

## **UPDATING THE ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE PLANNING MODEL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The existing Enterprise Architecture Plan has been around for quite some time and has been relevant to various current frameworks and methodologies also best practices. However, some Enterprise Architecture practitioners feel that the existing Enterprise Architecture Plan has become outdated. They assess that the traditional Enterprise Architecture Plan requires a fresh approach where certain aspects of the model are to be refreshed. In this research paper I try to explore one such part of the updated Enterprise Architecture Planning approach. Here I try to focus on the famous “Wedding cake” Enterprise Architecture Planning model and how it has updated overtime to keep the Enterprise Architecture Planning approach more current.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Enterprise Architecture Planning methodology has been into existence since 1992. This methodology is considered to be the cornerstone of the Enterprise Architecture practices and regarded as the foundational work. However, the Enterprise Architecture Planning methodology is being considered to be dated and requiring a new approach. Many practitioners believe the Enterprise Architecture Plan methodology is a continuous program and not just a once-it-for-all project. This makes an updated Enterprise Architecture Plan model even more necessary [1].

Updating is not an Enterprise easy process, it requires time and study. The Enterprise Architects need to look at the big picture and understand the requirements of a model. They are supposed to visualize the concepts and detect inconsistencies in the existing model. An Enterprise architect requires to view the model with various perspectives. The existing model needs to be updated to a newer version to keep in check the adversities and include every little aspect that needs to be included over time, which is why it is such a continuous process.

### **WHY UPDATE ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE?**

A big step like a model update requires proper backing and reasoning. Topics such as effectiveness of the past policy actions, what needs to be changed, what needs to be done differently and change in vision and how need to be addressed in the updated Enterprise Architecture Planning model. The updated Enterprise Architecture includes development with Operational and Functional focus. The Enterprise Architects need to conduct reviews that represent the conflict of interest. Differentiate well between the current process and the desired process. The updated Enterprise Architecture plan involves the transition from ‘As-is’ to the ‘To-be’ architecture [3].

It was a review of various Enterprise Architecture models using the Enterprise Architecture methodology that revealed to the practitioners that there was another an implementation phase needed. This new phase had to have detailed, planned, designed and implemented solutions and system components [1]. I now take a look at the changes made to the model including the Wedding Cake model and its descriptions.

### **CHANGES TO ORIGINAL MODEL**

Changes to the original model were mainly made in the ‘Business Knowledge’ area Architecture. However the ‘Repository Management’ and ‘Program Transition and Follow-on Design’ area Architectures were also altered from

the original 'Wedding Cake' model [1]. The transitions required to achieve the 'To-be' functionality influence the policy and procurement decisions. These include the Organizational and Technical transition initiatives. The Enterprise Architecture systems study includes two main sections. The Systems Evaluation Criteria and the System evaluation Results. These two together determine what is used to implement current process and what can be used to implement changes [3]. The original Enterprise Architecture Plan model has each area in the 'wedding Cake' corresponding to a well-defined step, which is very organized and ordered. The new model takes this organized model and makes changes to some of these steps. While in the original model, the top-most step belongs to 'Planning Initiation', it is replaced in the updated model to 'Values and Principles', while 'Planning Initiation' is moved to the very top and out of the 'Wedding Cake'. While the rest of the model looks pretty much the same, there is an inclusion of another step at the very bottom of the 'Wedding cake'. This is the 'Programmatic Transition and Follow-on Design' step. The reason to move 'Planning Initiation' out of the model and not include it as a "step" is that the experts feel Enterprise Architecture planning is actually preparation for the process and not actually a step in the architectural process. It should rather be viewed as an activity that takes place before the process and decides whether the process's implementation should go ahead as planned, or not. The stated 'Values and Principles' are the basis for starting an Enterprise Architecture. The Enterprise architects need to define the values on which the effective governance of IT is based. These values determine proper actions and decisions. The Enterprise Architects also define and approve the Enterprise Architecture principles [1]. Apart from these changes, the new model has 'Project Management' and 'Repository Management' added to either side of the 'Wedding cake'. After the Enterprise Architecture Plan is done and the final reports and deliverables are received, the Enterprise Architecture integrates the IT operations and services, component designs, development and implementation steps. While the new approach recommends steps like developing Systems Study Path and documenting Systems Findings, once the Systems evaluation Criteria is developed and implemented. In the end, it is important to Import the Criteria occurrence script and adding it to the Enterprise Architecture CORE model database.

## CONCLUSION

The main motive behind the Enterprise Architecture Plan update is to resolve queries regarding the state and direction of the enterprise. The existing systems might be leveraged to implement the updated Enterprise Architecture Plan and the desired processes with all changes applied [3]. The revised 'Wedding cake' model is a significant part of the updated Enterprise Architecture Plan approach. In this paper I have presented how the model has changed and how it affects the overall approach of project-undertaking and implementation. This update makes the Enterprise Architecture Plan more current and clearly defines how Enterprise Architecture is used today in the public and private sectors.

## REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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