

**Q1: Are there any parallels you can see between The Winchester House and IT in many companies?**

Case Study Workshop

Winchester House

Learning Objective

To understand the problem that we as an Enterprise architects must fix

Yes: IT has been built in a similar fashion with new systems continually added which overlap and duplicate data and function. Hundreds of interfaces (corridors) have been built to connect these systems together. Many systems are only part used. Hundreds of IT builders work day and night for the last thirty years and continue to add to the ‘IT Winchester House’.

**Q2: Are there any similarities between The Winchester House and the structure and organisation**

Yes: The business organisation is often similar to the IT chaos. There is often duplication of function, gaps in management, confusion and conflict in direction and limited coordination. Often a chaotic IT assembly of applications and data is a mirror of an equally chaotic assembly of business functions.

One lesson here is that it is virtually impossible to re-architect applications, information and technology without a re-architecture of the business.

**of most businesses?**

**Q3: What could Mrs Winchester have done to avoid building such a chaotic house?**

Mrs Winchester could have done two key things:

1. Created an architectural blue-print of the final house so that all the construction was undertaken against a known design.

2. Yes: The business organisation is often similar to the IT chaos. There is often duplication of function, gaps in management, confusion and conflict in direction and limited coordination. Often a chaotic IT assembly of applications and data is a mirror of an equally chaotic assembly of business functions.

One lesson here is that it is virtually impossible to re-architect applications, information and technology without a re-architecture of the business. Mrs Winchester could have made some simple rules about the design, for example all bedrooms on floor 2, all living rooms floor 1.