

# How does Camel compare to ServiceMix

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Camel is smart routing and mediation engine which implements the [Enterprise Integration Patterns](#) and is designed to be used either inside an ESB like ServiceMix, in a Message Broker like ActiveMQ or in a smart endpoint or web services framework like CXF. ServiceMix is an ESB, a JBI container and an integration platform. So they both address different needs though they are both designed to work great together.

Camel can be deployed as a component within ServiceMix to provide [EIP routing and mediation](#) between existing JBI components together with communicating with any of the other Camel [Components](#) along with defining new JBI components on the NMR. So Camel is similar to the [ServiceMix EIP component](#).

To work with Camel and ServiceMix you take your Camel [Spring](#) configuration and turn it into a JBI Service Unit using the maven plugin or archetype. For more details see [ServiceMix Camel plugin](#).

So you could start out using Camel routing inside your application via [Java](#) or [Spring](#); then later on if you choose to you could wrap up your routing and mediation rules as a JBI deployment unit and drop it into your ServiceMix ESB. This provides a nice agile approach to integration; start small & simple on an endpoint then as and when you need to migrate your integration components into your ESB for more centralised management, governance and operational monitoring etc.

## See Also

- [How does Camel work with ServiceMix](#)
- [How does Camel compare to ServiceMix EIP](#)
- [ServiceMix Camel plugin](#)