Challenges in Event Based Systems for Commercial Use

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- Event based approaches have been used in commercial systems management for decades
 - Primarily for point to point integration between products that were not originally designed to work together.
 - Loose coupling is more cost-effective than rewriting lots of incompatible products
- The proliferation of approaches now beginning to succumb to brittleness and O(n2) complexity issues
- Where do we go from here?

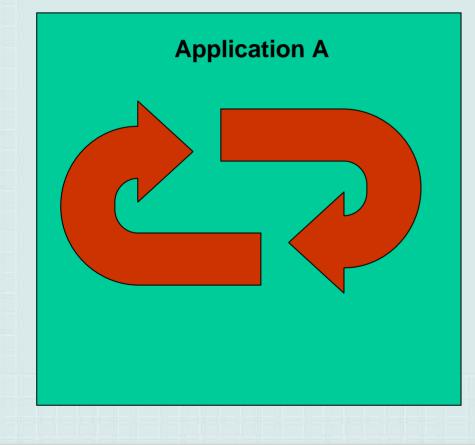


- The idea arose from the need to get two or more pieces of software to inter-operate when they weren't designed to do that in the first place
- Passing a message of some sort was easier than rewriting complex applications
- People realized the advantages of flexibility through loose coupling



Ancient History – 1950's

Stand alone applications

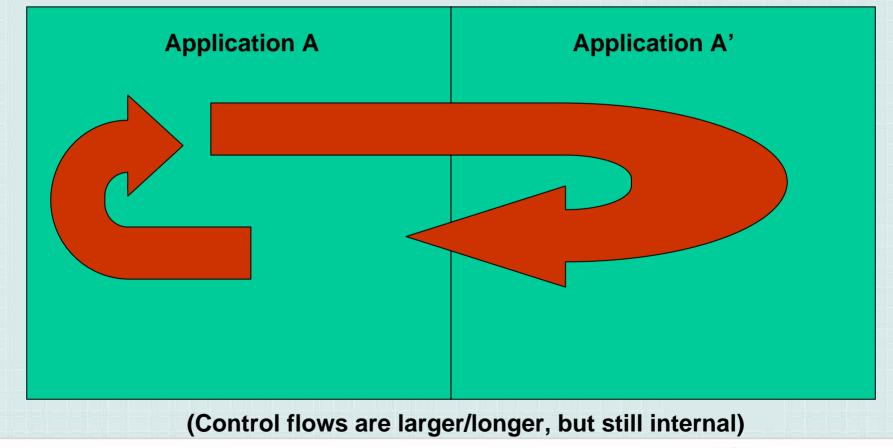


All control flows are internal to the program



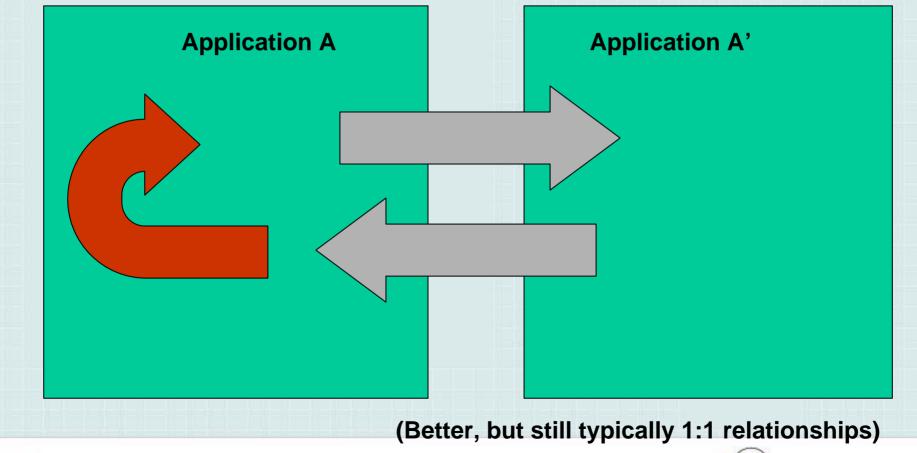
Ancient History - 1960's-1970's

Tight coupling: Bound at link time



Slightly More Recent – 1980s

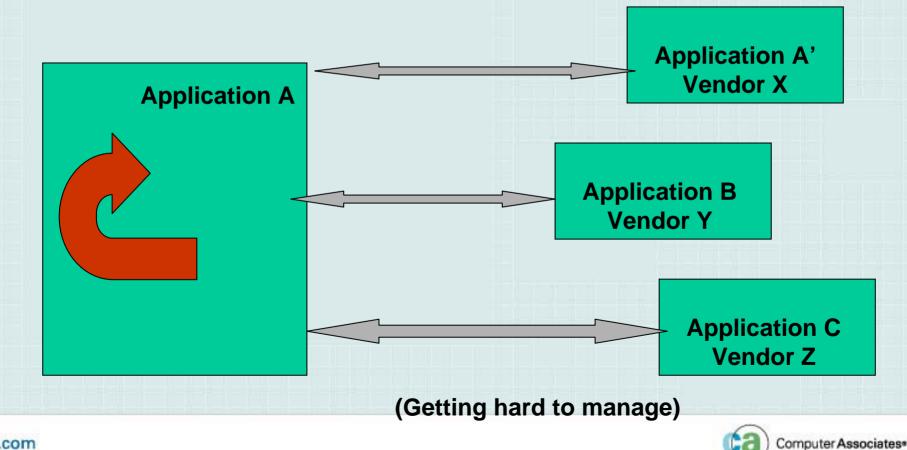
Loose coupling: Message Passing Between Functional Units





Current Need





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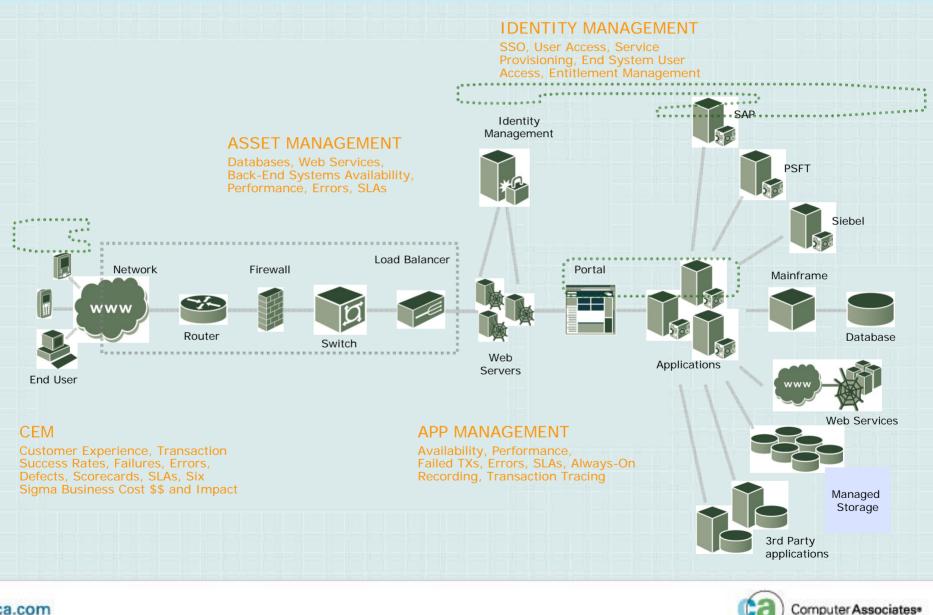
We Agree Events Are Great, But...

• Many event interfaces and programming models

- Logs, streams, traps, proprietary interfaces
- Variety creates complexity for developers
- Very large numbers of devices in the network
 - Variety creates complexity for users
- Complexity has gotten out of hand



IT is Highly Distributed...



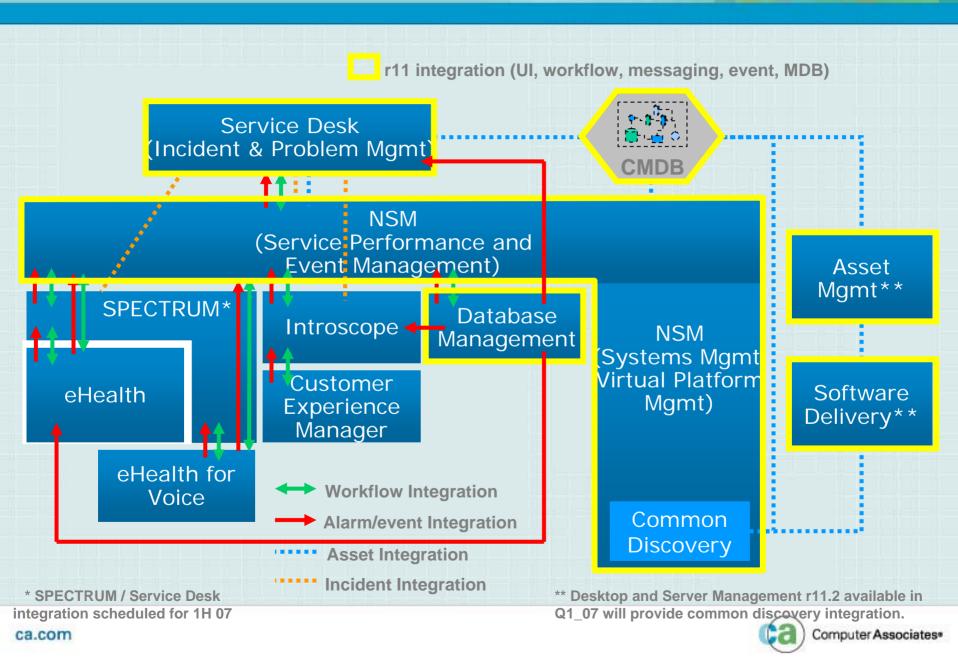
Complexity Is Out Of Control...





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Typical Integration Picture Now



There are just too many event formats

- It is no big deal when you're only interested in a few things
- It is completely unwieldy if you're interested in many things
- Management products are by their nature interested in many things



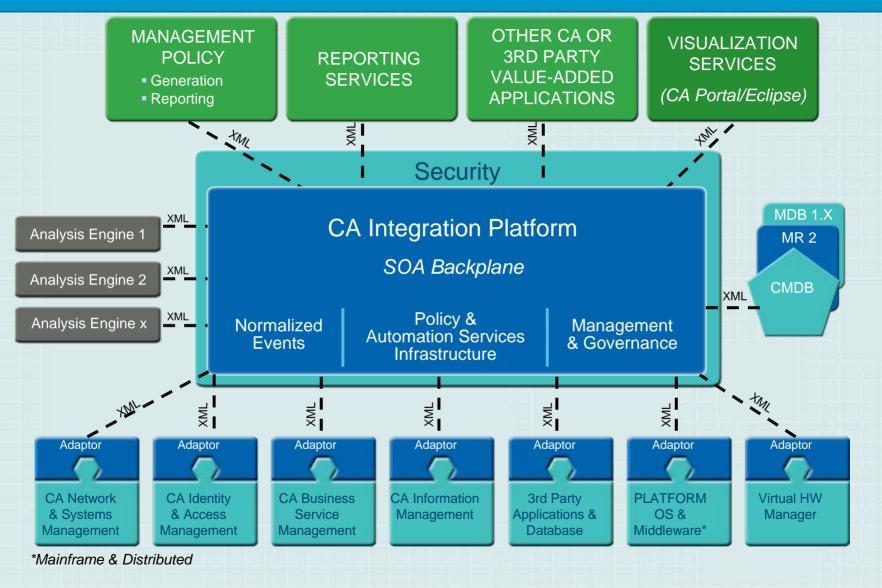
- Single message producer single consumer
- Single producer multiple consumers
- Multiple producers and consumers
- Easy to do for 1:1 or 1:few
- Becomes burdensome for 1:many
- Need a broker to make sense of it
- But which one do you choose?



- Standards are a way out
- Map existing event sources into a common format understood by all consumers
- Provide a single mechanism for subscriptions and notifications
- Provide a rich and resilient mechanism for describing topics of interest



Our Future Architecture





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Closing Plea

- DEBS are the right answer to the problems facing the management software industry
- Academic insights needed to help us find solutions to pressing problems
- Work within the scope of the standards
- Don't create brand new standards, make the ones we already have better

