

TOGAF® Series Guide

Organization Mapping

Prepared by The Open Group Architecture Forum, Business Architecture Work Stream



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TOGAF® Series Guide

Organization Mapping

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Preface

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This Document

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- Sonia Gonzalez
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Referenced Documents

The following documents are referenced in this TOGAF® Series Guide.

- A Guide to the Business Architecture Body of Knowledge® (BIZBOK® Guide), Version 8.0, Part 1: Introduction, published by the Business Architecture Guild®, August 2018; refer to: <https://www.businessarchitectureguild.org/page/002>
- Organigraphs: Drawing How Companies Really Work, by Henry Mintzberg and Ludo Van der Heyden, September-October 1999, published by the Harvard Business Review; refer to: www.hbr.org/1999/09/organigraphs-drawing-how-companies-really-work
- The TOGAF® Standard, 10th Edition, a standard of The Open Group (C220), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/c220
- TOGAF® Series Guide: Business Capabilities, Version 2 (G211), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/g211
- TOGAF® Series Guide: Business Models (G18A), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/g18a
- TOGAF® Series Guide: Business Scenarios (G176), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/g176
- TOGAF® Series Guide: Information Mapping (G190), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/g190
- TOGAF® Series Guide: Value Streams (G178), published by The Open Group, April 2022; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/g178

1 Introduction

The organization map is a key element of Business Architecture because it provides the organizational context for the whole Enterprise Architecture effort. While capability mapping exposes what a business does and value stream mapping exposes how it delivers value to specific stakeholders, the organization map identifies the business units or third parties that possess or use those capabilities, and which participate in the value streams.

As one of the four core elements of Business Architecture,¹ the organization map provides a key perspective: the organizational context for Enterprise Architecture. For example, it provides visibility of what organization units are relevant for a particular architecture design or solution. These key insights mean that the organization map becomes foundational for Enterprise Architecture and the deployment of strategy.

Taken together with the methods outlined in Phase B of the TOGAF® framework as well as the associated Business Architecture-focused Guides,² the organization map provides an understanding of which organizational units to involve in the architecture effort, who with and when to talk about a given requirement, and how to measure the impact of various decisions.

¹ A Guide to the Business Architecture Body of Knowledge® (BIZBOK®), Part 1: Introduction, Figure 1.1 (see [Referenced Documents](#)).

² The TOGAF® Series Guides to Business Capabilities, Business Models, Business Scenarios, Information Mapping, and Value Streams (see [Referenced Documents](#)).

2 What is an Organization Map?

An organization map is a Business Architecture blueprint that shows:

1. The main organizational units, partners, and stakeholder groups that comprise the ecosystem of an enterprise.
2. The working relationships (informal as well as formal) between each of those entities.

These two primary characteristics also reflect what distinguishes organization maps from traditional organization charts, which are more likely to portray the reporting lines that exist between named individuals who are in charge of each department (refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed explanation). Instead of describing the business in terms of a top-down hierarchy that is focused on people and titles, an organization map depicts it in more fluid terms – as a network of relationships and interactions between business entities that may extend beyond the legal boundaries of the enterprise.

The lack of fluidity with organization charts, along with the broadening of what constitutes an enterprise in today's business world, are what led to the creation of the concept of organization mapping by Mintzberg and Van der Heyden (see [Referenced Documents](#)). They saw the organization chart as increasingly irrelevant to understanding a business, and for strategy and planning. Instead, they proposed the web concept (something that is not too dissimilar to how social networks function) as being more suited to describing how organizations actually operate across formal boundaries and siloes.

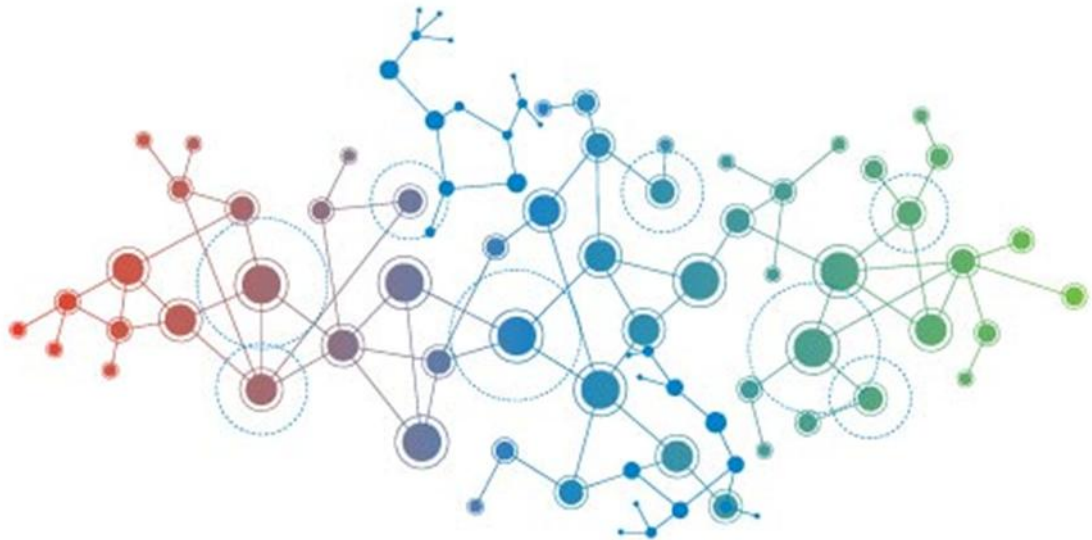


Figure 1: Web-Styled Organigram

The notion that an organization is something that is unconstrained by corporate or legal boundaries may require redefining the organization concept as being “*a social unit of people that*

is structured and managed to meet a need or to pursue collective goals”.³ By not constraining organizational boundaries, it follows that organization mapping is similarly unconstrained. That is, the organization map covers the entire enterprise including the broader ecosystem of suppliers, partners, and stakeholders. If there is a formal working relationship, it can even extend to customers. The organization map therefore provides greater visibility of the enterprise as a whole, rather than just the formal, legal business entity.

Each node in an organization map represents an organization unit. An organization unit can be a business unit or service line, a functional area or department that operates within the business unit, a third-party partner or supplier, or a less formally recognized group such as a collaborative team. Collaborative teams are typically cross-functional and have a relatively temporary lifespan – much shorter than a business unit or department that is shown on the organization chart. Table 1 shows the various types and levels of organization units that may be shown in an organization map.

Table 1: Organization Unit Types and Levels

Organization Level	Organization Unit	Organization Type	Description
0	<name>	Enterprise	Name of overarching entity (the scope of the map)
1	<name>	Line of business	Major lines of reporting within the enterprise
2	<name>	Function	A functional area such as Marketing or Finance
2	<name>	Partner	External partners with key relationships inside the enterprise
3	<name>	Collaborative team	A program or team created by and operating across two or more organizational units

³ Definition of “Organization”, WebFinance, Inc.

3 Differentiating between Organization Maps and Organization Charts

To the uninitiated, organization maps can appear to be similar to organization charts. Both can have similar structural elements, and both can be represented by artifacts that use similar representations (such as a node relationships diagram). However, there are significant differences between organization maps and organization charts.

Traditional hierarchical models of a business (an example of which is shown in Figure 2) focus on formal, top-down reporting structures rather than how the business actually operates. In doing so, they fail to depict the many horizontal, peer-to-peer, or many-to-many relationships that enable the business to function on a day-to-day basis through project teams and working groups that form across different business units and often include external parties.

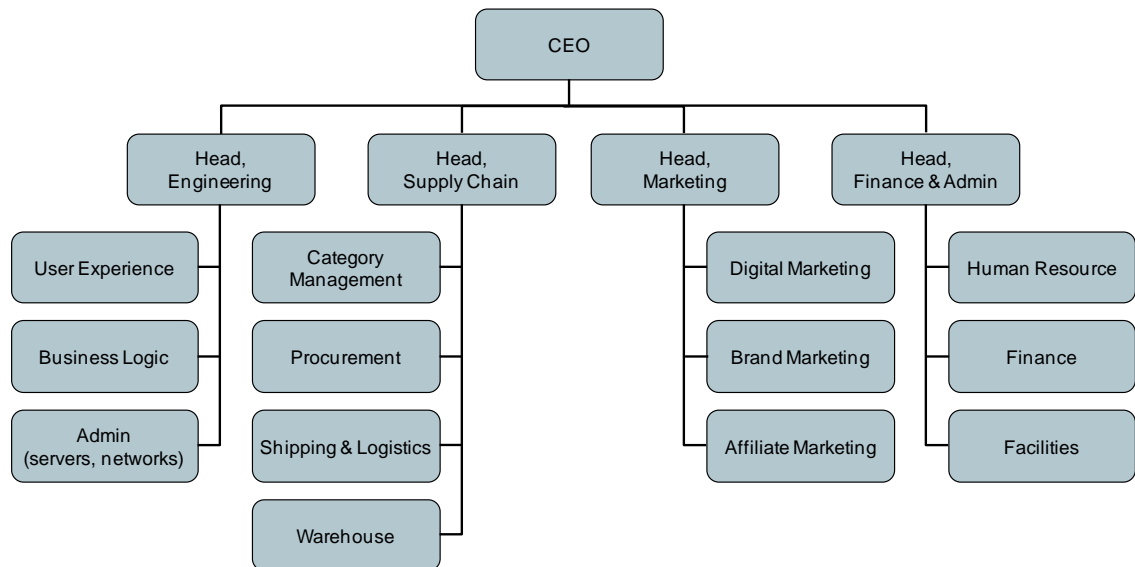


Figure 2: Standard Organization Chart

Organization maps, as shown in Figure 3, go much further by depicting internal and external relationships as well as the collaborations from *across* the enterprise and beyond to include its ecosystem of business partners and stakeholders. The central oval (the enterprise) should be interpreted as denoting the total scope to be represented in the map, not just as the name of the legal entity. Also note that all of these entities are organization units, while the term business unit is being used to denote the next level below the enterprise (in this case representing business functions).

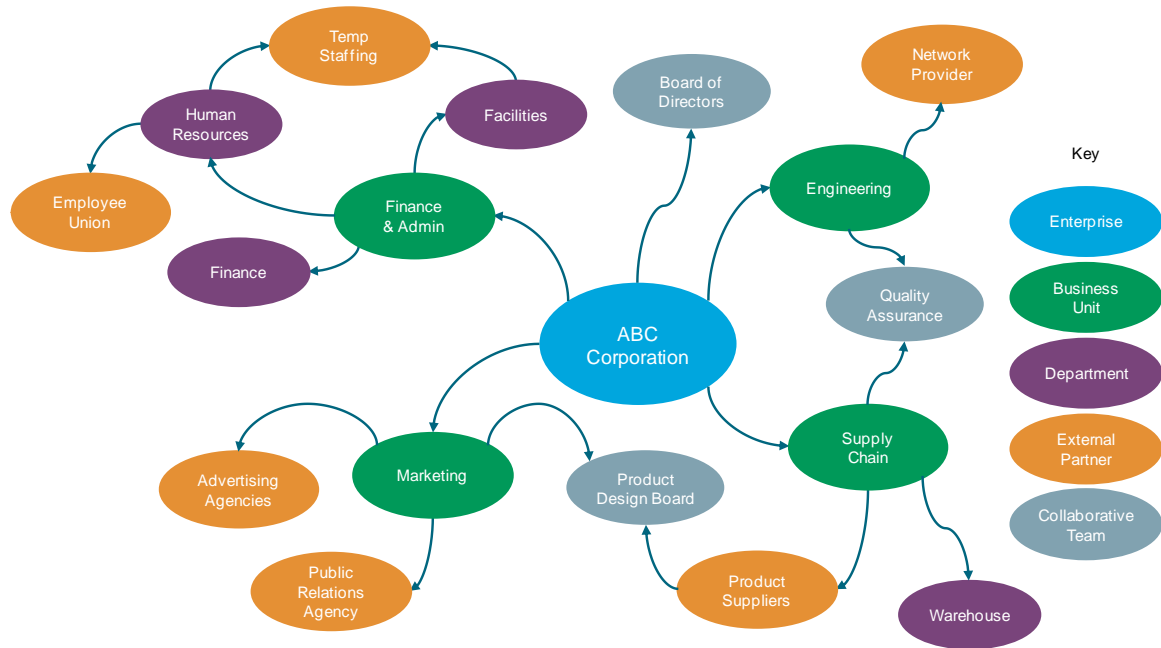


Figure 3: Generic Organization Map

Organization maps and organization charts also differ in terms of their underlying purpose. Typically, organization charts are tools used by senior management and Human Resources (HR) to depict the formal structure of an organization, including the reporting relationships and relative ranks of its parts and positions/jobs. In contrast, an organization map is used by analysts, planners, and architects to depict a richer model of the organization – to communicate both internal and external relationships and collaborations from an organizational unit or business entity perspective.

In summary, the key differences between organization maps and organization charts are as follows:

- **Scope**

Organization charts are internally focused and used to communicate basic structures and reporting relationships of the business to its stakeholders. Organization maps are whole-system-oriented in order to accurately represent all the relationships, internal and external, between each of the key participants in the business model of the enterprise.

- **Complexity**

Conventional organization charts reveal little about the complex interactions and relationships that exist within an organization. Organization maps more accurately describe cooperative and collaborative relationships among business units and external parties. This richer description of critical relationships provides a better tool for understanding how changes in business conditions or business model dynamics may affect the overall operation and the ability of the organization to deliver.

- Explicitness

Organization charts are typically limited to explicit and formal relationships between named individuals who are responsible for running each business unit. In contrast, organization maps include implicit relationships that are critical to the business; e.g., participants in a proposed business model change that will influence a value exchange.

- Lifecycle

Organization charts and organization maps have different lifecycles and degrees of fluidity. For example, a change to a business model could affect the organization map yet not impact the organization chart, which is more internally focused and relatively stable.

4 The Impact and Benefits of Organization Mapping

The benefits of organization mapping include:

- Improves understanding of the organization

Conventional organization charts reveal little about the interactions and relationships of an organization. For example, an organization chart, with its typical internal focus, doesn't lend itself to describing cooperative or collaborative relationships among business units and external parties. By relying on simple organization charts, the lack of organizational knowledge can sub-optimize an organization's understanding of which business units may be impacted by changes in business conditions and how they may be impacted. Planners typically have to rely on their collective wisdom to fill in the gaps of missing knowledge about the organization. The organization map provides transparency of the organization necessary to identify and appropriately engage impacted business units.

- Improves strategic planning

The organization map is an essential part of a holistic and integrated approach to strategic planning and investment analysis. Business units historically often plan in isolation and miss opportunities to understand how the change initiatives they sponsor affect other organizations and *vice versa*. This results in initiatives that are often sub-optimized or even fail due to the lack of cross-organizational planning, coordination, and funding. Organization mapping provides a means for the organization to identify and engage all business units impacted by strategic change early on. This greatly improves strategic planning and investment analysis for the organization.

- Provides organizational context for deployment

The organization map provides the foundation for describing the applicability of business capabilities, architecture designs, and solutions to impacted business units. This is especially critical for large organizations that aim to maximize asset reuse across numerous diverse business units. The organization map helps to answer questions like: What business units do a particular requirement, architecture design, or solution apply to? What business units are impacted for a given requirement, architecture design, or solution? How should business capabilities be deployed across multiple business units?

- Improves communication and collaboration

As a core element of Business Architecture, the organization map plays a key part in providing the transparency required for effective communication and collaboration. One of the main objectives of the organization map is to identify what organizations are impacted by a particular planning activity or change initiative. This information is a key input into the communication plan and stakeholder analysis. Another objective is to identify which organizations need to collaborate to realize the goals and objectives of the initiative.

- Improves the effectiveness of organizational change management

By providing transparency into the business units affected by the proposed change, the organization map helps prepare and support impacted business units and individuals to successfully adopt change. Combined with more detailed artifacts such as the business interaction matrix, role catalog, and the actor/role matrix, the organization map is a key input to identifying organizational change management impacts, defining job functions, and executing training.

5 The Relationship to Business Capabilities, Value Streams, and Information Maps

The first step is to set out a tabular description of elements that are often related to organizational elements such as the organization unit. As shown in Table 2, the organization map starts with a central construct that names the scope of the enterprise to be mapped. In the second row, organization units (or lines of business or divisions) are the elements that directly make up that enterprise. The next step is often to describe business capabilities, to outline which organization units have which business capabilities (with a many-to-many mapping); a powerful construct that can help understand many issues around authority, investments, information flow, and change management.

Independent of mapping to business capabilities, however, organization units can also have relationships to location or other attributes that make meaningful distinctions between the units but are not themselves an organizational element. In the fifth row, value flows are shown and labeled between organization units in tangible or intangible forms. Here, key information types can be shown flowing between organization units. Examples for some of these are shown in Chapter 7. Note that it is expected that some of these relationships will be built based on the needs of the architecture effort, but rarely all of them. Finally, a table of this form can provide an understanding of possible relationships between artifacts in the architectural knowledge base, including whether those relationships are direct, or derived through the use of other artifacts.

Table 2: Organization Map Relationships to Other Domains

Element	Type	Relation	Purpose	Examples
Scope of enterprise	Organization	Direct	Basis of the organization map that sets the scope for boundaries	Name of the business entity and extended team including customers and strategic partners
Organization unit	Organization	Direct	The enterprise decomposes into organization units	Marketing, Finance, Supply Chain, HR
Business capability	Capability	Direct	Organization units have one or more business capabilities	Market Management, Financial Management, Supplier Management
Location	Geographical	Direct	Organization units have one or more locations	Global <i>versus</i> regional locations

Element	Type	Relation	Purpose	Examples
Value flow	Value	Derived	Characterized through labeled lines between organization units, naming the value that flows from one to the other	Product Delivery, Payment Approval, Personalized Service
Information flow	Information	Derived	Characterized through labeled lines between organization units, naming the information that flows from one to the other	Product Attributes, Payment Terms, Agreement

6 Using Organization Maps with the TOGAF Standard

To the Business Architect focused solely on blueprints for the business, an organization map can be a pure business construct articulating the relationships between the primary entities that make up the enterprise, its partners, and stakeholders. To the Enterprise Architect, for whom Business Architecture is a phase to fully characterize business needs and concerns to then be addressed by technologies, an organization map is a means to an end of identifying stakeholders for solutions resulting from the architecture phases.

With the definition of a stakeholder as an individual, team, organization, or class thereof, having an interest in a system, the TOGAF framework focuses on the organizational understanding needed to drive the focus and scope of Enterprise Architecture,⁴ as well as identifying stakeholders key to the acceptance and use of technology solutions. The organization map of the Business Architect also relates to TOGAF operating issues such as business actors, roles, or processes, in the context of using technology solutions.

The TOGAF framework supports the use of organization maps in both contexts, with the introduction of the topic in Phase A and Phase B. In Phase A, the architect searches for and uses existing organization descriptions, even if only in the form of conventional organizational charts. In Phase B, the architect builds out the organization map with the detail and relationships to other views needed to ensure the business needs are understood. The metamodel also introduces the organization entity with relationships to other entities, using the term organizational unit. This entity has relationships to others such as delivering business capabilities, delivering products, and realizing business functions.

Applying this guide, the Enterprise Architect can draw a much richer relationship between organizational entities, business capabilities, and information concepts to shape the path for implementing systems, applications, data models, and infrastructure. This blueprint, such as the general examples in Chapter 5 or the applied examples in Chapter 7, guides how a business capability gap that might be partly addressed by a new or refreshed technology also relates to the organizational elements that may call out critical stakeholders, and the key information concepts that should be supported by the technology solution. Note the caveat “partly” addresses another key role for developing Business Architecture before designing solutions, that very few business problems can be addressed by technology alone. As in the associated TOGAF® Series Guides for Business Capabilities, Information Mapping, and Value Streams (see [Referenced Documents](#)), an organization map that is well thought out and then linked to those other domains will help ensure that the real business problem is solved with the best combination of process changes, roles and responsibilities, data capture, and technologies enabling them through applications and infrastructure.

⁴ The TOGAF® Standard – ADM Techniques, Stakeholder Management (see [Referenced Documents](#)).

7 Putting Organization Maps into Practice

Continuing with the retail business examples that have been used throughout the Business Architecture TOGAF® Series Guides (see [Referenced Documents](#)), a typical organization map for a global retail corporation might look like that shown in Figure 4.

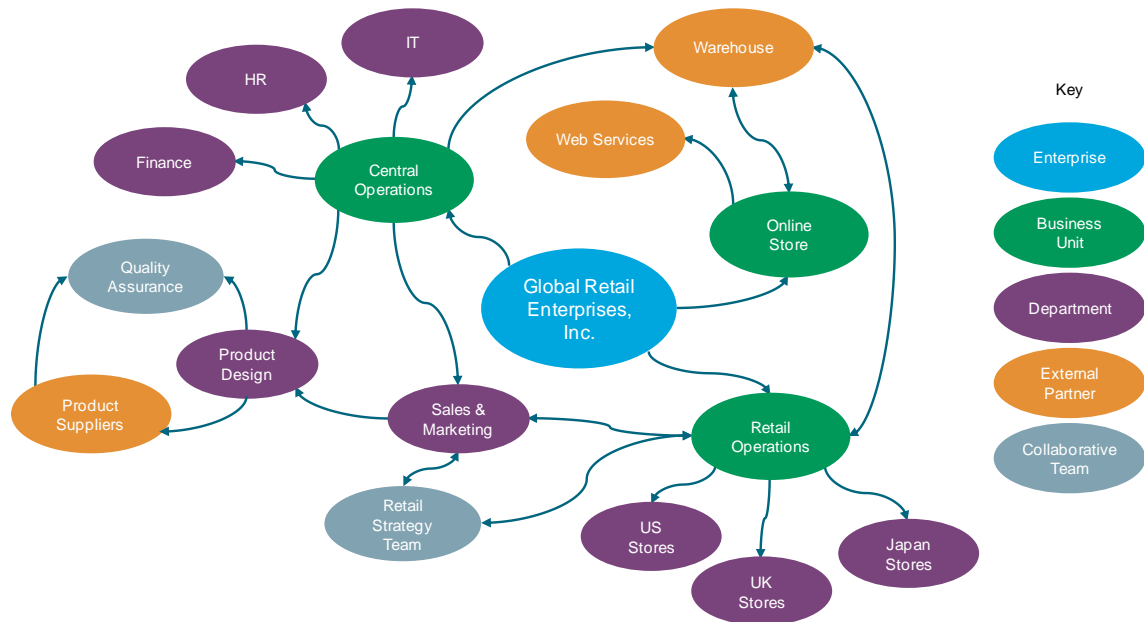


Figure 4: Retail Business Organization Map

As a reminder, the central oval (the enterprise) should be interpreted as denoting the total scope to be represented in the map, not just as the name of the legal entity. Also note that all of these entities are organization units, while the term business unit is being used to denote the next level below the enterprise (in this case representing lines or channels of business).

Not only is it immediately apparent how the business functions at an organizational as well as operational level, but the organization map can be extended to show the relationships between organization units and other Business Architecture domains such as business capabilities. Figure 5 shows an example of cross-mapping the Project Management of the IT organization unit and the Learning Management of Sales & Marketing. Note the ability to also apply heat mapping to each capability to provide a visual indication of performance, maturity, or some other relevant attribute.

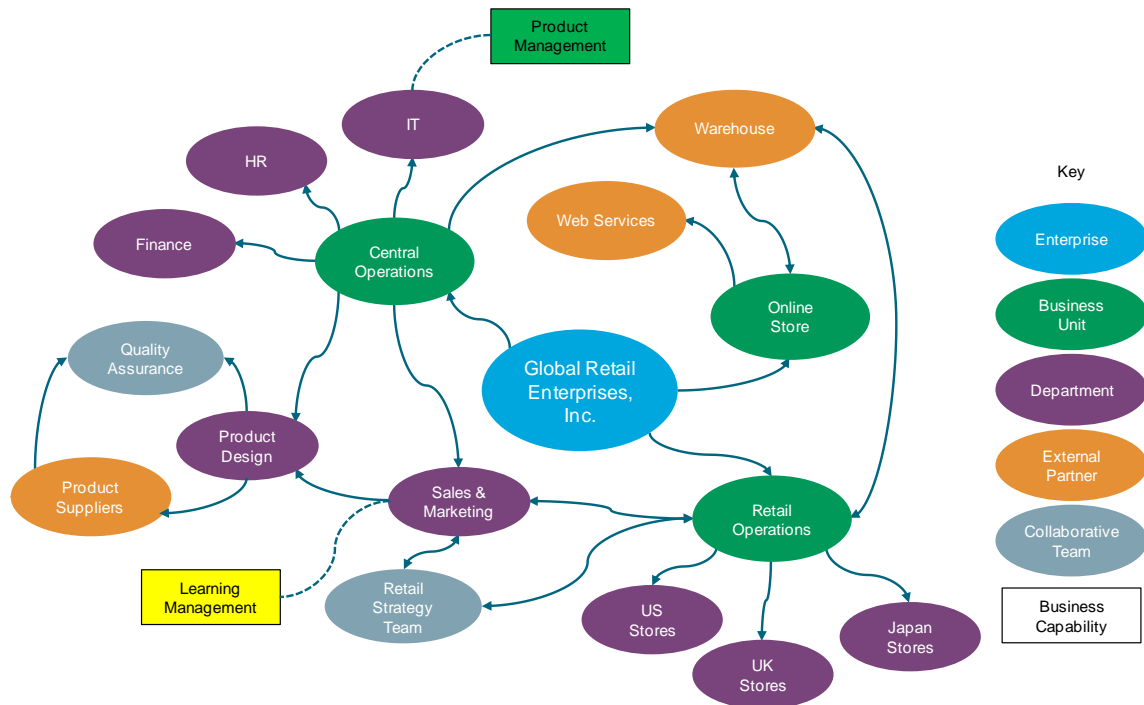


Figure 5: Organization Unit-to-Business Capability Cross-Mapping

8 Conclusion

An organization map is a Business Architecture blueprint that shows the key organizational units, partners, and stakeholder groups that comprise the ecosystem of an enterprise. The identification of organization units and relationships among them provides one of the four critical pillars of Business Architecture. The organization map identifies the business units or third parties that possess or use business capabilities, which participate in the value streams and have a relationship with business information concepts. These four pillars with identified maps within the scope of the Enterprise Architecture effort and appropriate relationships mapped across the pillars ensure that the scope and reach of the full Enterprise Architecture is understood in order to set the stage for later solutions across processes, roles, technologies (applications, infrastructure), and data models.

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