

What is the HUIT Enterprise Architecture

From HUIT Architecture Advisory Group

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Because each organization is different, has a different level of organizational maturity, technical standards and many other factors, an enterprise architecture may mean a variety of things to different people within that organization. The section below is a good general description of what an enterprise architecture is.

What is Enterprise Architecture?

A good overview, is found on the NIH Web site which should be used as a resource for understanding not only what enterprise architecture is but what its benefits are and one way of representing the various components of one in a mature organization.

"Enterprise architecture is a comprehensive framework used to manage and align an organization's Information Technology (IT) assets, people, operations, and projects with its operational characteristics. In other words, the enterprise architecture defines how information and technology will support the business operations and provide benefit for the business. It illustrates the organization's core mission, each component critical to performing that mission, and how each of these components is interrelated. These components include:

- Guiding principles
- Organization structure
- Business processes
- People or stakeholders
- Applications, data, and infrastructure
- Technologies upon which networks, applications and systems are built

Guiding principles, organization structure, business processes, and people don't sound very technical. That's because enterprise architecture is about more than technology. It is about the entire organization (or enterprise) and identifying all of the bits and pieces that make the organization work."

It is highly recommended that you read this [entire summary page](#).

Why is HUIT Developing an Enterprise Architecture?

There were two related drivers for the move to creating an enterprise architecture for HUIT, both were identified in the University Risk Management Program. The first was recognition that the absence of an enterprise architecture had led to numerous, uncoordinated system architectures that were not only costly, but a contributing factor to a series of important system outages experienced over an extended period. The second related factor were the outages themselves and a directive to assess critical systems and make

recommendations for improvement.

After an extended review of major systems and failure data, a [final report](#) and [summary presentation](#) were prepared. The summary presentation, based on the final report was delivered to the SLT on April 18, 2013. Both are worth reviewing as those findings guide the enterprise architecture activities. A key finding of the studies was that we begin an enterprise architecture effort. This site documents progress on projects related to the enterprise architecture program and contains artifacts from that work.

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