

Top 10 Reasons to Choose an Open Source Application Integration Solution

White Paper

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#### Introduction

In today's software markets, open source technologies are giving commercial products some stiff competition, and Enterprise Service Buses (ESBs) are no exception. ESBs provide a flexible connectivity layer to reliably and securely integrate distributed systems and remote locations while reducing the number, size and complexity of application interfaces. Jos Dirksen, enterprise architect and co-author of *Open Source ESBs in Action*, is not alone in his belief that "today's top open source ESBs are on par with commercial alternatives."

Some commercial vendors would have you believe that only ESBs packaged as part of a complex stack of integrated components can meet the needs of an enterprise. In truth, you can achieve high-performance application integration without buying into an entire service-oriented architecture (SOA) stack and story. Such stacks go hand-in-hand with significant upfront financial (and resource) investment, and are overkill for most application integration requirements.

If you are interested in moving towards adopting service-based architecture to integrate disparate applications, it's best to take an incremental approach. Lightweight ESBs offer a low cost, scalable, and practical approach to enterprise application integration. Such ESBs are componentized to interoperate with what you already have rather than being delivered as part of a heavyweight SOA stack that requires significant upfront investment. And they allow you to add what you need – when you need it – growing your infrastructure to support the business.

Talend delivers modular application integration solutions – including an ESB – that supports this incremental approach. Available under an open source license, Talend ESB provides an ideal way to get started even more quickly because it has no license fees. As important, it is supported by documented examples as well as thriving developer and user communities focused on practical use.

To help you evaluate various application integration solutions and technologies available on the market, and to compare the leading open source application integration technology with alternatives, this white paper presents top 10 reasons why organizations are choosing open source AND Talend for application integration.



# #10 - Market-Ready Products, Not Evaluation

## **Versions**

While "you get what you pay for" might be good advice when it comes to choosing a restaurant, it does not ring true with software. Because of its crowd-sourced development model, open source code often has fewer bugs and becomes more flexible and reliable with each passing week. Because it is peer-reviewed, open source is always improving and constantly adapting.

Talend application integration products are not limited versions or "trial ware." They contain all the features required for building powerful integration solutions, and are freely downloadable and usable under the Apache license.

Talend Service Factory Community Edition allows users to easily integrate and expand systems and applications by applying SOA principles to address any integration challenge — from simple departmental projects to complex, heterogeneous IT environments. An open, lightweight and flexible SOAP and REST Web services framework based on Apache CXF and Apache Karaf, it is provided as a single, preconfigured package that enables developers to quickly build and deploy Web services on all popular Java environments.

**Talend Integration Factory Community Edition** takes application integration one step further by leveraging well know Enterprise Integration Patterns (EIPs) to make message-based system integration simpler to

design and implement. Powered by Apache Camel, Talend Integration Factory is an open source Java framework that lets you create EIPs to implement routing and mediation rules using a Java-based Domain Specific Language (DSL). This means you get smart, reliable completion of routing rules that can be easily and rapidly updated if requirements change.

**Talend ESB** combines and extends the features of Talend Services Factory and Talend Integration Factory with additional, enterprise-level functionality (service locator, enhanced security, administration and configuration services) for enterprise-grade projects. Talend offers high-level technical support to respond to corporate issues and legal guarantees of intellectual property protection (IP indemnification).

It is important to note that not all open source code evolves at the same rate. Popular projects progress rapidly. But, if you are using open source code from obscure, lesser-known projects, the smaller development community means slower development, fewer features and less quality control. This is why Talend has chosen its application integration components from the most popular Apache application integration projects.

If you're undecided between Talend Service Factory, Talend Integration Factory and Talend ESB, the <u>Features Comparison Matrix</u> provides an excellent overview of the features of the different products.



# #9 - No Barrier to Adoption

Implementing Talend application integration solutions is quick and easy—just <u>download</u> the latest version from <u>Talend's website</u> and install it. If you have any problems (or just want more information), the community <u>forums</u> should be able to help you out. The products are free, which means that you don't need to justify it to management or start a formal procurement

process before solving your integration issues. You won't spend any time on administration tasks and won't need any vendor face time. You can use the product in an unlimited mode and, of course, keep it as long as you like.

You'll also gain timely access to free product upgrades by downloading new versions as they become available. The underlying technology of Talend integration products is developed at the <u>Apache Software Foundation (ASF)</u>, a leading open source community recognized for its transparency and for delivering enterprise-grade, freely available software products that are designed and built from a diverse community of users.

Users of Talend Service Factory and Talend Integration Factory get access to the best, most innovative Web services framework and rule-based routing and transport mediation engine, supported by both open source contributors and commercial vendors alike. Patches for Apache versions are typically made available every 8-10 weeks. As new functionality is incorporated into the project source code, Talend engineers certify and release new, stable versions of Talend Integration Factory for download.

No need to negotiate with the vendor. Do you need an application integration solution now? <u>Download</u> and start using it immediately!



# #8 - Fast Learning Curve

Not only can you get started quickly with unlimited access to enterprisegrade software. Talend provides you with pre-configured packages and documented examples to reduce your time-to-market and value.

Talend Service Factory is downloadable as a single package and both Apache Karaf and Eclipse Equinox are pre-configured and ready to run – right out-of-the-box – reducing the learning curve so developers can

quickly get started with OSGi. And deployment is also made easy, through a powerful Karaf deployment console. Talend Integration Factory is also available as a single installation package certified for a wide variety of Java production environments, assuring both developers and IT managers that the software is fit for deployment within mission critical environments. Developers also benefit from documented examples based on real world experiences of Talend consultants.

Talend application integration solutions incorporate the combined experiences of the leaders of populare Apache integration projects with those of Talend consultants that deploy these same technologies in mission-critical IT environments. The result is a solution that eases the deployment of application integration without sacrificing performance or flexibility.



# #7 - Open Source Affordability

Through open source, enterprises can achieve the benefits of a more open, less complex and affordable integration platform without the significant upfront investment required by proprietary software vendors. As with many open source products, Talend application integration products can be obtained at no cost. This allows you to get started today with immediate access to stable, certified versions of the leading open source integration technology.

Talend Integration Factory is licensed under Apache License v2.0, granting users with the openness and flexibility to get started quickly without the large upfront costs of enterprise software. Talend provides users of open source with documentation and services to help build robust enterprise software that can be trusted to run mission-critical IT systems – all backed by professional support when needed.



## #6 - The Strength of a Community

When one refers to open source, the community is also there. Open source users benefit from the strength of this community, both in terms of support and product development.

And, in a free and open marketplace, the best ideas win. Open source communities attracts very bright, motivated developers, who – while frequently unpaid – are very disciplined. These developers are not part of corporate cultures where the best route to large salaries is to move into management; hence open source developers are amongst the most experienced in the industry. All users have access to source code and debugging tools, and often suggest both bug fixes and enhancements as actual changes to the source code. Consequently the quality of software produced by the community frequently exceeds that produced by commercial organizations.

Talend's <u>online community</u> offers many resources that facilitate implementing and maintaining Talend solutions—forums, wiki, tutorials, blogs, issue tracking and more. Moreover, the vendor encourages contributions from its users, who report issues and develop features or other modifications to the source code, giving back their contributions to the larger community.



# **#5 – Enterprise-Grade Support**

Contrary to popular belief, commercial open source vendors provide real support services, similar in type and quality to those offered by proprietary vendors. This is the case with Talend, whose services are designed to facilitate teamwork and increase productivity. These services are delivered by Talend experts, or by Talend-certified partners, and offer the same services as the largest proprietary vendors—service level agreements (SLA), guaranteed response times, etc.

Talend knows its products best. Users signing a contract for technical support from Talend are also subscribing to peace of mind. Our Technical experts are not only experts in enterprise integration, but are connected directly with Talend's research and development team. With Talend support, training and consulting, organizations build production-quality application integration solutions with confidence. Support packages range from incident-based offerings to enterprise support for mission-critical environments. Read more about Talend's Professional Support Services.



#### #4 - Best-in-Class Data Integration

Talend augments its application integration solutions with best-in-class open source data integration, which allows developers to easily access, manipulate and process data. Combining the two means that developers can expand access to a variety of systems and applications and incorporate the data from these systems into overall business processes and analytics. The result is the most comprehensive open source integration solution on the market today for data integration.

With more than 400 connectors, Talend's solutions provide virtually unlimited connectivity to enterprise systems—databases, software packages, mainframes, files, Web Services, etc. No other solution available on the market today offers so many connectors. This is due to Talend's large community of users who make their discoveries available to the public. By the same token, Talend's R&D department shares its IT developments with the community—a win-win situation.

Take a look at the most up-to-date list of Talend connectors.



# #3 - Versatility and Flexibility for all Projects

Architected around a microkernel architecture, Talend application integration products provide the foundation for a distributed SOA infrastructure, allowing users to build composite applications for reuse across multiple projects. Talend provides increased flexibility with a lightweight, extensible and modular architecture that can be configured for any application topology, including the cloud.

Talend Service Factory – for example – offers the highest degree of configuration options, allowing developers to incrementally add advanced features such as data encryption, remote service discovery and identity management. You can avoid unnecessary complexity and expand incrementally by adding just the functionality you need when you need it. And you can reuse existing developments in new projects, gaining time-to-market and productivity.

Talend also supports a broad variety of protocols and WS-\* standards, and works over a variety of transports. By implementing the OSGi standard, Talend delivers full control over the service lifecycle – allowing services and IT systems to be versioned and upgraded without bringing down the whole system. This significantly reduces downtime – a constant battle for IT organizations responsible for managing critical business systems.



# #2 - Functionality, Performance, Reliability

While closed source vendors would have you believe that there's a lack of professionalism surrounding open source, Talend's solutions are real business tools, offering a level of functionality equal to that of proprietary vendors. Because the open source model encourages a large number of early adopters (compared to the number of adopters of commercial products) – who actively help debug the software – open source software becomes highly robust at a surprisingly early stage of its development.

Open source products are setting new industry standards for bulletproofness.



# #1 - Pay As You Succeed

Proprietary middleware stack vendors require significant initial investment to gain usage rights so that you can determine what you need to deploy. Combine this with an additional yearly fee of 20-25% for support and maintenance services, and your repaying that initial investment every 4-5 years. That's a high total cost of ownership.

Talend understands that its customers have unique needs and does not promote a "one size fits all" strategy. Talend allows companies to adopt SOA incrementally by offering an extensible and modular architecture that allows you to add just the functionality you need when you need it.

The same is true from a pricing perspective. With Talend, there's no upfront investment to start using our application integration products. Immediate access to stable, certified versions of the leading open source integration technology allows you to start developing solutions for free. Once you're on your way to success, a flexible subscription model allows you to pay for what you need – no more, no less.

With Talend, the risk is minimal.

#### Conclusion

Open source solutions are continually evolving to meet market requirements. As companies merge, acquire new applications and build their IT platforms by incorporating disparate applications with legacy systems, information systems are becoming more and more heterogeneous. As a result, application integration tools are now a must-have for enterprise IT departments to properly manage the flows of information across the IT infrastructure.

In this context, open source application integration solutions offer a very compelling argument. More and more, organizations are looking to open source vendors as alternatives to high-priced proprietary incumbents. Open source brings significant value-add to the application integration table—high value instead of high price, no vendor lock-in, and faster timeto-market and better responsiveness to customers. IT departments do not have to justify up-front fees to get started. Open standards of open source offerings make it easier for integration developers and architects to leverage existing skills. The TCO is better than that of proprietary solutions and users confirm the enterprise-grade performance of these products. To understand what sets Talend apart, it's best to talk to those it serves: its community, its partners, and its customers. Many open source companies tend to be strong in one or two of these areas, but Talend is unique in excelling in all three. Today, Talend has a strongly involved and committed community with give-and-take in both directions, a large number of satisfied, paying customers worldwide and an extensive partner network.

Talend ESB, Talend Integration Factory and Talend Service Factory are licensed under Apache License v2.0, granting users with the openness and flexibility to get started quickly without the large upfront costs of enterprise software. Through open source, enterprises can achieve the benefits of a more open, less complex and affordable integration platform. Talend provides users with documentation and services to help build

robust enterprise software that can be trusted to run mission-critical IT systems – all backed by professional support when needed.

The industry leader in open integration solutions, Talend democratizes application integration by providing open source solutions to address any integration challenge – from simple departmental projects to complex, heterogeneous IT environments. Contact us to learn more about how Talend can help you to apply SOA principles to easily integrate and expand systems and applications using leading Apache open source projects.