

Spagic 3: Open Source SOA Universal Middleware

*Gianfranco Boccalon
Spagic Project Leader*

1. In which domains is Spagic employed and with which solutions does it compete?

Spagic was developed as an integration middleware platform. The new release, Spagic 3, promotes its usage to a wider range of situations, offering the concept of Universal Middleware, which is able to host and orchestrate its native services and offers a new way of developing applicative services. Spagic competes with commercial open source solutions, such as JBoss Enterprise SOA, as well as with proprietary solutions, such as Intalio BPM.

2. What is Universal Middleware?

According to the OSGi (Open Services Gateway Initiative) model, Universal Middleware is a platform able to manage the packaging of applications, the hot deploy of services. Spagic 3, which is OSGi based, adds a wide range of connectors, services and tools to support the developing of applications belonging to the SOA paradigm.

3. How can Spagic 3 be so highly modular and configurable?

In Spagic 3, modularity is peculiar to all tools. It can manage the lifecycle of services, install them dynamically and manage different versions. Another example of modularity is the Service Manager. The Service Manager is the container that hosts and orchestrates the services. There are different deployment models, according to the project requirements. The first option is the Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) model, where the Service Manager is installed as a central node that exposes the services using different protocol connectors. Another option is the embedded model, where the Service Manager is integrated within the web application, which can use the services without using the connectors.

4. Who is Spagic 3 addressed to?

It is addressed to all enterprises and integrators that want to use well-constructed SOA platforms, where the management tools play an essential role. Many categories of users are involved, such as the analysts (who design the process), the engineers (who add all the technical information to the processes and deploy them) as well as the management team (which performs the monitoring of the platform).

5. Do you know anybody already using Spagic 3?

At present, Spagic 3 is the reference platform for some important projects within the Italian public administration. Moreover, it is used in an Italian research project, whose goal is the services distribution and, last but not least, by some important customers of Engineering.