

## **Capgemini sd&m: Symbiosis between standard software and tailored software required**

**At Capgemini sd&m AG's 10th Architecture forum, experts discussed how to better integrate standard software into the architecture of large organizations and what steps are required on the part of the manufacturers to facilitate this.**

Zurich, 14 May 2009 – On the 11th May 2009, Capgemini sd&m AG held the 10th architecture forum in Zurich. This forum was devoted to "The symbiosis between standard software and tailored software". The participants were of one mind that development in this area is still only just beginning. Clients in the large organizations are looking for tight integration between these two worlds. And yet the standard software packages are often poor team players: They have monolithic structures, possess too few accessible interfaces and are not designed to make use of the existing services of other applications.

Dr. Thomas Kunst, senior architect at Capgemini sd&m, stressed that "standard software must be built with a more modular structure than previously to allow even individual components to be used within an architecture." He went on to say that the manufacturers of standard software needed to enter into a more open dialog with their large-scale users and also demanded that certain services should be standardized and that standard interfaces should be established.

But it is also the responsibility of those responsible for architectures to force the pace of integration. "They must see standard software as a networked component in a complex application landscape," claims Stefano Trentini, Managing Director of Capgemini sd&m AG in Switzerland. This also involves thinking in terms of services and planning in terms of dependencies. What services of a package are to be used by other applications and what other applications are to be used by the package? Service-oriented package-based solutions

(SOPS) designed according to these criteria allow application landscapes to be optimized along service-oriented lines.

For Dr. Stephan Aier of the Institute of Information Management at the University of St. Gallen, one question therefore arose from his paper: "How does a good architecture facilitate successful standard software?" And the large companies are well aware of this problem. Erwin Lander, head of Integration at the Zürcher Kantonalbank argued for active representation in the suppliers' committees in order to allow the customers' requirements with respect to processes, functions and data to be considered as early as possible. Stefan Mau, Enterprise Architect at the Schweizerische Mobiliar Versicherungsgesellschaft, presented a practical example that clearly illustrated how demanding a task it still is to integrate a standard software package into an existing architecture.

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