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## Ensemble Rapid Integration Enables Financial Services Compliance

Over the last few years, financial services firms have been hit with a number of new SEC and other regulatory compliance rules, including the Patriot ACT, SEC Rule 17a-4, and Sarbanes-Oxley. In addition, new regulations, such as Market Timing for Mutual Funds, are already on the table.

### The Technology Problem

Financial services firms have addressed these regulations in multiple ways, including custom development projects, packaged compliance solutions, or enhancements to existing systems. Unfortunately, many firms treat each compliance requirement separately, with the consequence of creating an inconsistent patchwork of technologies and processes. In addition, as regulation changes are introduced, existing systems must be enhanced or extended to meet new requirements, further exacerbating the problem. The challenge for any financial services firm is to implement the many compliance solutions in a timely manner, while keeping the overall cost to a minimum.

Most compliance solutions contain common architectural components, including a portal-like user interface, business process definitions, alert and filter mechanisms, adapters to homegrown systems and packaged software, and activity monitoring (mostly done in batch). However, these common components are often not reused, resulting in costly, individual solutions.

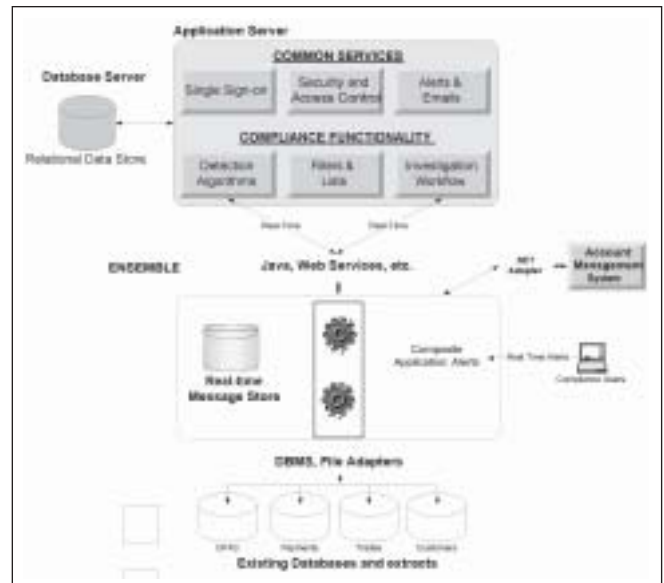
Many organizations have tried one of two tactical approaches to solve their regulatory needs: packaged compliance solutions or traditional EAI software. There are problems with both approaches. Existing packaged solutions relegate compliance activities to technological silos, preventing the reuse of common components and integration with other key applications such as risk management. Traditional EAI software suffers from a lack of real-time data monitoring and access, while also increasing administration costs due to the fragmented nature of the integration solution itself.

### The Solution

There is another way. InterSystems' Ensemble universal integration platform provides financial services organizations with a comprehensive, flexible platform for creating and managing compliance processes and applications. Unlike traditional EAI products, Ensemble excels at enabling rapid development of custom solutions that are more agile and complete than packaged compliance solutions. Ensemble offers an extensible platform for extending and integrating existing compliance applications into a holistic and interoperable framework for compliance.

The following attributes enable Ensemble users to rapidly create strategic compliance solutions:

- **Real-time data access:** Ensemble's architecture, scalability, and transactional bitmap indexing technology enable firms to build real-time compliance solutions that extend existing



batch and reporting solutions to provide real-time alerts, notifications, and reporting.

- **Rapid integration:** Ensemble's unified graphical and XML-based development environment blends process modeling with custom code. It supports rapid, service-oriented development of composite applications that leverage existing data and functionality.
- **Persistent object engine:** Ensemble has a distributed, high-performance, scalable, SQL-compliant object database that manages and stores all metadata, messages and process state information, without the cost or overhead that is typical of relational databases. Organizations receive all the benefits of object-orientation as well as real-time access to data.
- **Universal service architecture:** The consistent object representation of disparate programming models and data formats enables use of the most powerful development tools and technologies to access legacy data and functionality as reusable .NET or J2EE components, Web services or XML.

### The Benefits

By their nature, regulatory compliance and corporate governance solutions are constantly changing. Companies need to approach compliance as a strategic issue, requiring a flexible and extensible framework that can be easily leveraged as regulations are introduced or changed. Ensemble allows firms to build complete, real-time compliance solutions, while leveraging existing investments in custom systems and vendor packages. The result is more effective compliance that is less costly, complex, and time-consuming to implement. **bij**

Ensemble is available from InterSystems Corp., One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142-1356. Voice: 617-621-0600; Website: [www.InterSystems.com](http://www.InterSystems.com).