

IT Architecture Roles

Business Architect vs. Enterprise Architect vs. Solution Architect vs. Technical Architect



BUSINESS ARCHITECT (BA)

Technology Focus

Strategy Focus

Key Competencies

- ✓ Enterprise-wide view of the business, processes, and capabilities
- ✓ Aligns strategic goals and objectives with products, services and resources
- ✓ Ability to apply architectural principles to business solutions
- ✓ Enables technologies and governance in support of capabilities

Daily Use Cases

Business Capability Map

Encapsulate the current maturity of the business capabilities and manage essential transformations to continually increase maturity in alignment with strategic goals.

Business Process Modeling

Define the strategic, core, and support processes of functional and organizational entities.

ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT (EA)

Technology Focus

Strategy Focus

Key Competencies

- ✓ Master of EA Frameworks (i.e. TOGAF, Zachman Framework)
- ✓ Uncovers operational gaps
- ✓ Analyzes information through data models and architecture diagrams
- ✓ Communicates the value of new IT strategies and keeps stakeholders informed of ongoing initiatives

Daily Use Cases

Lifecycle

Streamline the application landscape for optimal performance. Decommission redundancies and reduce costs.

Interface Circle Map

Understand where data interdependencies live across the IT landscape. Identify and avoid tech risks.

SOLUTION ARCHITECT (SA)

Technology Focus

Strategy Focus

Key Competencies

- ✓ Coordinates ongoing activities
- ✓ Translates the design concept to IT operations
- ✓ Defines a best-fit solution for existing problems
- ✓ Ensures technological risks are accounted for and solutions meet necessary requirements

Daily Use Cases

Functional Fit vs. Technical Fit

Plan transformations on time – whether it's for your cloud migration, external audits, or beyond.

Drilldown: Successor

Communicate how applications support business capabilities in terms of functional fit, technical fit, and risk.

TECHNICAL ARCHITECT (TA)

Technology Focus

Strategy Focus

Key Competencies

- ✓ High level of in-depth expertise (i.e. Python, Java)
- ✓ Provides recommendations to address potential threats
- ✓ Implements technical processes to roll out solutions
- ✓ Delivers fully functional products in a timely manner for the end user

Daily Use Cases

Availability of Applications supported by Kubernetes

Realize a 360-degree view inside DevOps containers to accelerate release cycles.

Relations Explorer

Create process for rapid development, intelligent personalization, and seamless exploration across all solutions.

How to become a BA

- Learn the fundamentals of IT and business process modeling
- Gain experience in planning and executing business and IT initiatives
- Act as liaison between conveying what the business needs to IT and technical constraints to the business

How to become a EA

- Learn the fundamentals of IT, business operations, and software architecture
- Earn certifications: i.e. TOGAF, FEAC, LeanIX Practitioner
- Leverage managerial skills to lead, advise, or collaborate with different departments

How to become a SA

- Learn the fundamentals of software architecture, computer science
- Acquire the ability to translate abstract problems into concrete solutions that can be executed to drive business outcomes.
- Communicate initiatives in a way that both business and technology professionals can understand

How to become a TA

- Learn the fundamentals of software development, computer science
- Gain an understanding of full-stack development for a broader knowledge of technical operations
- Use interpersonal skills to work alongside non-technical business colleagues. Project manage workload of technical teams

Integration between Business Architecture and Enterprise Architecture

BAs provide direction on operationalizing the organization's business strategy, including the systems, processes and data required. EAs provide a roadmap of organizational redesign and change consistent with BAs direction and the overall strategic vision.

Integration between Enterprise and Solution Architecture

The relationship between EAs and SAs mirrors the relationship between technological strategy and its effective implementation. EAs focus more on the strategic portion, whereas SAs take specific problems and propose a solution to support the vision.

Integration between Solution and Technical Architecture

Technical Architects translate the proposed solution of the Solution Architects into an integrated system and provide in-depth technological insight on matters like hardware and software specifics.

What makes these roles critical for organizational transformation?

All four positions define business goals and design an information technology roadmap. This roadmap creates a bridge between context and concept. Whether an organization needs all four types of architects depends on the company size and the complexity of its infrastructure.