



IBM WebSphere DataPower Gateway

In today's ever changing business environment, companies strive to remain competitive and responsive to their customer demands. Agility is vital in responding to new situations both internal and external allowing businesses to take advantage of new opportunities.

Today enterprises need to extend their core systems to partners, suppliers and customers under the control of secure and robust processes in a way that the user wishes to access it. The need for easy access and the ability to consume data freely and securely is vital to customer, partner and supplier relationships.

The requirement for easy access and transmission of information is crucial for enterprises delivering content online. In order for that to happen effectively, data must be secure and transmitted in a reliable, robust, and controlled manner.

Meridian IT has been able to assist a number of clients to extend the reach of their data to customers, partners and suppliers through whatever access point or protocol they prefer. Increasingly the major channel for our clients messaging and delivery is via the internet with the ever increasing requirement to deliver that to mobile devices.

If we consider the resulting massive growth in web services, increasingly delivered through mobile applications, an easily recognisable application might be a freight forwarding/delivery company offering a parcel tracking service. Customers would need access to business applications to get quick and accurate data about their delivery, and that access needs to be governed, secure and reliable. This service is now becoming expected from customers, partners and suppliers alike and a key influence on customer satisfaction and subsequent repeat business.

In all spheres of business web services are delivering business data in this way and in many cases integration is delivered by in house development teams more experienced in developing internal business applications and with limited experience in the security aspects of extending application data externally.

The problem is compounded by the demands placed on IT to provide support to applications on an increasingly wide range of operating systems and hardware. This hinders business agility not least because IT departments are continually expected to meet these requirements as well as core system development and maintain robust secure and reliable solutions.

How do businesses meet these challenges to deliver more and maintain quality and improve speed to market in a robust and governable manner?

The key requirement in supporting the extension of data outside the normal boundaries of an enterprise and protect that organisations business critical data is tamper free security, malware and malicious attacks should not be possible.

It must also be recognised that users of web services can be intolerant of slow response times. Fast message protocol conversion and handling of data formats are key requirements. Business to business communications in XML format are extensively used resulting in bottlenecks and delays and when used on an EDI transaction basis can be very damaging to business responsiveness.

IBM remains the market leader in this space with the IBM DataPower Gateway solution which Meridian offers to their customers to address these key use case requirements:

- **Security**
- **XML Acceleration**
- **Business to Business Communications**
- **API Management**

IBM® DataPower® Gateway is a purpose-built security and integration platform for mobile, cloud, application programming interface (API), web, service-oriented architecture (SOA) and B2B workloads. It enables you to rapidly expand the scope of valuable IT assets to new channels and use cases and reach customers, partners and employees. It helps quickly secure, integrate, control and optimize access to a range of workloads through a single, extensible, DMZ-ready gateway.

IBM DataPower Gateway is available in both physical and virtual form factors.

IBM DataPower Gateway offers:

- **Single multi-channel gateway platform** to secure, integrate, control and optimize delivery of workloads across channels including mobile, API, web, SOA, B2B and cloud – plus integration with IBM MobileFirst and WebSphere® platforms.
- **Converged policy enforcement and advanced security** that allows a single entry point to protect access and utilize consistent security policies across business channels and help reduce operating costs and improve security.
- **Rapid security-enhanced integration, control and acceleration** to quickly and efficiently support business needs, while providing centralized control and reducing infrastructure complexity.
- **Configuration-driven policy creation and flexible user experience** that helps reduce time to market and improve productivity and scale expertise.
- **Purpose-built, DMZ-ready and extensible platform** that enables business agility, physical security, drop-in deployment and simplified management, lowering total cost of ownership.

Meridian's Strategy for Success

Meridian IT understands the needs of companies looking for increased security, IT infrastructure simplification, improving speed to market, tighter controls around customer access, and easier ways to gain compliance (HIPPA, PCI, etc.).

We believe IBM DataPower is a proven solution providing connectivity across channels, systems, domains and devices. It delivers rock solid application security and integration. Partner with Meridian to discuss an implementation strategy for this high performance solution which delivers exceptional total cost of ownership and provides ROI in months.

Secure integration of Web, Mobile, API, SOA and B2B workloads in a single, highly secure, highly consumable, DMZ-ready appliance (real or virtual)

Fast and consistent response time for enterprise applications including mobile and web apps with local and external caching reducing load on back-end systems

Less need to invest in specialist skills

Operational agility for different deployment environments

Faster time to value and improved developer productivity with configuration pattern-authoring and deployment support

Lower TCO: dedicated XML appliances have been shown to reduce operational costs by as much as 50%

Reduce complexity: replace software servers' functionality with an XML appliance, reduce infrastructure footprint, and off-load heavy processing to dedicated XML appliances.

Flexibility: an XML appliance shields the application from security requirements, protocol changes and service versioning, no application modifications needed.

Reduce risk: the XML appliance provides the communication layer without requiring application modification, and deliver improved security and audit. Less complex application code. Less time to develop, test and maintain.

Reduce time to market: dramatically decrease the testing time and amount of development required upgrading your environment, most policies are configuration driven as opposed to development driven.

Project and operational benefits

Growth: when business expands simply add more appliances. Linear Scalability.

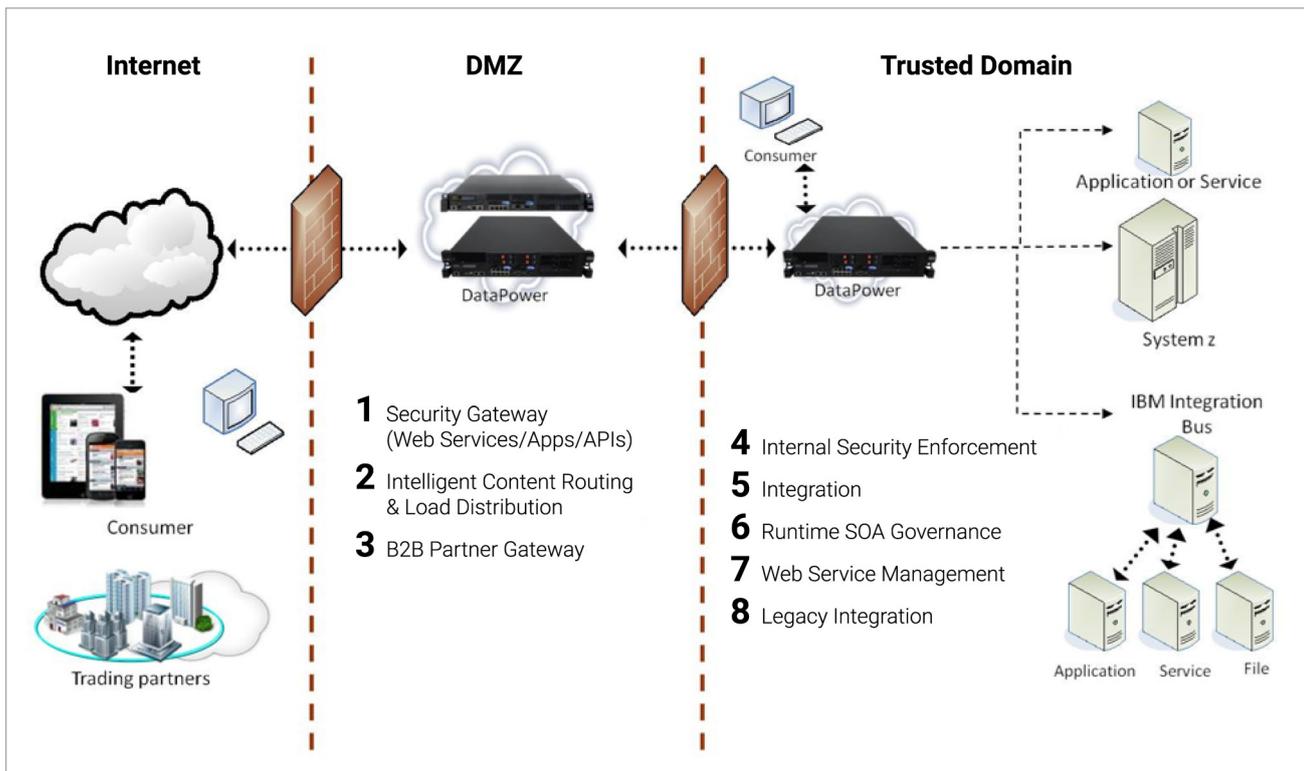
Meet deadlines: the configuration driven nature of appliances help meet project deadlines vs. code driven software solutions.

Ease of implementation: configuration vs coding. Customer examples have shown up to 50% less effort to deploy DataPower vs custom code.

Configuration driven: the XML appliance is configuration driven to do policy definitions, it does not involve development to support the infrastructure.

Communication patterns: support for synchronous, asynchronous, publish-subscribe and guaranteed-delivery message patterns.

Application integration: DataPower integrates disparate transport protocols with no dependencies between inbound "front-side" and outbound "back-side". Examples: HTTP(s), WebSphere MQ, WebSphere JMS, Tibco EMS, SFTP, FTP(s), NFS, IMS, Database (DB2, Oracle, Sybase, SQL Server)



DataPower use case illustration

IBM DataPower Gateway is designed to help customers manage real challenges. Take action to simplify connectivity, govern and optimise the way services and applications are delivered. Gain fresh ability to strengthen security, connectivity, gateway, data transformation, protocol bridging, and intelligent load distribution functions. If reducing the total cost of ownership for projects that involve security, integration, Web 2.0 and web services is important to you, then you will benefit from deploying IBM DataPower Gateway.

Let's continue the conversation.
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