

## **CASE STUDY: NATIONAL PORTAL**

### **The Situation**

Verlyee was approached to support the development of business requirements for the implementation of a National Web Portal delivering electronic services to 3+ million users. The overall timescales identified to deliver this work was 3 months and included a technical options appraisal, identification of functional requirements of the portal and documentation of all findings.

### **The Challenge**

The challenge to be discovered after the initial discussion was the technical options appraisal. This required the assessment of options integrating a high number (100+) of existing back-end systems in order for users to access data stored within. This was complicated due to the fact that the existing IT systems were up to 10 years old and did not provide any standard interfaces for integration and/or data exchange.

### **The Solution**

The solution was based on the introduction of a middle layer, which exposes Web Service interfaces to the Web Application itself, as well integrates the existing legacy systems using vendor specific APIs. By defining standard messages (XML) for the Web Service interfaces, overall integration risks could be addressed, as well as overall implementation cost minimized.

### **The Results**

The solution provided a path for future interoperability and simplified integration using SOA principles. The client was able to convince suppliers of existing legacy systems to provide access to their products by adding and supporting a Web Service compliant interface, therefore extending the lifespan of the existing IT systems while developing a future oriented portal platform.

### **Lessons Learned**

No matter how complex or high the number of existing back-end systems, n-tier architectures using SOA principle will provide benefits to those who implement them and those who will further develop applications on top.