A Framework for Classifying and Comparing Web Services Procurement Platforms

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Abstract

The procurement of web services shifts the focus of architects and integrators from functional aspects to quality aspects. A number of platforms have been proposed as supporting infrastructures to assist this activity. Notwithstanding, there is a lack of consensus on (i) what tasks should be supported by these platforms, and (ii) what degree of expressiveness should be offered in quality-of-service specifications. This paper attempts to provide an answer to these questions, thus it motivates and presents a classification framework for WSP platforms. This framework is used to compare several existing platforms and to identify some key properties and deficiencies, which might be considered as a research agenda for the future.