TOGAF® Poster Series #45
Architecture Scoping

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Working out the scope of the enterprise architecture in general or an EA initiative in particular is a key task for the EA team. There is material in several parts of the TOGAF documentation covering Architecture Scoping. This poster brings that material together in one place. [Relevant sections are shown in brackets]

Business Expectations
Requirements for Architecture Work

Business needs determine the requirements and performance metrics. Concerns need to be clear so that we may scope business outcomes and resource requirements for architecture work. [6.2.3]

Architecture Capability

Once you know the scope you can think about the right structures, roles, responsibilities, skills, expertise, and processes you need in place to make effective use of enterprise architecture [2.8 and 2.9]. This is the Architecture Capability.
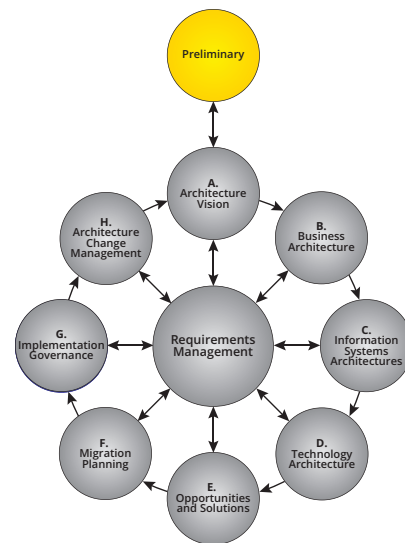
According to TOGAF, "the Architecture Capability defines the parameters, structures, and processes that support governance of the Architecture Repository." [2.7]
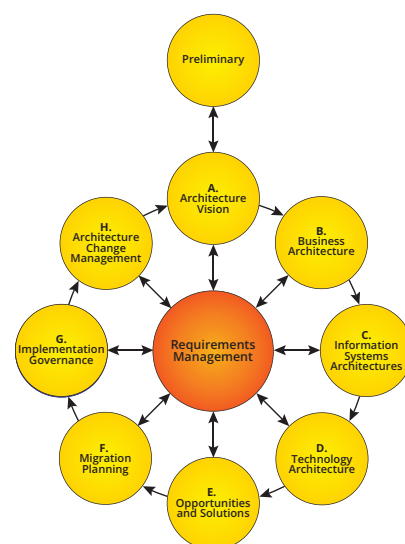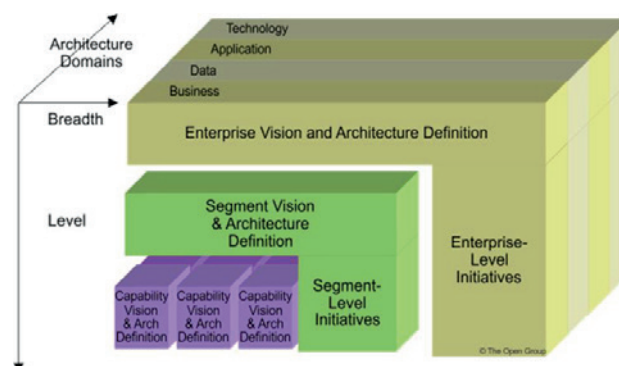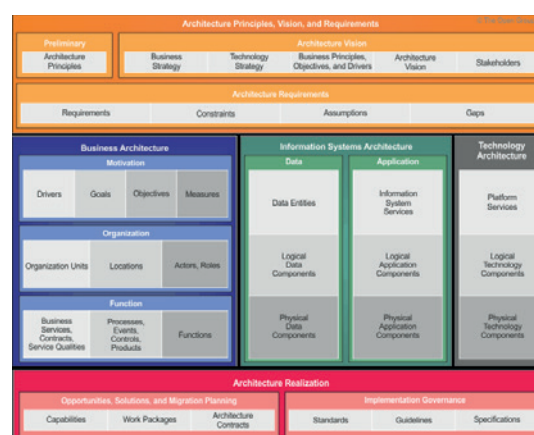
Architecture Contracts

Architecture Contracts (used throughout the ADM) provide a formal understanding of governance responsibilities, level of authority, and scope of the architecture under the governance [49.1]

Tailor TOGAF

Based on the scope, you also need to tailor TOGAF, including adapting the ADM to meet the needs required by your scope. For example – which phases are required, do you need to add security [21] or SOA [22] aspects?

The Preliminary Phase covers the initiation of and preparation for architecture work, and includes agreement on scope.

1. Enterprise Scope

Enterprise scope determines who derives benefit from the Architecture Capability. A sponsor ensures that EA activities have the necessary resources and business support.

The enterprise may cover many organizations – the sponsor should ensure that all stakeholders are included in defining, establishing, and using the Architecture Capability. [6.2.1] Consider whether the whether the organization is federated or not, and whether you need to include areas outside the boundaries of the organization (suppliers, partners, etc.).

The business operating model can help determine EA scope. There may be multiple enterprises with a number of independent enterprise architectures. If there is much in common there is great potential for using a common architecture framework.

2. Architecture Domains

Next – think about which Architecture Domains need to be included in your scope, and then which constructs from the Architecture Content Framework or Metamodel are likely to be in scope.

3. Level of Detail (Vertical Scope)

The level of detail depends on the scope and goals for the architecture effort. It needs to be detailed enough, but not over-detailed.

TOGAF splits the Architecture Landscape into three levels of granularity [41.2] - Strategic, Segment & Capability – and this classification can be used to think about what level of detail or depth the architecture effort needs to go.

4. Time Period

Consider how much time you have, and what can be done within this constraint. You will also need to consider available resources, funding, and skills.

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