The Open Group Architecture Framework

**OGAF**, or 'The Open Group Architectural Framework', is an award-winning enterprise architectural framework developed in 1995 by [The Open Group](http://www.opengroup.org/). This refers to a clear set of rules on organizational development designed to help large enterprises achieve development goals in a quick and cost-effective manner.

TOGAF itself offers guidance on how an organization can create, interpret, analyze and make use of different elements within a single strategy. Using clearly defined terminology, this enables simple communication between departments and a sizeable reduction in the likelihood of wasteful errors.

How, then, has a single set of guidelines become so popular? Some of the world’s most powerful and profitable organizations use TOGAF, while certified professionals can often enjoy sizeable salary boosts.

The first reason is simply a matter of scale. **Enterprise Architects** need to maintain a clear understanding of what their organisations are progressing towards. At the same time, they must keep in mind the needs and capabilities of different departments in relation to the overall enterprise. This is a lot to organize, even for a seasoned professional!

TOGAF offers a solution by helping businesses to establish clear ROIs, solid communication and enough perspective to tie everything together under one plan. Moving forward without a well-established planning framework risks severe delays and wasted resources. Worse yet, it will likely produce an end result which fails to satisfy expectations or requirements. In the corporate world, a single mistake can cost millions!

The second reason is that even after nearly 25 years, TOGAF is still at the top of its game. The first version was based on the 'Technical Architecture Framework' developed by the Department of Defense. This framework was then handed over to **The Open Group**, which has continued to refine it ever since.

## How Does TOGAF Work?

Exactly how TOGAF works can be broken down into three key areas for **EA framework** development. The first is the clear and well-established terminology used during the development process. Ask a builder and a marketing executive to give their own definitions of ‘architecture’ and their answers will be completely different. Without a clear idea not just of what its professionals are saying but also how they are saying it, an organization will inevitably suffer confusion and delays.

Establishing the meaning behind key terms early on enables efficient communication across the board. This in turn will ensure clarity of vision in establishing goals, along with the methodologies designed to achieve them. TOGAF provides this terminology, allowing certified professionals to collaborate with ease, even across disparate industries.

The second is a set of clearly defined processes to follow. This is supported by TOGAF’s 'ADM' or '**Architecture Development Method**'. The ADM is a cycle for enterprise architecture development which outlines several key steps for professionals to follow. It guides users via a clear and versatile methodology, allowing them to apply and develop their knowledge in practice.

Finally, TOGAF provides all the necessary assets required to carry out architectural development. For example, the framework outlines a clear procedure to manage and document changes as they occur. This helps in creating future ADM cycles, which, in turn, will cut down on the time required for further developments down the line.

## How can a TOGAF Certification Help my Business?

We have already looked at how TOGAF provides the tools and clarity required for effective enterprise architecture development. For those unfamiliar with the basic concepts of enterprise architecture, however, it may seem like we have failed to get down to brass tacks.

So, exactly how can TOGAF benefit both businesses and professionals?

### TOGAF for businesses:

* **Greater efficiency:** TOGAF’s framework helps to develop clear paths for creating enterprise architecture. It also provides all the tools necessary to establish a working EA framework. While paying for this kind of guidance is completely optional, the alternative often results in severe wastage in terms of both time and resources.
* **Common language:** The terminology established by TOGAF eases communication both within and between large scale organizations. This can be a huge advantage when it comes to ensuring that an architectural development process runs smoothly.
* **Creating processes for future development:** The ADM establishes a staged approach to enterprise architecture that is nonetheless fluid enough to adapt to individual organizations. While crafting such an approach might seem difficult at first, the experience will make future architectural development much easier. In other words, it helps organizations to create systems which can be used again and again.

### TOGAF for Enterprise Architects:

* **High demand:** Top tier organizations put a great deal of faith in any certification which sets a global standard. Pursuing TOGAF training [via an accredited course](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-certification) can be an excellent option for both budding and experienced enterprise architects. However, they must make sure that they take the Level 1 and 2 TOGAF exams via a certified test center. There is plenty of unrecognized course content out there online!
* **Experience:** TOGAF combines technical and managerial aspects of IT. Aspiring enterprise architects can learn how to manage multiple elements simultaneously through an [accredited training course](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-certification). More importantly, they can learn the perspective required to design and adapt information systems architecture within a wider EA framework.
* **Networking:** Since TOGAF is so widely used, professionals the world over are familiar with its terminology and framework. This can create excellent networking opportunities for architects who are on the lookout for new opportunities.
* **No qualifications necessary:** It helps to [start a TOGAF course](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-certification) with at least a basic knowledge of enterprise architecture. However, there are no prerequisites required to become TOGAF-certified. Even a university student could learn TOGAF to set themselves up for the start of their career.
* **Future proof:** Even though each TOGAF version introduces new features, the core framework remains the same. Because of this, you can continue to use TOGAF even as updates are released. Rather than relearn everything from scratch, you can simply add to your knowledge as you go.

## Why Gain a TOGAF Certification with Good e-Learning?

Good e-Learning offers a variety of award winning industry-accredited courses centered on TOGAF and [Enterprise Architecture](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/). Our content is suitable for all enterprise architects, whether they are still learning the ropes or looking to update their knowledge. Best of all, our TOGAF courses have been fully accredited by **The Open Group**: the very organization behind TOGAF!

Good e-Learning currently offers a number of TOGAF courses:

* [TOGAF 9.2 Foundation](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-foundation)
* [TOGAF 9.2 Certification (level 1 & 2)](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-certification)
* [TOGAF Essentials 2018](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-essentials-2018)
* [TOGAF Foundation & Awareness Suite](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-awareness-foundation-suite)
* [TOGAF Certified & Implementation Suite](https://www.goodelearning.com/courses/enterprise-architecture/togaf-9-certification-implementation-suite)

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