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SnapLogic Integration Cloud Addresses "Integrator's Dilemma" By Connecting Apps & Data

New Snaplex Platform and 'Snap' Connectors Satisfy Integration Needs On-Premise or in the Cloud

The new world of Cloud, Social, Mobile and Big Data applications has created a fresh set of requirements that demand a new generation of more elastic integration solutions that span a variety of endpoints, data types, data sizes, and locations.

Opening Thoughts

As IT and business decision-makers become more comfortable with the idea of utilizing a widening array of Cloud-based solutions to address a broader set of their corporate needs, they are also becoming painfully aware of the complicated integration challenges posed by tying the new generation of Cloud services together with their legacy, on-premise software, systems and data sources.

After IT and business decision-makers overcome their concerns about the reliability and security of the Cloud-based solutions, data integration becomes a key concern according to numerous market research surveys.

Although pulling together the growing assortment of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) alternatives is less intimidating than their old world hardware and software predecessors, it still requires sophisticated integration tools to overcome today's growing challenges.

While there are many Cloud-oriented integration solutions today that promise simpler connectivity between Cloud applications and data sources, these solutions generally focus on the data integration issues associated with either enterprise application integration (EAI) or ETL (extract, transform and load) requirements, but not both. EAI and service-oriented architecture (SOA) solutions require integration tooling to pull together on-premise applications in real-time at relatively smaller volumes. ETL has traditionally been used to build enterprise data warehouses (EDW) and run large batches of data.

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This profile will examine how the new SnapLogic Integration Cloud and its 'Snap' connectors unveiled in its Winter 2013 release address these issues to overcome the "Integrator's Dilemma" of being forced to choose one integration tool over another to cover a variety of use cases.

SnapLogic's New Snaplex and 'Snap' Connectors

SnapLogic offers Elastic Integration™ to address real-time and batch-oriented application and data integration requirements behind the firewall and in the Cloud. The company's latest Winter 2014 release includes a new version of its Cloud-based integration Platform-as-a-Service (iPaaS), the SnapLogic Integration Cloud.

The SnapLogic Integration Cloud consists of a multi-tenant execution network, called Snaplex, a multi-tenant Designer, Manager and Dashboard, and over 160 pre-built integrations, called Snaps.

Snaplex is built on a scale-out execution network that can either run in the Cloud or behind the firewall. The elastic architecture makes Snaplex more scalable and flexible. The platform can handle real-time and batch-oriented application and data integration requirements, rather than being relegated to just one use-case or the other like previous integration solutions.

The SnapLogic Integration Cloud offers a new approach to more easily and economically address the Integrator's Dilemma, where these escalating application and data integration requirements are addressed in a scalable and flexible fashion using a single integration platform.

In-house or independent integrators no longer face the same challenge ("dilemma") selecting the right integration tool to address specific situations, and can rely more on a single solution to meet their multi-point integration requirements. This is especially important in a business environment populated with a growing assortment of Cloud, Social, Mobile and Big Data applications.

The SnapLogic Integration Cloud is able to address a broader set of requirements because it does not store or cache data. Instead, data is streamed between applications, databases, files, and other data sources via Snaplex. The Snaplex can operate in the Cloud or behind the firewall depending on an organization's system, software and data requirements.

Snaplex can dynamically scale in the Cloud in response to the volume of data being loaded and transformed. This also permits the Snaplex to minimize latency issues associated with the integration process. In the Winter 2014 release, the Snaplex has been enhanced to guarantee message delivery for both on-premise and cloud systems.

SnapLogic's data and process flows are built in a HTML5-based design and administration environment with a REST-based architecture for the "citizen developer". The SnapLogic Designer allows users to take advantage of a library of pre-built Snaps that can be deployed using a simple Cloud-based, drag-and-drop, user interface. This enables users to quickly create and manage workflow orchestrations. The Winter 2014 release also includes one-click copy and paste capabilities to make it easier to reuse and share integration flows and sub-flows across an organization. This also permits software developers and business analysts to share integrations and rapidly assemble these modular flows into complex and nested orchestrations.

The new auto-provisioning options in SnapLogic's Winter 2014 release make it easier for administrators to set up new users and the Cloud integration platform also includes an SDK for developers to build custom Snaps as well as snAPIs to easily embed flows into other apps and platforms.

While targeted towards enterprise IT, the SnapLogic Integration Cloud also fits the more distributed application development and deployment being driving by strategic business units and other departments. Its platform provides multi-org support to permit better management and monitoring across the multi-tenant infrastructure to ensure greater governance and control. It also offers multi-zone disaster recovery by leveraging Amazon Web Services' distributed network.

In sum, the SnapLogic Integration Cloud offers a more modern and elastic platform that can accelerate the deployment process and time-to-value. Its flexible design enables customers to scale to meet a variety of on-premise and Cloud-oriented needs. SnapLogic provides multi-point integration and orchestration capabilities delivered 'as-a-service' for mission-critical deployments. This permits enterprise-grade governance and administration that will appeal to IT and business decision-makers who are tasked with managing an increasingly dynamic operating environment.

Strategic Thoughts

Data integration has always been a vexing problem for organizations of all sizes, and especially those with business applications that depend on a variety of data sources. Today, organizations are becoming more reliant on a new layer of Cloud, Social, Mobile and Big Data applications which make cost-effective application and data integration even more pivotal.

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