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Information and logistics architectures; creative-motivational workshops / workgroups; "unconventional" problem solving

YBN / NBI development steps

YBN [Your Business Networked] and NBI [New Breed of ICT] provide an innovative operating support to company and value-chain activities:

- Simple, secure and flexible on the users' side;
- Robust and performing on the technical side;
- Heavily integrated into the telecommunication network;
- Capable of continuously enabling the re-design of business processes.

Their designer, Alfredo Bregni, has 9 year experience in electronic design and more than 20 in business consulting (McKinsey & Company, ODi ManEnt S.r.l., Value Partners S.p.A.), during which he perceived the lack of a really valid IT offer for businesses: simple, inexpensive, effective, comprehensive and flexible. Therefore, he devised an innovative project for a truly flexible, comprehensive and robust IT support for business networking – a more comprehensive concept than workflow – of which he developed the system design and a large part of the detailed design. It's an application with enables a close cooperation between the human being and the machine, in a simple (structured processes), yet articulated field (company integration + value-chain cooperation).

The new value proposition consists in:

- Providing users with an easily understandable specification language for company / value-chain business networking;
- Having the user-defined specs directly executed by a streamlined, distributed IT platform, delayered and close to the TLC network, on which platform the specification language is "native";
- Making other imperative services available at the same time (not as add-on's, but as built-in features): access security; service continuity; process integrity; activity tracking / certification; reduction of clients' information systems workload;
- Offering, in this way, both an enabler of radical redesigns and a flexible tool for continuous improvements.

It's what everybody wants and many declare to provide. Since the author is a pioneer in this field – his first BPR dates back to 1987; his first flexible, "BPM-like" IT support to 1989 (the very idea of this platform stems from those experiences) – he believes to offer a "simplifying" solution, better focused on the most relevant objectives.

Among the technical novelties introduced by the project, one can find:

- The distributed interpreter of the specification language, capable of translating the business networking needs into a massive management of message queues (in other words, of closing the gap between the business and the network, today packed by "too much IT");
- The HW architecture of the distributed platform, similar to cloud computing (although targeted to resilience, as opposed to computing power).

The tipping point of the project, in this phase, will be translating the system and detailed design already performed into HW and SW prototypes, in order to verify usage and operating characteristics (both innovative). The development has three components:

- YBN language demo;
- Individual organization's system prototype;
- Shared platform prototype.

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The YBN language demo is actually a simplified functional simulation, without some important services (security and service continuity, in the first place), but complete as regards the specification language, to be thoroughly tested.

The demo / simulation will be programmed on one PC only, or a small network of PC's, preparing the SW solution for the subsequent addition of the security features, which belong to the same SW layer of the functional component.

The individual organization's system prototype builds upon the YBN language demo, to which it must add the security features. It will be programmed on servers, with a possible ad hoc "trimming" of Linux, if useful, and an important test in malfunction conditions.

The shared platform prototype builds upon the YBN language demo and the individual organization's system prototype, to which it must add the distributed features and, most of all, the testing of malfunction conditions within a distributed architecture.

Eventually, the SW will be composed of very few layers, both on terminals and on company and platform servers:

- Two layers on terminals:
  - Application layer (presentation / input, action forwarding and security);
  - Base layer (operating system);
- Three layers on servers:
  - Application layer (action forwarding, i.e. pushing forward the company / value-chain processes, and security);
  - Intermediate layer (redundant storage and related synchronizations / recovery);
  - Base layer (ad hoc "trimmed" Linux).