

Interview with Michael Poulin about his Book “Ladder to SOE”

Q: Michael, how has your self-consciousness changed after the book was published? Who are you now – a software architect or a writer, like Leo Tolstoy?

M: Definitely, a writer... At least, from my wife’s point of view. Now she calls me: “The writer, do the dishes!”

Q: I see, this is why you were waiting so long to publish your first book... By the way, why have you written it in the first place?

M: In the chapter “From the author” I share my story... Besides, for last two years I have had many articles written on the same theme of service-oriented solutions. You can say that I was obsessed with this... It is difficult to discuss the service-oriented concept in its multiple dimensions in a short article. The book allowed me to address all topics at once... It is a sort of an uninterrupted dialogue with the reader.

Q: You said the book was published. Where can I buy it?

M: It is available already from Amazon worldwide, as well as from several big booksellers in the UK and USA . If you want to find more details about the book, you can look at my Web Site where I’ve posted the table of contents and a few extracts from several chapters.

Q: Can you explain the idea of your book in one sentence?

M: Though I like service-oriented architecture – SOA- but service-oriented enterprise – SOE - is dearer to my heart; thus the book is full of discussions and recommendations on how to construct such enterprise from Business and IT perspectives.

Q: You are talking about service orientation. Do you mean SOA? Google gives me 46.5 million links on SOA; why anybody would buy your book in this circumstance?

M: This book is not about SOA though it is mentioned on many occasions. Instead, the book capitalises on the opportunity opened by the OASIS SOA Reference Model and Reference Architecture (draft) standards that expand SOA onto business. Following the same line of logic, I have reviewed corporate business model from the perspectives of service orientation and discussed the results for the business and IT. Among others things, I argue in the book that SOA is incapable of providing for its maximum business value in isolation from other structural elements of an enterprise; this is why the book title talks about a ladder to the Service-Oriented Enterprise, in short - SOE.

Q: Do you think you can make a fortune out of this book?

M: As an old saying goes ”Those who cannot do, teach; those who cannot teach, consult”. Joke apart, all I hope for is that a business person somewhere will read my ideas and use them to make his or her company more efficient; and when they hire me next time, the job

will be stable and joy to me, personally, and to any IT guys from my flock. So, my future looks lucrative...

Q: Who are your prospective readers?

M: First of all, I count on Business and Technical Architects working at enterprise level because service orientation starts and moves top-down. I also hope that high and middle level management in Business and Technology can benefit from my explanations and discussions especially now when service orientation becomes a commodity and distributed computing such as SaaS and Cloud Computing are offered to the business to consider. Since service orientation requires fundamental methodology shift, I believe that programme and project managers as well as advanced designers and developers will find in my book many useful recommendations on ROI calculation, specifics of project management, design and testing in service-oriented environment. In any case, the book tries to demonstrate that SOA is just one of many aspects of service-oriented solutions leading to business efficiency.

Q: And where the 'Ladder to SOE' leads us to?

M: It leads to new horizons... Now, when several fundamental ideas about service-oriented business are sorted out, it is much easier for me to concentrate on separate aspects of service orientation and go into more actual areas of enterprise organisation. One of such aspects is service collaboration, another one is around Cloud Computing and business service orientation.

Q: Meaning, we can count on more books...

M: Well, I already bought a paper-stack for my printer

Authorised by O.P.