



# SOA's missing link: re-usable UIs

Turning the user interface into a seamless single entity

**C**orizon has announced version 3 of its User Process Management (UPM) platform which is said to improve the productivity of employees and consumers who use multiple IT applications.

The software allows companies to adopt an SOA approach to the presentation layer of applications so that the functionality of the User Interface (UI) can be re-used to create a more flexible 'composite' UI that is fully suited to the needs of individuals or groups of people. Crucially, this is achieved without having to rebuild underlying functionality.

The Corizon Platform gives enterprise architects the tool to take UIs from web or Windows applications and break each of them down into separate components which become service-enabled 'building blocks'.

This allows organisations to leverage their investment in legacy and packaged applications. In addition, entirely new service-enabled components can be created from within the SOA to provide new building blocks. These separate components – both new and legacy – can then be rearranged, which allows:

- **modification (for example adding buttons, altering look and feel etc);**
- **orchestration (assembling different components of UI into the required combination), and;**
- **the ability to introduce logging (to measure and monitor how the UI components are used as part of business processes).**

The result is then deployed as a new or composite UI which retains the relevant functionality of the original components.

This composite UI appears to be a single, seamless entity to the users and is much simpler and faster to use. The Corizon Platform ensures that the new UI functions are built and maintained in a single place – either in applications or built on SOA services – and deployed to internal and external users as required.

The launch of version 3 of the Corizon Platform addresses a vital missing link in Service Oriented Architectures (SOAs). Currently, the focus is on building, linking and re-using business services that provide data and logic: UIs still need to be developed and customised for different purposes and there is a hidden assumption that the UI of existing applications will be discarded.

This is a problem when it is critical to rapidly expose different permutations of functionality to different groups of users in a seamless, usable form.