TOGAF® Poster Series #21
TOGAF Executive Interview
by Roger Evernden

Good e-Learning

The Poster provides a TOGAF overview of enterprise architecture - what it is and why it is needed. It summarizes the benefits of enterprise architecture and adopting TOGAF to architect your enterprise.

What is an enterprise?

Any collection of organizations. For example, a government agency, a whole corporation, a business division in a corporation, a single department, or a chain of global companies linked through common ownership.

Large corporations & government agencies may comprise multiple enterprises with a number of independent enterprise architectures for each one. But there is often much in common & there is usually great potential for gain in using common architecture components.

Why do I need Enterprise Architecture?

The purpose of enterprise architecture is to optimize across the enterprise the often fragmented legacy of processes (both manual and automated) into an integrated environment that is responsive to change & supportive of the delivery of the business strategy.

- More efficient business operation
- More efficient IT operation
- Better return on existing investment, reduced risk for future investment
- Faster, simpler & cheaper procurement

What specifically would prompt me to develop an Enterprise Architecture?

Typically, preparation for business transformation needs or for radical infrastructure changes initiates an enterprise architecture review or development.

The architect addresses stakeholder concerns by:
- Identifying & refining stakeholder requirements
- Developing views of the architecture that show how the concerns and requirements are going to be addressed
- Showing trade-offs to reconcile the potentially conflicting concerns of different stakeholders

Without enterprise architecture it is highly unlikely that all concerns & requirements will be considered or met.

What is an architecture framework?

It is a foundational structure or set of structures, which can be used for developing a broad range of different architectures. It should describe a method for designing a target state of the enterprise - in terms of a set of building blocks and how they fit together.

It should contain a set of tools, a common vocabulary, a list of recommended standards & compliant products that can be used to implement the building blocks.

Why do I need TOGAF as a framework for Enterprise Architecture?

TOGAF provides a best practice architecture framework to build workable & economic solutions that address business issues & needs. TOGAF plays an important role in standardizing & de-risking the architecture development process.

TOGAF has been developed through collaborative efforts of over 300 Architecture Forum member companies from some of the world's leading companies & organizations to address the complex process of developing & sustaining an enterprise architecture.

Who would benefit from using TOGAF?

Any organization undertaking, or planning to undertake, the development and implementation of an enterprise architecture for the support of business transformation will benefit from use of TOGAF.

Organizations seeking Boundaryless Information Flow can use TOGAF to define & implement the structures & processes to enable access to integrated information within & between enterprises.

Organizations that design & implement enterprise architectures using TOGAF are assured of a design & a procurement specification that can facilitate an open systems implementation.