Architecture Challenge Workshop

Overview

Before we start on any architecture work we need to know what business challenge we aim to address and that we can add value as enterprise architects

At the end of this workshop, we should have

- ▶ Identified the problem or opportunity
- ▶ Gained an understanding what successful resolution looks like
- ▶ Established there is a potential route to success
- ▶ Identified the key stakeholders who must commit to delivering success
- ▶ Determined if there is potential enterprise architecture work to carry out

Workshop Set Up

1. Pre-condition
2. Attendees
3. Invitation
4. Workshop Roles and Rules

Precondition

A concern of potentially enterprise wide significance has been identified by an EA

e.g.

- ▶ A formal request for architecture work is made
- ▶ A senior stakeholder says "take a look at this. . . "
- ▶ An EA gets an idea at a conference
- ▶ An EA hears a worrying statement about. . .
    - ▶ a project
    - ▶ technical debt
    - ▶ lack of collaboration
    - ▶ siloes
- ▶ An experienced EA just gets a sense that something is wrong!

Workshop formats

There are three formats that we use

- ▶ Informal with EAs only (these can be quite quick)

- ▶ More formal with key stakeholders and EAs

- ▶ Multiple stakeholder meetings followed by a joint playback

- ▶ the workshop may be held as one intensive session or a series of shorter sessions over several days

- ▶ the facilitator should consider giving the participants breaks after each section

Attendees

You can combine formats if it helps

- ▶ You want a rehearsal with EAs only
- ▶ You want to make sense of what the stakeholders said (e.g. create the stakeholder playback)

5 to 8 people is an ideal size for the meeting

Give attendees plenty of notice of the meeting

Meetings can be fully remote

The Invitation

Hi AP
As I am sure you are aware we have major challenges with
[brief description of the challenge].
We are running a workshop to develop a strong problem
statement and work out how to kick off an initiative to
improve the situation. You will see an invitation to a video
call in your inbox soon.
I am looking forward to your valuable contribution.
Best wishes
JJ - Head of Enterprise Architecture

Introduction
Purpose - explain the purpose of the workshop

1. Introduction
    - ▶ We are here to discuss **the challenge**, we aim to
        - ▶ Clearly define the problem
        - ▶ Understand what successful resolution looks like
        - ▶ Identify the key stakeholders who must commit to delivering success
        - ▶ Determine the role of enterprise architecture
2. Roles and Rules [5 minutes]
3. Quick personal introductions if necessary
    - ▶ name and 2 words describing what you do
4. The challenge
    - ▶ The **challenge owner** will now set the scene for the workshop by briefly describing the background to the challenge

Workshop Agenda

1. Problem identification and analysis (30 - 90 minutes)
2. Success description and analysis (30 - 60 minutes)
3. Route to value identification and analysis (30 - 60 minutes)
4. Key stakeholders (20 - 60 minutes)