



# PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

## SOA Blueprint

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Business and IT jointly leverage portfolio management tools to manage the portfolio of SOA projects. These tools enable business users to submit their project requests. Tools map requests to the IT governance model and help IT manage applications, integration, data centers, and networks. Depending on the particular tool and objective of the IT organization, tools can also be used for resource planning, skills mapping, and monitoring funding for a project.

Portfolio management software helps IT define a roadmap aligned closely to the business by translating business strategy into high-level business prioritization plans. IT organizations can then execute to this plan, while monitoring it to ensure that there isn't any deviation. Functionality supported by this type of tool includes:

- Mapping all the projects to the original business case to help make sure that they are aligned to the business objectives
- Keeping track of all these assets in a single repository (different from the SOA repository) with the capability to highlight duplicate business logic, dependencies, and resource constraints
- Mapping all the dependencies and being able to send alerts whenever a change violates the business rules
- Managing all change requests and defect tracking, including impact on other projects
- Exporting tasks and projects to third-party tools such as enterprise service repository, project management, and development tools.

Typically only large IT organizations require a portfolio management tool, because of the licensing and administrative overhead cost associated with such a tool. A single instance of this tool could be used enterprise-wide or for a specific LOB, unless regulations require IT organizations to deploy multiple instances of such a tool. The biggest challenge of leveraging such a tool is encouraging adoption; the IT leadership team needs to enforce it.

The first task of all IT organizations is to document and communicate the process and lifecycle for managing project requests. This task is typically the responsibility of the program management office (PMO) or the application development team.

There are typically two steps to initiate a project. The business owners submit a request to IT for initiating a project, and IT engages a technical team to estimate the effort for the projects.

Based on the estimates, the IT board of directors may approve or reject the project. If they approve, a team is assembled under the leadership of a project manager to deliver the application to the business. The best practice is to map the entire application lifecycle management using this tool.

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