



Frequently Asked Questions Concerning iBOLT

Q. What is iBOLT?

A. iBOLT is Magic Software's code-free, business integration suite that lets you customize and streamline business processes, integrating them across diverse applications, platforms, and databases.

Q. How does iBOLT accomplish this?

A. iBOLT simplifies the design and integration process by separating business logic from integration technology. You can make changes to prototype business models without affecting actual business or technical layers of your enterprise, *before* you invest in company-wide connectivity.

Q. Why is it so important to have a comprehensive business integration suite?

A. Industry analysts estimate that businesses spend between 20 and 40 percent of their IT budgets on business integration projects. At the same time, the complexity of the task of systems integration is increasing and they extend farther and farther out in the value chain with multiple points of integration both within and external to the organization.



Q. What are the objectives of an integration project?

A. Integration projects ensure that:

- Back-end systems can talk to front-end systems
- Legacy applications can communicate with new applications
- Existing applications and processes can be revived with upgraded capabilities, protecting the corporate investment in them
- Connectivity is available across physical boundaries
- Processes operate seamlessly with the organization and with customers
- The integrated environment operates transparently

Q. What does the iBOLT toolset include?

A. iBOLT's out-of-the-box toolset includes more than 50 connectors, adapters, and services that simplify and configure the technologies of integration.

Q. What types of users work with iBOLT?

A. iBOLT is designed for both technical and non-technical users, providing them with a complete integration environment that supports the entire spectrum of Business Process Management (BPM) and Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) projects. iBOLT's unique set of tools and interfaces empower the whole enterprise, enabling full participation and collaboration at every stage of the integration process for both business and IT staff.

Q. What data mapping capabilities does iBOLT include?

A. iBOLT's unique data mapping capabilities let you deal with all relevant data sources and destinations with a full, graphic view. In addition, iBOLT provides a native gateway to MS-SQL, My-SQL, Oracle DB2/400, and ODBC that lets you easily manipulate data using the Wizard-based SQL generator.



Q. Does iBOLT support SOA?

A. Absolutely. In fact, iBOLT's fundamental design concept is based on the establishment of business functions and the exposure of business processes as Services.

Q. Exactly what is SOA and why is it important to the integration process?

A. Unlike tightly coupled architectures in which changes to any one component may prompt changes to many other components, SOA (Service-Oriented Architecture) is a loosely coupled architecture that lets you define business processes as services or components. In a SOA, you can make changes to individual components without having to make reflective changes to other components in the architecture, allowing your organization to be much more agile in responding to the need for change.

Q. How does iBOLT enable SOA?

A. The iBOLT Flow Editor lets you map individual business flows that make up each business process, defining the messages and data exchanged between components as well as their interactions and business rules.

Q. What are Composite Applications?

A. Composite applications are assembled using both components from multiple existing application and added functionality developed specifically as services. The individual component parts of a Composite Application are created independently of the others, but they can be invoked and reused many times over in different applications. As a result, your company can build systems faster with fewer resources—and ensure consistency across the enterprise.



Q. What does the iBOLT Business Integration Suite include?

A. iBOLT consists of three main modules:

- iBOLT Studio is a component-based, high-level business process and integration deployment environment that includes the Business Process Editor for the actual modeling of processes, the Topology Editor that provides a graphical representation of the connections between the applications and the servers, the Flow Editor that defines the processes that exist between applications and iBOLT's pre-configured connectors and adaptors.
- iBOLT Server drives the integration project and manages all aspects of deployment including running the flows, routing flows to different servers, and providing monitoring functionality.
- iBOLT Monitor gives you a way to view the topology of all servers to monitor activities, gain visibility into the business flow and processes, and obtain real-time performance information.

Q. How does iBOLT reduce maintenance costs?

A. In an integrated environment, a single change to an application, system, or database can necessitate the rewriting of many processes and connectors. The iBOLT Studio gives developers a way to customize integrated systems rapidly with its portable architecture and built-in gateways and connectors. As a result, both maintenance costs and downtime are reduced.