The Enduring Myths of the
Software Communications Architecture

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Abstract - As with any new technology that makes bold promises, the adoption of Software Defined Radio (SDR) and the Software Communication Architecture (SCA) went through multiple phases that are best described by the Gartner Hype Cycle chart. The hype behind SDR technology and the early success stories of the SCA triggered significant publicity. The SCA was propelled by hype to a tipping point that Gartner refers to as the "Peaks of Inflated Expectations". The interest in the SCA started to wane as experiments and implementations failed to meet all the expectations. The bad press that followed dragged the SCA in a downward spiral of negative hype that is recognized as the "Trough of Disillusionment" phase. The SCA only started to pull out from the spiral after 2010 as a new generation of SCA-based products was brought to market. With more products being produced and the early international adopters, the SCA reached the "Slope of Enlightenment" phase. Nevertheless, the bad press that came with the disillusionment gave birth to many myths regarding the SCA. This paper identifies the enduring myths of the SCA and explains why they can be laid to rest.

Keywords - Framework; Software Components; Middleware; Software Architecture; SCA; CORBA; Performance

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