

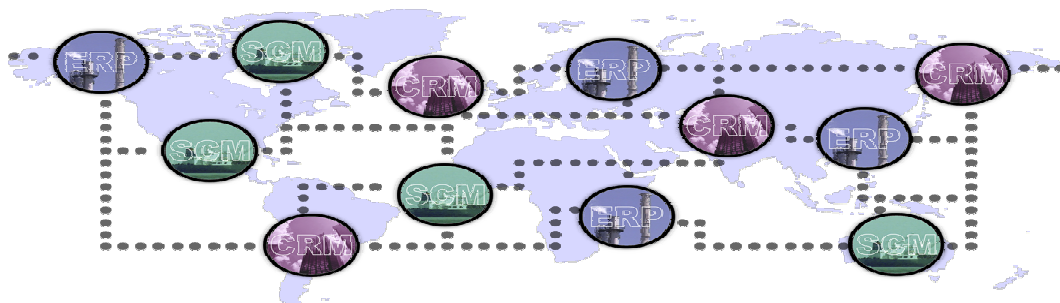
## VIC Integration Audit: Complete Integration Assessment, Reporting, Best Practice Recommendations

### Today's Integration Landscape:

It has been widely reported for the past 2 years that Integration is the #1 IT initiative faced by companies today. Throughout the past 20 years, companies have been addressing their integration initiatives, by eagerly and rapidly implementing integration solutions. Many companies implement a commercial integration system, since vendor-driven software has proven value in the marketplace. There are a multitude of integration vendors in today's market, but no matter what technology is used for integration, one trend has recently become clear-- companies' daily business processes are increasingly dependent on their implemented integration system. Their business processes have become dependent to the extent that millions of a corporation's daily dollars flow through their integration software, which is why companies clearly need their corporate transactions to be automated through integration.

Classic integration patterns have evolved into a new integration pattern in the integration industry-- the Enterprise-wide Transactional Engine. An Enterprise Transactional Engine involves having nearly 100% of a businesses' transactions routed through the integration system, which makes companies more reliant on their integration implementations. With any type of IT system reliance, there is an increased risk to the business. If the integration system fails, the company's Transactional Engine fails, eventually leading to business process failures. Typical technology failures include process downtime, lost transactions, and lost data integrity. All these failures lead to business process failures, which directly impacts the businesses' bottom line.

Unfortunately, integration customers are encountering many of these system failures from unstructured integration implementations. Some implementations purposely cut methodological corners during the development lifecycle, for quicker development completion. This behavior is a natural result of today's Rapid Application and Extreme Programming methodologies. On the flip side, many customers are unaware of how to properly utilize their commercial integration products. Because of complex vendor products that are continuously changing, customers are often not familiar with the software's Best Practice methodologies. Unfamiliarity leads to unstable, non-scalable, and error-prone integration systems.



## The Solution to your Integration Worries:

To address these types of issues, Visual Integrator Consulting is offering the VIC Integration Audit (for webMethods), the industry's first integration audit methodology. The goal of the VIC Integration Audit is to review a customer's current webMethods integration implementation to assess their compliance with VIC's Best Practices for webMethods software.

Our consultants perform integration audits on numerous topics, which are listed in the Assessment section. The audits are completed on selectively chosen individual topics, or as 'full-system audits', encompassing all topics of a webMethods integration implementation. The audit results determine the unhealthy portions of the integration implementation, as well as explain areas that are performing adequately. The deliverables of the Integration Audit includes a full report & rating of the assessment results, along with recommendations on how to fix the unhealthy areas of the integration system.

The VIC Integration Audit ensures that our customers fully understand how to best utilize their webMethods software. Our audit provides the necessary Best Practices to ensure the integration system can handle today's integration requirements, as well as positioning the system for the future as an Enterprise Transactional Engine.

We also realize that with today's regulated business environment, it is increasingly important to ensure that one's integration system is safe, stable and compliant. With corporate and government standards becoming the norm, such as Sarbanes-Oxley, many corporations need to file SEC reports from their IT integration systems. Performing a VIC Integration Audit will provide the 3<sup>rd</sup>-party, expert-level assurance an IT system requires for operational, corporate, and governmental compliance.



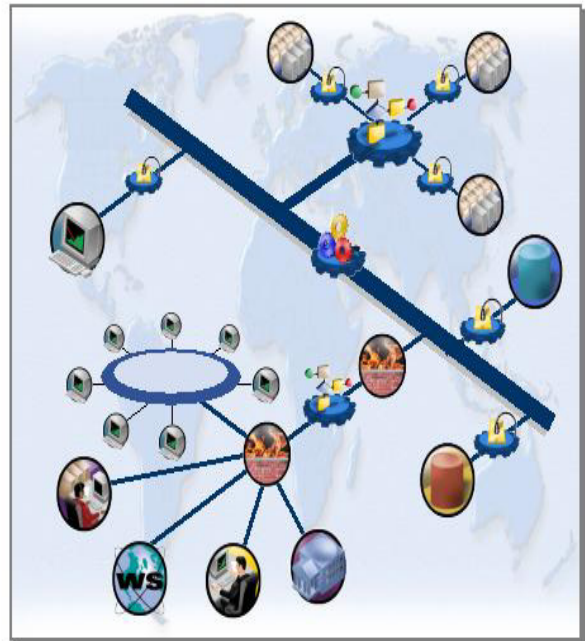
# Assessment:

Utilizing Visual Integrator Consulting's expertise in the integration industry and experience working directly for various integration software vendors, our consultants leverage their intense integration and webMethods knowledge to assess the current state of our customer's integration implementations. The Assessment phase allows us to compare the current integration system to VIC's proven integration best practices and our documented webMethods software Best Practices.

## Audit Topics:

Audits can range in scope and complexity. With Visual Integrator Consulting's proven Integration Audit Methodology, a variety of topics can be addressed to quickly determine the health of the integration system. Below is a sample of some topics covered in an Integration Audit

- Technical Quality Review
- Architecture Quality
- Design Quality
- Integration Quality
- Software Installation Review
- Performance & Capacity
- Scalability
- Availability and Reliability
- Reliable Delivery
- Logging and Tracing
- Staff Qualifications
- Staff Utilization
- Architecture & Development Standards
- Monitoring and Instrumentation
- Organization / Management Structure
- Responsibility, Oversight, Enforcement
- Test Standards
- Version Control
- Configuration Management
- Change Control
- Administration & Operation Plan
- Support Desk Procedures
- Security
- Management, Staff, Standards

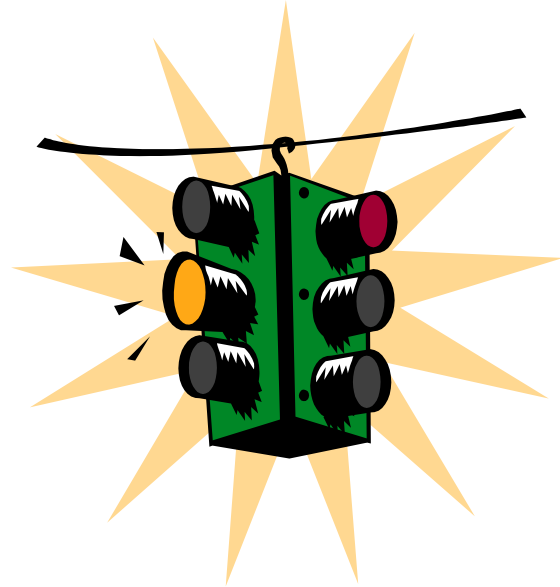


## Reporting:

Once the integration system assessment is complete and documented, the next phase is to rate each integration topic being reviewed. Using various statistical models, we are able to conclusively rate each integration topic as one of three major categories:

- Operating in Normal Behavior
- Abnormal Implementation Behavior
- Critical Risk of Implementation Failure

Once completed, an all-inclusive summarization of all integration topics is documented and verbally presented to the customer's Management & integration team.



## Best Practices:

We feel it's extremely important to not only provide a fully documented assessment, but also provide all the necessary solutions for implementing our recommendations. (Not only do we identify the problem, but we tell you how to fix it!) We provide Best Practices for each topic assessed during the Integration Audit. Our Best Practice's supplement the vendor's standard documentation and allow customer's to fully understand what is happening behind the scenes, as well as tell you what other customers have experienced throughout the years. The Best Practices are a compilation of numerous years implementing integration systems and webMethods solutions at over 50 customers. They provide the recommended approach for implementing a healthy integration environment, as well as provide the mechanism for scaling towards an Enterprise Transactional Engine.



## Customer Success:

Visual Integrator Consulting has performed numerous Integration Audits for various integration and webMethods customers. Below is a summarization of 2 recent Integration Audits performed for webMethods customers.

### Fortune 500 Manufacturing Corporation:

Visual Integrator performed an Integration Audit on the webMethods IS, Trading Networks, and Enterprise Server platform for a major Fortune 500 manufacturing firm. The audit proved extremely valuable, as it uncovered numerous risk points (Red Rating) in the customer's integration implementation. For example, the audit discovered that the customer was not obtaining 'fully Guaranteed delivery' for their critical transactions. The customer thought they were implementing Guaranteed transactions, but were not fully leveraging guaranteed messaging, guaranteed transactional management, and failure recovery. Also, numerous frameworks were recommended for naming conventions, logging, integration & performance testing, B2B programming, and other standard project solutions (Configuration management, object deployment, multi-developer environment). The Integration Audit allowed the customer to tighten their integration system, implement 'true' guaranteed delivery, and provided recommendations for making the integration solution more valuable throughout the enterprise.

### Fortune 500 Financial Institution:

A major Financial Corporation had a VIC Integration Audit performed on their recent webMethods 6 implementation. Our audit was able to discover **Red** Ratings for the following integration topics: webMethods objects & documents, Disaster Recovery, reliability (clustering), System monitoring, system maintenance, and organizational support. Our audit also exposed **Yellow** ratings for the following integration topics: security, capacity planning, naming conventions, supporting documentation, adapter development, source code control, error handling, large file handling. Our audit provided the Best Practice solutions to address all these topics, so that the customer's integration system, which is progressing into an Enterprise Transactional Engine, would not be at risk to system failures. The audit was described as "invaluable" and fixed all the unhealthy areas of integration system.

## Contact:

To schedule an Integration Audit or for more information on Visual Integrator Consulting products and services, please call us at 303-596-380, Email us at [info@visualintegrator.com](mailto:info@visualintegrator.com), or visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.visualintegrator.com](http://www.visualintegrator.com)

