SOA seems to have withstood the onslaught of significant challenges both concrete and abstract. Use of SOA held firm in the face of the worldwide credit crisis of 2008-2009. Use of SOA has not dropped even as 'cloud computing' has emerged as an alternative buzz word du jour. While budget stratagems for supporting SOA efforts have changed - tactical BPM efforts have been used to carry strategic SOA plans forward and 'SOA'

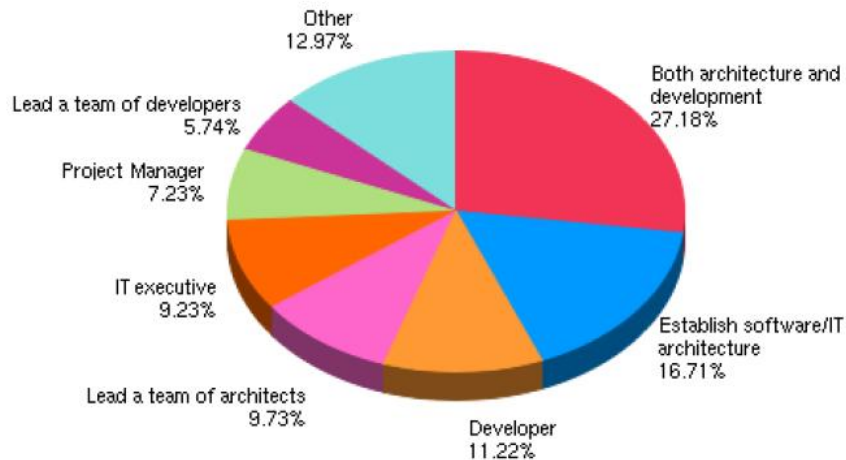
projects have been renamed as 'application modernization' projects to garner the requisite funding - SOA has continued. Now, SOA has some of the characteristics of a steady-state phenomenon. Today, SOA is entrenched.

**Notes on methodology.** Before we look at some highlights of the survey, here are some notes on methodology and demographics. The TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010 queried respondents within the ranks of readership for ebizQ.net, SearchSOA.com and TheServerSide.com sites. The survey was fielded between March and April 2010. Over 400 IT professionals responded. Architecture was a primary focus of respondents. Over 30% of respondents function as architects.

In terms of roles, establishing software/IT architecture (16.7%), and leading a team of architects (9.7%) were among the prominent roles respondents played in SOA strategy. Do they play a role in both architecture and development? Yes, in 27.1% of cases. See below.



What is your primary role in SOA strategy and software development? [Select one.]



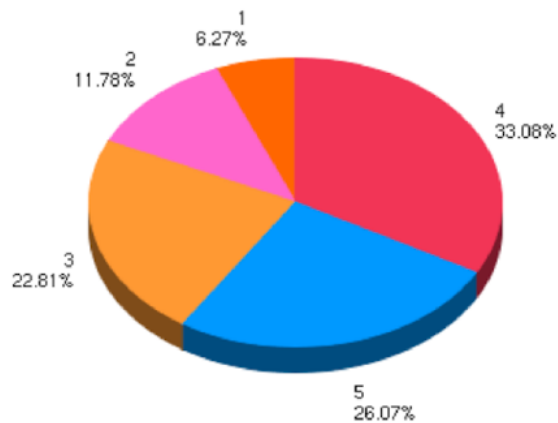
**The onus of ubiquity.** In recent years, SearchSOA.com and ebizQ.net have been replete with stories of architects in enterprises that have constructed carefully planned services that were leveraged company-wide to foster re-use of software components and reduce overall IT costs.

Maybe there is less 'newness' to SOA. But is the main road toward software portfolio rationalization and business success. It is moving toward the role of dependable work horse, SOA is losing a bit of luster almost at the same rate that it gains utility. The era of SOA brainstorming and training has given way to one of SOA implementation.

This is not to say SOA is no longer seen as a priority, and that there is much for many to learn. The TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA 2010 Survey results indicate that it is extremely important in 26.1% of respondents' organizations. Only 6.3% of respondents say it is 'not at all important.'

---

How important a priority is SOA within your organization? Please rate the importance on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 is "extremely important" and 1 is "not at all important."



TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010

---

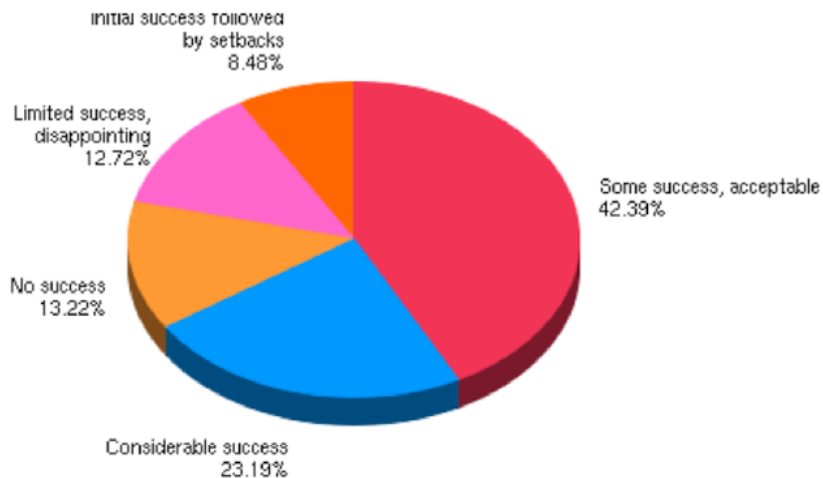
**When and where?** On which applications do respondents now use or plan to use SOA services? Representing 70.5% of respondents' efforts, Web applications are a clear leader. But data services and legacy integration are important too, at 51.3% and 48.7%, respectively.

The strong inclination toward Web apps bears commentary. Clearly 'Webification' of existing corporate application assets has been this era's chief technology driver – but SOA's role thereof is sometimes obscured. SOA arose as a means to curb unbridled Web services, but these same services continue to fuel both the Web-enabled corporate software portfolio and the SOA movement. In any case, the role of SOA as an organizer and governor endures. For keeping SOA efforts on track, 27.1% cite active guidance by an Enterprise Architect team as the most important factor in achieving success.

Meanwhile - and importantly – general success of SOA projects is notable. Considerable success or some acceptable success in SOA is cited for organizations of 65.6% of respondents. SOA efforts may be making the auspicious leap from their past life as highly speculative undertakings with more than modest chances of failure to mainstream, evincing success-failure ranges on track with, well, typical IT projects!

---

How would you rate your organization's SOA success rate? [Select one.]



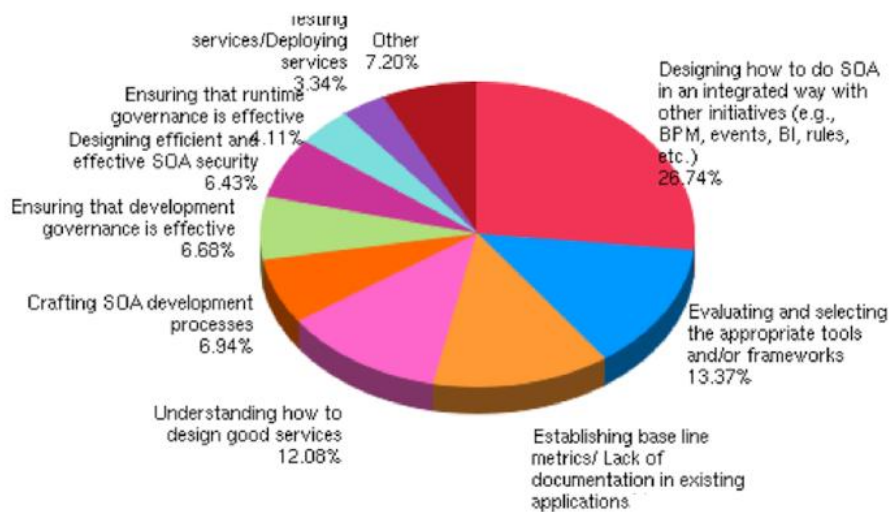
TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010

---

**The SOA Challenge.** Success for SOA has accompanied a move from the periphery to the center of IT. SOA implementers are charged with making sense of a variety of technologies – many of which grew up without much thought to “SOA.” Thus, designing SOAs so they work with other corporate initiatives emerges not so surprisingly, is now a pressing need. In our survey, it is cited as the most significant challenge (26.7%) facing SOA projects and initiatives. [See below.]

---

What is the most significant challenge you are facing with your SOA project/initiative? [Select one.]



TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA 2010 Survey

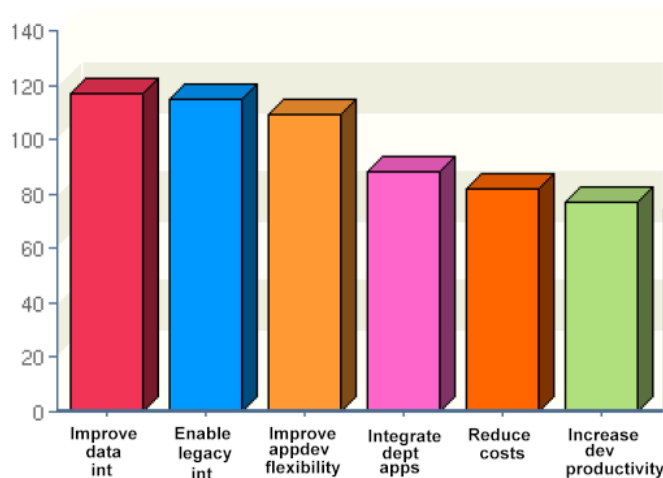
---

**Tell us, SOA, what do you want to be when you grown up?** What is SOA? If you say 'integration' people rightly ask how this is different than EAI. If you say SOA is 'application modernization' the critics may say is this is just screen scraping. SOA is entrenched, today, and as such it must absorb all the elements of modern enterprise application development and integration. It will continue to be challenged.

Just that may be proof that its position is pivotal. Its original impetus for many was as a vehicle to enforce reuse and reduce cost. As events have unfolded the reason to "do SOA" is something else. Improved data integration (29.2%), legacy integration (26.7), flexibility of application development (27.2%), and department-level application integration (21.9%) now surpass cost reductions (20.5%) and developer productivity (19.2%) on the list of benefits the enterprise looks for, according to the TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010.

---

8. What are the top two benefits you hope or hoped to achieve from your company's SOA adoption?



TechTarget/Forrester Research State of SOA Survey for 2010

---

For more on this topic visit [ebizQ.net](http://ebizQ.net) and [SearchSOA.com](http://SearchSOA.com)