

Network Services

ACCESS SERVICE BUREAU
The shared access to the SWIFTNet



SIA-SSB: the Banks' IT Partner

SIA-SSB is the trustworthy IT Partner working together with Banks. Thanks to SIA-SSB the Bank can access to all the SWIFTNet messaging services, disregarding the technical complexity related to the infrastructure.

The Access Service Bureau is part of SIA-SSB Network Services offering that addresses all the customer needs in terms of connectivity and messaging services. In this field SIA-SSB provides consultancy, design, implementation, service management and full outsourcing.

Leveraging on the long experience on all kind of connections to the SWIFT payment network managed for relevant market infrastructures like Borsa Italiana, MTS, Monte Titoli, e-MID, TLX and EBA, SIA-SSB offers a comprehensive service based on a highly reliable shared infrastructure connected to the SWIFTNet. SIA-SSB shared infrastructure is constantly updated to the latest SWIFT evolution, moreover the experts within the SIA-SSB SWIFT Competence Centre represent a point of excellence.

SIA-SSB and SWIFT: an historical cooperation

Since 1995 SIA-SSB has provided connectivity to SWIFT, starting with the hosting of the Italian SWIFT PoP and delivering SWIFT X.25 connectivity for the Italian community. At the same time SIA-SSB has provided a shared technological platform for the SWIFT FIN services for the Italian market infrastructures to connect the trading platforms to the ICSDs: Euroclear and Clearstream. In 2001 SIA-SSB has been qualified as ETC Securities Service Provider.

Since the starting of the SWIFTNet in the 2002, SIA-SSB has supported the migration of SWIFT proposition on the new IP scenario with the SWIFTNet Connectivity Manager service, providing connectivity for the Italian community, first on Frame Relay and then under the Multi-Vendor Network approach.

As technical partner of EBA, SIA-SSB has implemented the SWIFTNet access for the STEP2 market infrastructure and, at the same time, has implemented the highly resilient shared technological platform used by the Access Service Bureau for the financial institutions that were not ready to set up their own connectivity systems to the SWIFTNet.

The Access Service Bureau vision: a resilient solution to let business think business

The underlying vision for the Access Service Bureau is to offer an integrated approach that means:

- ⚡ a full outsourcing offering to access to all the business services over the SWIFTNet
- ⚡ a modular offering approach to match the customer needs
- ⚡ a resilient infrastructure ensuring high availability
- ⚡ a specialised consultancy team to support the customer needs assessment and solution design
- ⚡ a dedicated help desk for all the customer care requests
- ⚡ a single point of contact that interfaces SWIFT and the SWIFT partners
- ⚡ full service management and monitoring 24x7x365.

In SIA-SSB vision, continuous service availability, secure managing of the information and full resiliency are cornerstone for the good functioning of the financial system; thanks to Access Service Bureau not only the financial institutions are relieved from the technological concern of infrastructural set up and management. Today the Access Service Bureau service is used by an ever increasing number of financial institutions and corporates which appreciate high levels of security, efficiency and reliability of all outsourcing services delivered by SIA-SSB.

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Access Service Bureau: a technological leadership

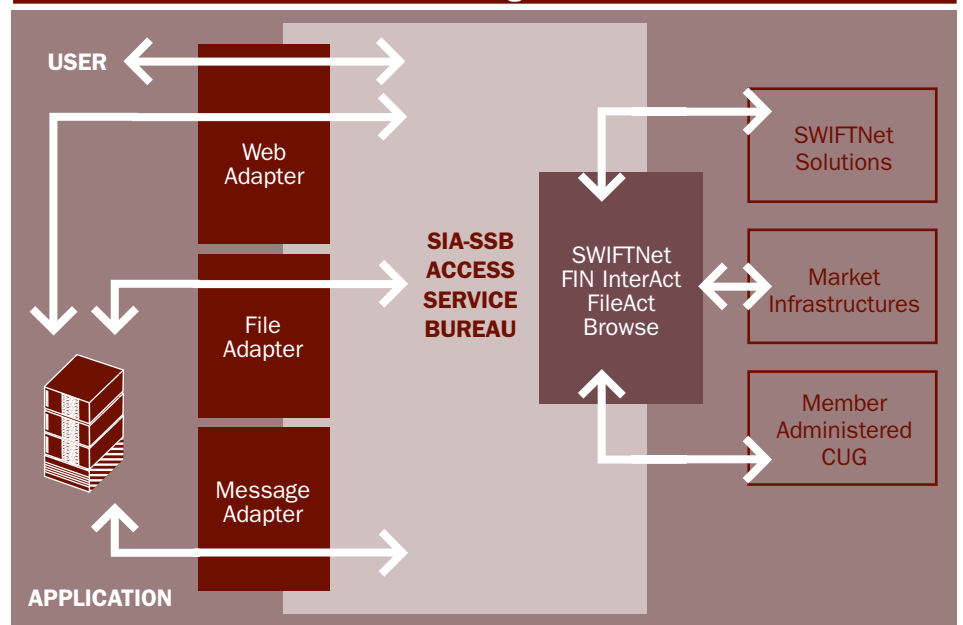
The Access Service Bureau is a state of the art infrastructure that exploits the full capabilities offered by the SWIFTNet messaging services. SIA-SSB takes care of the mandatory technical evolutions constantly required by the SWIFTNet in a transparent way for clients. The infrastructure keeps also evolving over the time in a continuous strive for innovation to ensure the evolution of the service along the line of SWIFTNet evolution and guaranteeing the highest performance for reliability and availability. The Access Service Bureau can now be customized according to the traffic volumes required by each individual Client with scalability ranging from a minimum number of daily messages to the maximum traffic volumes available

on the SWIFTNet network. In 2007 the service availability level achieved was 99.99%, also thanks to the Disaster Recovery infrastructure of the service itself, capable of handling the entire production traffic. The offering is completed with a detailed set of operative procedures dedicated to supporting users in case of activation of Business Continuity plans.

Access Service Bureau: a modular offering

Access Service Bureau is offered with a modular approach. The client can customise the solutions on its needs, choosing among all the options. Thanks to this modular approach a client can select the outsourcing for a single messaging service (e.g. FileAct) and choose to keep remotely or

SIA-SSB Access Service Bureau: the single window to the SWIFTNet



delegate the control on security, still having the possibility to easily activate new modules thereafter. This modular approach allows sizing the costs of the service in line with the evolution of the client business needs over the time. In order to address the different business requirements, SIA-SSB has created an infrastructure providing access to all the SWIFTNet Messaging Services:

- :: SWIFTNet FIN
- :: SWIFTNet InterAct
- :: SWIFTNet FileAct
- :: SWIFTNet Browse.

The FIN module

To access FIN, users have to implement the FIN protocol that requires a heavy management of the security. SIA-SSB offers the best solution for any client, with different security management option.

The InterAct module

The Interact options allow the client to use the SIA-SSB infrastructure as a gateway to access in application-to-application modality the InterAct services in both Real-Time and Store&Forward flavours.

The FileAct module

SIA-SSB provides as a gateway to send and receive files to and from the providers on SWIFTNet in both Real-Time and Store&Forward flavours. The file transfer between the Access Service Bureau and the client's systems is performed by means of different middleware on the SIA-net network.

The Browse module

The proxy components of the shared infrastructure allow to access the web applications exposed on the SWIFTNet

by service providers. On the other side, the reverse proxy components allows, for example a Bank, to display the services on SWIFTNet.

The WebStation module

Thanks to the SWIFT "Web-Station" software, clients can access user-to-application solutions.

The Security Officer module

This module offers the opportunity to entrust SIA-SSB with the management of the security aspects relating to SWIFT.

The RMA module

The "Relationship Management Application" manages relations between the counterparts. This module allows the client to choose the degree to which SIA-SSB is entrusted with the management of the RMA.

The DR module

If service continuity is important to your business, you may choose to use our DR.

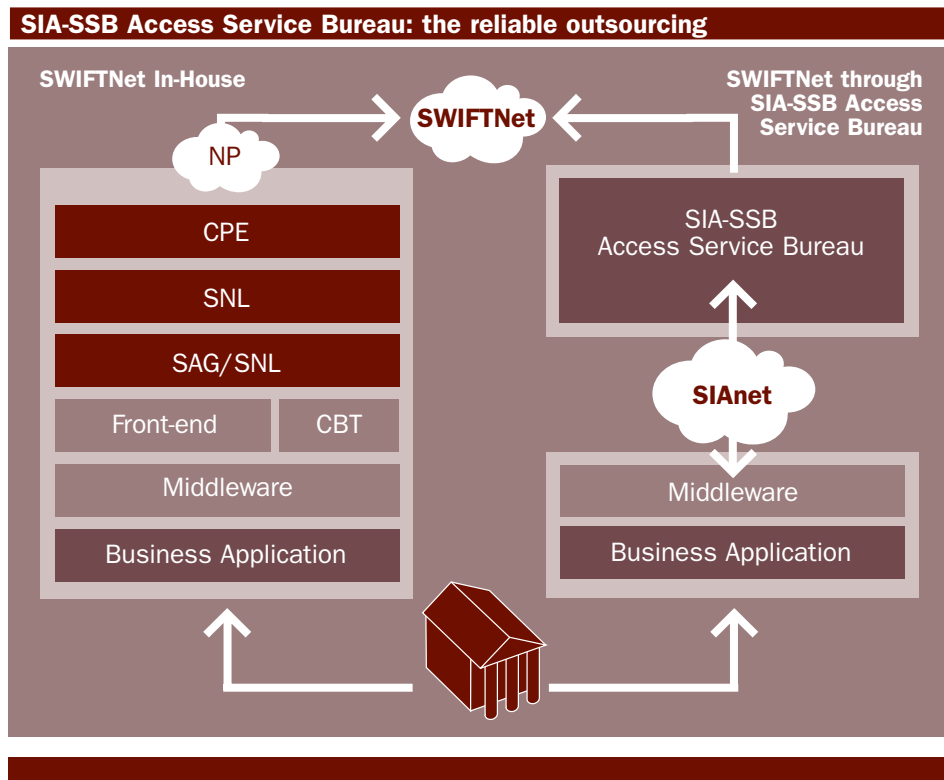
The SLA module

This permits the definition of "Service Level Agreements", based of the individual clients' requirements. SLAs are contractual tools which define those service metrics that must be respected by a service provider.

The Supply Schedule module

This module defines contractual "Supply Schedules", based on the individual clients' requirements.

Each Messaging Service can take advantage of the value added features of the SIA-SSB proved experience and facilities:

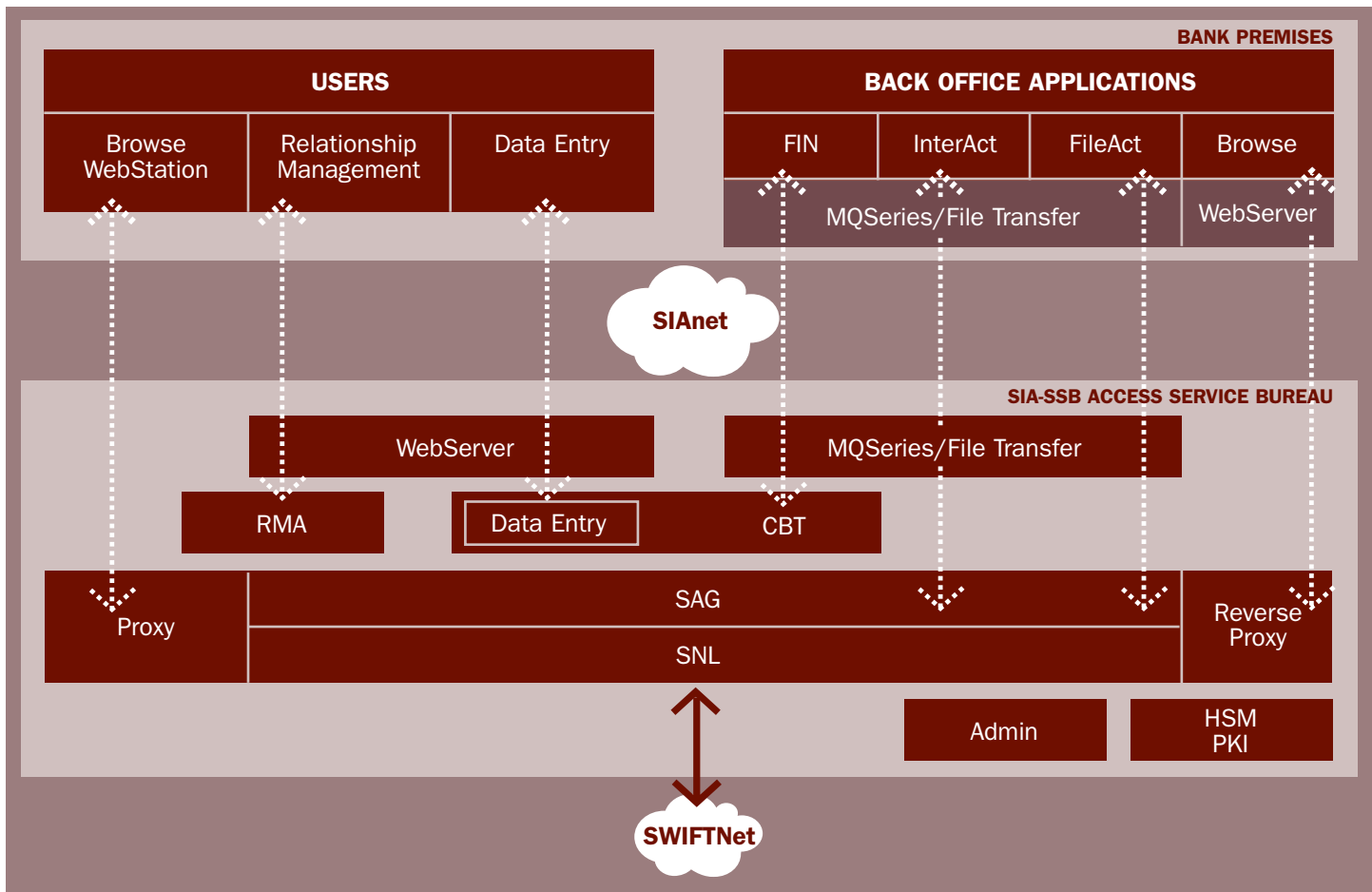


- ⌘ physical security of server rooms that guarantees data security and confidentiality
- ⌘ three different operational environments (test, production and DR), strictly segregated
- ⌘ a single point of contact for all the customer care requests
- ⌘ a full service management and monitoring twenty4ever (24x365).

SIA-SSB: a trustworthy choice

Thanks to decades of experience in the Network Services field, SIA-SSB provides consultancy, design, implementation, service management and full technological outsourcing. The Access Service Bureau is part of SIA-SSB offering. SIA-SSB is your trustworthy IT Partner for the management of your access to SWIFTNet. Do not worry about infrastructure and connectivity issues, **stay focused on business.**

SIA-SSB Access Service Bureau: the easy solution to the technical complexity



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