TOGAF® Poster Series #16
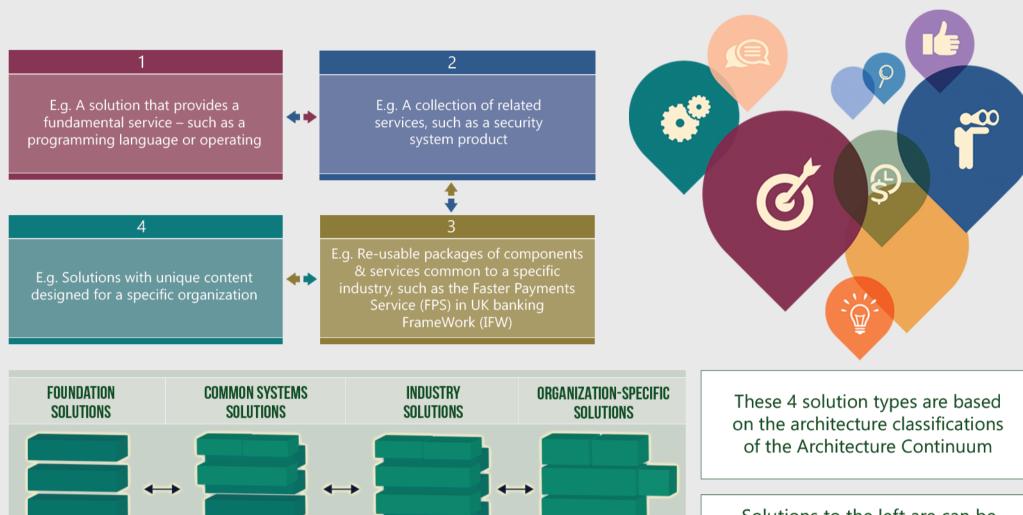## The Solutions Continuum

by Roger Evernden

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We looked at the Enterprise Continuum in an earlier poster. Here we look in more detail at the Solutions Continuum, which populates the architecture with purchased products or built components that provide solutions to the needs articulated at level in the Architecture Continuum.

1

E.g. A solution that provides a fundamental service – such as a programming language or operating

2

E.g. A collection of related services, such as a security system product

4

E.g. Solutions with unique content designed for a specific organization

3

E.g. Re-usable packages of components & services common to a specific industry, such as the Faster Payments Service (FPS) in UK banking FrameWork (IFW)

FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS	COMMON SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS	INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS	ORGANIZATION-SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS

FOCUS ON PROVIDING & MAXIMIZING SOLUTIONS VALUE

FOCUS ON ADDRESSING ENTERPRISE NEEDS BY MAXIMIZING & LEVERAGING AVAILABLE RESOURCES

These 4 solution types are based on the architecture classifications of the Architecture Continuum

Solutions to the left are can be reused in many contexts, which maximises their value and ROI. Solutions to the right are more effective if they leverage & reuse elements from the left.

Start by selecting Foundation Solutions that form the basis for common systems, industry or organization-specific solutions.

For example, decide which programming languages, operating systems or data standards will be used across the Solutions Continuum.

Also look for services that include services such as training or consultancy that will help you get the best value from these solutions. For example, delivering timely updates or upgrades.

Then pick solutions that provide requirements & capabilities that are common across industries or domains within your enterprise.

For example, many areas within a bank would need high availability transaction processing, security, and scalable data warehouse capabilities.

Common Systems Solutions are typically provided by computer systems vendors, software as a service vendors or business processing outsourcing vendors.

Now add solutions that provide industry-specific functionality.

For example, a physical database schema for an accounting system, or an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) for a bank.

Finally buy or build the components that deliver the remaining capabilities that are unique or tailored to organization-specific needs.

Organization-specific solutions should be structured to support defined Service Level Agreements (SLAs), operating parameters & quality metrics, which can be used to monitor & manage the environment.

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