Computer Aided Strategic Planning for Enterprise-Wide Services

Executive Summary
Users of the Planner can combine different individual services into enterprise-wide services (‘initiatives’) that are managed by one organization. These services can be used to model departments, government agencies, firms or business units. This capability of the Planner to combine several individual services from different sectors to form new services is a very powerful feature that can be and has been used to model firms, business units, government agencies and a very wide range of public and private sector scenarios.

The objective of this document is to show how strategic plans for enterprise wide services can be developed by using the Strategic Planner (Planner). Specifically, the Planner automatically invokes specialized modules of system called PISA (Planning, Integration, Security, and Administration) to develop a strategic plan for large initiatives by using the best practices and standards. The document shows how PISA is invoked and how it guides the Planner users through development of an overall architecture and a plan for launching large initiatives.

Prerequisite: Planner Overview Document (posted on the Planner Information Corner)

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1. STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR ENTERPRISE-WIDE SERVICES AND INITIATIVES

1.1. Introduction

The Computer Aided Strategic Planner (Planner) is a key component of the SPACE Environment. The Planner guides the user through a quick but systematic and intuitive process of producing detailed and highly customized strategic plans. It has the capability to produce plans and other documentation for 1) individual services and 2) combine individual services into enterprise wide as well as inter-enterprise services. The focus of this document is on the latter services.

Users of the Planner can combine different individual services into enterprise-wide services ("initiatives") that are managed by one organization. These services can be used to model departments, government agencies, firms or business units. This capability of the Planner to combine several individual services from different sectors to form new services is a very powerful feature that can be and has been used to represent the following real-life situations:

- Business divisions or complete enterprises in the public or private sectors such as healthcare, education, transportation, manufacturing, telecom, and others
- eCity and eVillage Initiatives that provide a wide range of ICT services that span public safety and welfare in addition to economic development and education sectors.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that span economic development, education, and other sectors
- Mobility Initiatives that focus on introducing mobile apps and location based services in one or multiple agencies.
- Government specific initiatives at local as well as national levels in different countries (e.g., the Digital Britain Initiative).

The Planner treats each enterprise service as a single organizational unit (enterprise unit) that is managed by a central authority that can introduce and enforce common policies and procedures. This simplifies several inter-system communication problems. The interagency problems that require collaboration and coordination between multiple independent agencies are beyond the scope of this document and are discussed in a separate document on Inter-Enterprise Services (G2G, B2B).

1.2. How are Plans for Enterprise-Wide Services Developed

We have developed a specialized capability, called Large Initiative Planner (LIP), for enterprise-wide initiatives that involve multiple services, possibly from multiple sectors. Figure 1 shows an overall architectural view of the SPACE Environment that will help us to understand how LIP works. As shown in Figure 1, the users (government agencies, NGOs, or other organizations) develop strategic plans, RFPs and project management plans by interacting with the SPACE Environment, a new system primarily intended to support government services. SPACE provides these services by using the SPACE Planner that guides the users through various decisions as discussed previously. The Planner uses the following capabilities to handle user requests:

- SPACE resources (Directory and Knowledge Repositories) as described in this document.
- Specialized modules such as Large Initiative Planner (LIP) to handle initiatives such as MDGs and digital cities, and Composer for developing composites and interagency services. The focus of this document is on LIP.

- Integration and aggregation of the external information already available in portals such as the United Nations Public Administration Network (www.unpan.org) and the UN-GAID website (www.un-gaid.org). In addition, we will provide access to useful educational and training materials.

Figure 1: SPACE Environment – The Big Picture

SPACE also supports the private sector by leveraging an existing Computer Aided Consulting Environment that primarily concentrates on the private sector. Specifically, SPACE has been successfully integrated with a comprehensive environment that supports private sectors. This environment is based on research in using computer aided planning for best practices [16-21] and consists of detailed planning tools, displayed in Figure 1. Currently these tools consist of:

- **A detailed planning system for private sectors called PISA** that can be used to quickly build real life business scenarios and then guides the user through IT planning, integration, security and administration tasks by using best practices. PISA supports 18 industry segments that include many within the scope of public administration (e.g., education, energy, health, and transportation) and provides basic capabilities for composing larger and more complex scenarios that include multi-region offices, supply chains, mergers, acquisitions and business networks. This comprehensive tool also provides extensive capabilities for integrating different systems by using SOA (service oriented architecture) and supports open interfaces so that gaming and simulation tools can be easily plugged in.

- **A knowledge portal for entrepreneurship, called GEZA**, that provides a set of knowledge services ranging from starting a business to international partnership and outsourcing opportunities. GEZA capabilities include business solutions for developing and implementing business strategies, a comprehensive yellowbook directory of SMB portals, an outsourcing center for service
providers and consumers, an international center for doing business internationally, an education center for entrepreneurs, and links to PISA for IT solutions and to PARIS for industry patterns.

- An industry pattern repository called PARIS that houses business patterns for more than 20 industry segments including education, healthcare, transportation, telecom, and manufacturing. PARIS provides overviews, examples, specializations and sources of information for each industry segment; examples and best practices of how ICT is being used effectively in different industry segments; business process patterns, requirement patterns and information model patterns in UML; and interfaces to support PISA advisors and GEZA services.

To develop plans for initiatives that may span public as well as private sectors, the following processing takes place (see next section for additional details):

- The Planner calls LIP when it detects that a user has selected a large initiative
- LIP does some initial processing and develops a model that can be handled by PISA if needed
- PISA goes through several steps and invokes PARIS and other components needed to develop the needed plans

2. LIP (LARGE INITIATIVE PLANNING) OVERVIEW

Figure 2 show an overview of LIP processing. Basically, LIP is invoked in the service specification phase (P1) when a user chooses large initiatives. This section primarily describes the LIP module of SPACE. As shown, LIP may invoke PISA, described in detail in the next section.

LIP, at the time of this writing, supports the following initiatives:

- Digital Cities that involve development of ICT services and infrastructure needed to support modern cities, villages, or communities
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that involve improvements in health, education and poverty reduction by using ICT
• Mobility Initiatives to support mobile applications and wireless communications for government and public sectors

• Government Specific Initiatives such as five year plans and private industry revitalization plans.

In the first step (S1) of LIP, the user selects one of these initiatives. In step S2, the user is presented with a pattern for the selected initiatives. The user reviews and modifies the pattern by selecting the services needed for the initiative. The user may invoke cost/benefit analysis to determine if a particular service should be included or not. At the end of this selection, a customized pattern is created that represents the services of value to the user. An overall cost/benefit analysis is then performed to understand if the overall initiative is worth doing or not. Step S2 of LIP is quite extensive and may require the user to review and evaluate several alternatives for the given initiatives.

In step S3, the user creates simple reports that display the cost/benefit analysis and evaluations of the various choices. The user may choose at this point to conclude the analysis and conduct an offline examination. The user may choose to continue with PISA module for additional modeling and recommendations of application plans, platform plans and network plans needed to support the selected initiatives. The PISA environment and its components that may be invoked by LIP are described below.

3. **PISA Environment**

3.1. **Overview**

PISA (Planning, Integration, Security, Administration) is an intelligent decision support environment that helps businesses plan, integrate and secure their IT (information technology) systems. At present, PISA is intended for small to medium businesses (SMBs) but can also be used for offices and divisions of larger businesses.
The PISA environment, conceptually shown in Figure 3, provides a family of automated consultants ("advisors") that support all stages of IT planning, integration and security projects (e.g., enterprise modeling, application planning, network planning, security planning, project planning, architecture analysis, solution evaluation). At the heart of PISA, as shown in Figure 3, is the knowledgebase (KB) that contains an extensive patterns repository. The KB is used by the PISA advisors which are segmented into three modules (see Figure 3):

- **PlanIT (Planner for IT)** concentrates on IT planning projects and develops a plan at the enterprise level
- **SAM (Security and Administration Module)** provides guidance for security, project management and governance issues
- **Architecture and Integration Module (AIM)** focuses on how SOA (Service Oriented Architecture) can be used to architect and integrate the various components to form a functioning system

Each PISA advisor, as shown in the outer circle of Figure 3, supports a specific stage and collaborates with other advisors to produce plans. For example, the Network Advisor supports the network planning stage and collaborates with the Security Advisor to develop a security plan that secures a network. The outermost circle ("the PISA crust") represents the **Advanced Capabilities Module (ACM)** that accepts the outputs produced by the PISA advisors and then helps the users to invoke detailed simulation and analysis tools.

To understand the sequence in which these advisors are invoked, start from the Enterprise Modeler ("Start" arrow in Figure 3) and follow the circle clockwise. Specifically, the PlanIT advisors do the following: the Enterprise Modeler develops a model of an enterprise, the
Application Advisor develops an Application plan, the Platform Advisor develops a computing platform plan, and the Network Advisor builds a network plan. The SAM advisors develop a security plan, a project plan, and provide other administrative services. The AIM advisors develop an integrated architecture plan based on SOA. The advisors are not strictly sequential – different advisors can be invoked in different sequences to fit the type of project you are working on. However, some things have to be done in sequence. For example, you cannot secure a network before developing a network plan (naturally!). The PISA Control Panel, discussed later, guides the user through what can be invoked when.

3.2. How to Use PISA?

The PISA website ([www.ngepisa.com](http://www.ngepisa.com)) provides a great deal of information about this system. The user session, after signing in, is guided through a control panel shown in Figure 4. The system automatically determines which advisor you can invoke and this is indicated by a red arrow. In a normal session, advisors are automatically invoked in the pre-defined sequence suggested by Figure 4 (i.e., Enterprise Modeler -> Application Advisor -> Platform Advisor, etc.). However, a user may invoke other advisors as they become available (indicated by a yellow arrow). ACM can be invoked anytime for more detailed analysis. Each advisor, when invoked, produces a model and then returns control to the control panel. As shown in Figure 44, the links to the results produced by advisors used previously (“generated models”), if any, are also shown. The top toolbar provides buttons for help and the bottom toolbar provides access to a glossary, online guides and tutorials, PISA documentation, business scenario templates, and the PISA pie (Figure 4).

![Figure 4: Sample PISA Control Panel](image-url)
3.3. **PlanIT Module To Develop a Plan for IT Infrastructure**

Businesses face numerous challenges in using IT. The main challenge is that these businesses increasingly rely on sophisticated information technologies such as the Internet, wireless networks, Web technologies, numerous application software packages, different types of security solutions, and a multitude of system software packages such as database managers, utilities, .Net framework, and the like. Many businesses, especially SMBs, lack in-house expertise to properly plan the IT infrastructure needed to support the business. The PlanIT module of PISA helps with IT planning decision through the following advisors:

- **Enterprise Modeler** helps the user to create an enterprise model that captures the important aspects of a company such as company type, company size, company sites, outsourcing decisions, etc.
- **Application Advisor** helps the user develop automation strategies and suggests the business applications that will support different automation strategies.
- **Platform Advisor** suggests computing platforms (“hosts”) on which the applications will reside.
- **Network Advisor** suggests a network configuration that includes wireless as well as wired networks.

3.4. **SAM (Security and Administration Module) to Support PlanIT**

SAM provides the following security and governance/administrative advisors that help you to secure and administer the enterprise resources.

- **Security Advisor** secures the applications and the hosts on the network. It also produces a list that can be used in security audits.
- **Governance Information Extractor** examines the information from a diverse array of governance standards (e.g., CMM, CobiT, ITIL, SPICE, ISO200x, and SOX) and presents it to different advisors of the PISA platform as customized checklists.
- **Business Continuity Planner** generates a comprehensive plan that heavily utilizes different patterns for business continuity.
- **Project Planner** develops a project plan based on the decisions made in the previous advisors.

These advisors make inferences based on the information gathered by the previous advisors and further enrich and enhance the PISA knowledgebase. You can, of course, further refine and customize the plans generated by SAM.

SAM also supports the following administrative tools to support PlanIT:

- **COTS (Commercial-off-the-Shelf) Advisor** populates a Techbase that serves as a repository of commercially available solutions.
- **Diagram Generator** creates visual representations of the various solutions.
- **Intelligent Document Generator** produces reports at the end of the interview.

3.5. **AIM (Architecture and Integration Module) for SOA**

PlanIT produces an enterprise-wide IT plan that shows the main elements of the IT infrastructure. However, it does not answer the important question: how will all these elements fit together to form a working solution? This is where AIM fits in. A user would typically develop an enterprise-wide plan by using PlanIT and then use AIM to investigate in more detail how different aspects of
this plan can be integrated into an overall architecture. AIM helps its users to develop an integration plan based on Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) principles.

Development of an integration plan is a complicated task with many challenges. Instead of a ‘big bang’ approach where all enterprise systems are converted to SOA in an afternoon, AIM supports a gradual approach where the enterprise achieves an integrated architecture one business (application) area at a time. The AIM methodology, shown in Figure 5, guides the user through the iterative process of choosing a business problem and then developing and evaluating integrated architectures for the chosen problem.

The AIM advisors (Business Problem Explorer, Integration Requirements Generator, Integrated Architecture Advisors, and Integrated Solution Advisor) support different stages of this methodology and generate extensive documentation (an integration requirements document, an integrated architecture document, and an evaluation report) that can be used to understand, explain and communicate the major decisions. The starting point for AIM is the overall IT plan generated by PlanIT.

4. Concluding Comments and Additional Information

PISA is a comprehensive environment that supports the IT planning, integration, security and administration activities through a family of automated consultants (“advisors”). These advisors are integrated around an extensive knowledgebase and collaborate with each other like a team of consultants in real life situations. PISA demonstrates the technical and business feasibility of computer aided consulting. The focus on SMBs is deliberate to allow development of complete solutions. Future research and development directions include a wide range of activities to make the existing platform into a valuable tool for SMBs.

A great deal of additional information and documentation about PISA can be found at the website www.ngepisa.com. Exhibit 1 displays the main documents that are available at the PISA Website. If
you are going to actually use the system, then we suggest that you access and read the ‘PISA User Guide’ before using the system.

### Exhibit 1: PISA Documents on [www.ngepisa.com](http://www.ngepisa.com) site

(Follow the “Learn More” link)

**PISA Quick Start:**
- **PISA Executive Summary**, a three slide executive summary.
- **PISA at a Glance**, a one page flier on PISA.
- **PISA Overview** gives a quick overview of the system (this document)

**PISA Details:**
- **PISA User Guide** gives details about how to use the system, illustrated through an example
- **SOA Planning Through PISA-AIM** shows how PISA can be used to develop an SOA-based architecture.
- **CASE STUDY: IT Infrastructure Planning Through PISA-PlanIT** describes how PISA-PlanIT was used to develop a complete IT plan for a manufacturing-retail company.
- **CASE STUDY: SOA Planning Through PISA-AIM** describes how PISA-AIM was used to develop a complete SOA plan for a retail company.
- **PISA Demo Example** illustrates a demo of using PISA through extensive screenshots.
- **PISA Patterns Repository** gives an overview of the patterns that are contained in the pattern repository.

**PISA in Classroom:**
- **PISA Instructor’s Guide** shows how to use PISA in online or on-site courses
- **Course “Architectures for Globally Integrated Enterprises”** describes a course that is heavily supported through PISA.

**Sample Reports Generated by PISA:**
- **Complete IT Plan**, generated by PISA-PlanIT
- **Security Audit Report** generated by PISA Security Advisor
- **Application Requirement Document**, generated by PISA-AIM
- **Application Architecture Document**, generated by PISA-AIM

### Selected References


