



Speedy, Secure Information Exchange between Governments and Businesses



The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Finance of Singapore.

ACRA was established in April 2004 with the merger between Public Accountants Board and the Registry of Companies and Businesses.

ACRA's mission is to provide a responsive and trusted regulatory environment for businesses and public accountants that is conducive to enterprise and growth in Singapore.

As the administer of Singapore's repository of information and documents on registered entities, ACRA was looking for ways to provide information in real time, upon request by its business partners. This is how Web Services came into the picture.

Today, ACRA's public and private business partners are able to retrieve a set of common query-based Web Services easily and in real time with a Web Service call vis-à-vis multiple calls. Turnaround time for transactions is reduced from 5 days to 15 minutes.

Challenges

- Complex, duplication of multiple service calls
- Difficulty in verification and processing of service requests common to public and business partners

Benefits

- Speedy business collaboration and transactions at reduced costs
- New levels of service efficiency and governance
- New revenue streams by monetizing operations and services
- Complies with government's best practices

Innovations from Ecquaria

Built-in platform features:

- Web-Services ready
- Real-time KPI intelligent tracking
- Audit trails at critical application phases
- Full service transaction logging, recording and reporting capabilities

Innovations from Ecquaria

ACRA's move to adopting cutting-edge Web Services technology is a direct response to a major initiative by the Singapore government to facilitate speedy and secure exchange of information between agencies.

Information services handled by ACRA include services addressing the lifecycle services needs of starting, making changes to as well as closing of a business or company.

To identify suitable candidates for the Web Services, which would be mainly query-based, ACRA looked at the frequency of the requests. For example, popular ACRA services for companies included online verification of company registration number, enquiries about the company status, company basic profile and year-end financial information.

To enable ACRA's business partners and subscribers to retrieve a set of common query-based Web Services easily and in real-time, Ecquaria developed and built a Web Services Gateway for ACRA based on the **Ecquaria Service-Oriented Platform™ (Ecquaria SOP™)**.

The ACRA Web Services Gateway (ACRA WSG) is designed and implemented as a single, secure query engine and gateway for online business filing system which connects to the Government Web Services Exchange (GWS-Exchange) spearheaded by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA). The exchange, a broker for government Web Services, will allow government agencies to deploy and publish Web Services. For example, a service request from a public sector agency will go through the exchange and once it is verified, the ACRA system will pass back the service that is requested.

ACRA Web Services Gateway ▶

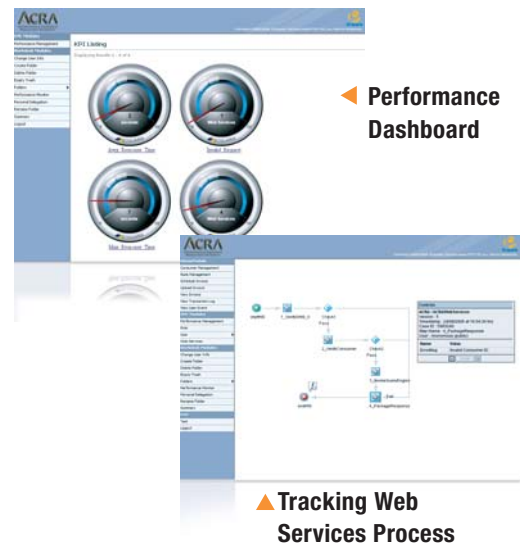


Results

With Web Services, subscribers benefit by getting real time access to information, reducing the information gap. And by making data available directly to a requesting system, the web services approach helps to reduce data entry errors.

The web-based ACRA WSG Administrative module enables users to better manage transactions on the system with increased levels of operational visibility and efficiency.

With improved service delivery to ACRA's partner ecosystem through the Web Services technology deployment, this puts ACRA at the leading edge of delivering commitment to service excellence. The project has won ACRA listings in the CIO 100 Honoree Roll in 2006 and 2008. ACRA also took the 2007 Government Technology Award for the "Information Management" category organized by Public Sector Technology Magazine.



For more information, visit www.ecquaria.com

Every effort has been made to ensure the information included in this brochure is true and correct at the time of going to press. However, the products described herein are subject to continuous development and improvement, and the right is reserved to change their specification at anytime.

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