

# Office Business Applications



## Overview

**Billions of dollars have been invested in purchasing, tailoring, deploying, and maintaining enterprise resource planning (ERP), customer relationship management (CRM), supply chain management (SCM), and other integrated business solutions, yet few companies see the promised benefits. Technology needs to do more than just automate the routine—it needs to mirror the ad hoc activities that people actually perform. The alternative is inefficiency arising from duplication and assumptions because people don't have the relevant data at hand.**

The failure to adequately connect people and their processes with the business data and processes embodied in line-of-business systems has become known as the "results gap." The results gap translates directly into the widespread failure to realize the expected returns on investments made in enterprise hardware and software.

Office Business Applications (OBAs) are an emerging breed of application that takes advantage of the platform capabilities of the Microsoft® Office system to bridge the results gap currently existing between line-of-business systems and end-user productivity tools.

Office Business Applications are made possible by key platform capabilities, called OBA Services, in the 2007 Microsoft Office system. These consist of workflow, search, the Business Data Catalog, an extensible new user interface, Open XML Formats, and the Web Site and Security Framework. These services can be used to extend Microsoft Office system investments in business intelligence, unified communications and collaboration, and enterprise content management, as well as other business applications by independent software vendors or corporate developers.

## Objectives

With the 2007 Office system, Microsoft Office has evolved beyond a productivity suite into a unified solutions platform that makes enterprise data and processes more accessible and relevant to users. Composed of clients, servers, services, and tools, it provides a single infrastructure for communication and collaboration, business intelligence, and content management solutions. The following objectives bring together relevant ideas, concepts, and best practices to aid architects in designing and building applications using the Microsoft Office system.

- *Bridge the results gap:* Simplify the number of applications and tools your users must access to gain insight, collaborate, make decisions, and take action on business application data.
- *Increase user adoption and satisfaction:* Empower your people by providing access to data in line-of-business systems from within the familiar Microsoft Office interface.
- *Connect structured and unstructured worlds of process and practice:* Enable users to conduct business seamlessly across business applications and collaborative interactions.

## Microsoft Products/Methodologies Involved

Some or all of the following may be involved in the engagement:

- Microsoft Office system, including:
  - Microsoft Office SharePoint® Server
  - Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer
  - Microsoft Office PerformancePoint® Server
  - Microsoft Office programs, including Office Outlook®, Office Word, Office Excel®, Office PowerPoint®, Office Access®, and Office InfoPath®
  - Open XML Formats
- Microsoft Visual Studio®
- Microsoft Visual Studio Tools for Office
- Microsoft SQL Server®
- Windows® SharePoint Services
- OBA Patterns and OBA Solutions Framework

ARCHITECTURE DESIGN SESSION	PROOF-OF-CONCEPT WORKSHOP
<p><b>OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>This intensive, two-day session is structured to find solutions to business challenges within your enterprise's unique technical and cultural environment. Microsoft Technology Center architects take the time to understand your unique situation, and then structure presentations and demonstrations tuned to your enterprise. Significant time is spent collaborating and whiteboarding architectural options that can meet your organization's needs.</p>	<p><b>OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>This one- to three-week workshop provides risk mitigation and knowledge transfer to your technical team on the latest Microsoft technologies. Our experts work side by side with your developers and architects to prove out the riskiest parts of a solution.</p> <p>Many proof-of-concept workshops focus on functions, performance, and scalability concerns by building out slices of the solution and demonstrating exactly what the solution can and cannot do in practice. Others focus on business risks by building a prototype that allows business users to see and touch a portion of the solution to ensure it meets their needs. In either case, the opportunity for your technology experts to learn in an immersing and dynamic environment is a great way to start benefiting immediately from new technologies.</p>
<p><b>DELIVERABLES</b></p> <p>During the architecture design session, we will plan a high-level architecture framework and conceptual design for a solution based on your organization's business goals and technical requirements. In addition to a written summary of the engagement, you will also have acquired information around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Extensible user interface:</i> The programs in the Microsoft Office 2007 suites support a wide variety of customizations to add the exact features that people need.</li> <li>• <i>Integration platform:</i> The Business Data Catalog (BDC) functionality of Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 allows Microsoft Office programs to reference read-only data from line-of-business (LOB) systems.</li> <li>• <i>Workflow:</i> Windows Workflow Foundation forms an integral part of the Office Business Application platform to facilitate automated workflow processes.</li> <li>• <i>Open XML Formats:</i> New, open file formats expand the use of documents throughout the enterprise. Generating automated documents is easier than ever, and data can be embedded for tracking, workflow, LOB data associations, or even caching to allow offline editing of information.</li> <li>• <i>Workgroup collaboration:</i> Create a highly collaborative work environment that facilitates collaboration on the individual, workgroup, organizational, and enterprise levels, both within and outside the organization.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DELIVERABLES</b></p> <p>At the conclusion of the workshop, your development team will have gained working knowledge in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Line-of-business integration:</i> Using the BDC to connect to your organization's LOB system.</li> <li>• <i>User interface customization:</i> Configuring the interface for SharePoint sites and the programs in the Microsoft Office 2007 suites.</li> <li>• <i>Workflow:</i> Using the workflow features within SharePoint sites and the programs in the Office 2007 suites.</li> <li>• <i>Server topology:</i> Understanding the server topology required to deploy your OBA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PRIMARY AUDIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical and business decision makers</li> <li>• IT managers</li> <li>• Architects</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Business managers</li> </ul>	<p><b>PRIMARY AUDIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architects</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Operations engineers</li> <li>• Test/quality assurance (QA) engineers</li> <li>• Technical staff</li> </ul>

**Contact Information**

To schedule an architecture design session or proof-of-concept workshop, contact the Microsoft Technology Center in your area:

- Atlanta • Bangalore • Beijing • Boston • Chicago • Dallas • Dubai • Dublin • Irvine • Munich • New York • Paris • Reston • Silicon Valley • Taipei • Thames Valley (UK)