



# Meeting Review — November 6, 2006

By Glenn Gundermann



Once again several of us TUGers found ourselves at Conestoga College in Kitchener, just an hour west of Toronto. The topic of the night was SOA (Service Oriented Architecture) and was broken into two parts. The first part was SOA 101, presented by SOA architect **Cameron MacLean** from IBM. The second part was presented by **Peter Starodub** from MCAP who shared with us his implementation of an SOA project. Cameron covered all the basics plus more. What Is SOA, the value of SOA, the Goal of SOA, and Navigating it all – what's REALLY in an SOA. **Be prepared for change. It's the only thing you can count on.**



Léo Lefebvre

Cameron MacLean

## What is ....?

- ... a service?  
A **repeatable business task** – e.g., check customer credit; open new account
- ... service orientation?  
A way of integrating your **business as linked services** and the outcomes that they bring
- ... service oriented architecture (SOA)?  
An IT **architectural style** that supports service orientation
- ... a composite application?  
A set of **related & integrated** services that support a business process built on an SOA

He covered terms like Business Process Model (BPM), Business Process Execution Language (BPEL), and Process Server.

## New World Of Business

Those who think of new innovations, and getting them to market fastest, are those who will win. Support the company goals through efficiency and agility. Increase revenues and decrease costs. Cameron presented some statistics for Standard Life:

- 400 services over 5 years
- decreased the number of interfaces to 120, down by 51%
- increased the transaction rate by 900% without increased operations staff
- improved responsiveness to market change and customer needs



Léo Lefebvre

Peter Starodub

What I find a challenge to grasp is the difference between SOA and SCA (Service Component Architecture) but luckily we have people like Cameron to take us where we need to go. For more information, see [www.ibm.com/soa](http://www.ibm.com/soa), which also includes, among a lot of useful information like white papers, web casts, etc., a free on-line IBM SOA Assessment tool that when done will provide you with a nice formatted report.

## How Hard Can It Be?

That's how Peter started his presentation and went through a very detailed explanation of his company's business requirements. He explained the three possible solutions for consideration were duplicate, gateway, and SOA. They have done a lot of work on SOA and their work is not done. The presentation was very informative, highlighted how much planning needs to be done, and how you need very good people in order to do this.

It's worth the drive to Kitchener to catch a COiN meeting! More information can be found (including presentation materials) at [www.coinusergroup.ca](http://www.coinusergroup.ca) or e-mail [coininfo@coinusergroup.ca](mailto:coininfo@coinusergroup.ca) for further details.

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