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Advantages of Deploying Solutions

Developed through An Enterprise Architecture

as developed via the EACOE Enterprise Architecture Methodology

Your organization has an architecture, but do you know what it is?

One of the driving needs for an Enterprise Architecture is to enable an enterprise's Information Technology (IT) team to quickly, accurately and iteratively deploy prioritized, stable and operationally excellent Business Solutions to address the fast paced changes in opportunities across the global markets, and enable the organizations Goals and Objectives.

Various approaches exist for developing Enterprise Architectures from differing value points. The Enterprise Architecture Center Of Excellence (EACOE) practices and evolves its methodology to emphasize the value point of a documented, human consumable, prioritized, iterative architecture which is evergreen, ever-robust, and evolves as growing numbers of projects and initiatives contribute to this valuable enterprise cache of traceable, related business actions and interests.

What then is the result, the end-state of an Enterprise Architecture using the EACOE approach?

The key EACOE Enterprise Architecture deliverable of business interest is a clearly defined set of artifacts – not only for architecture but for understanding of the business desired state and as-is state. These artifacts enable the design, development, test and deployment of accurate, stable, prioritized solutions that smoothly integrate throughout the organization, are operationally efficient, and foster iterative improvements or rollbacks as the markets', customers' and partners' feedback dictates.

While there are defined ends to projects, initiatives, and phases, an architecture is ongoing – it leads change. It is a definition much like the periodic table of chemical elements – providing documented, traceable information for successor initiatives and projects. An EACOE Enterprise Architecture is intended to be kept evergreen, increasing in robustness and detail as additional projects and slices[1] of the enterprise contribute to the architecture's documented foundation of the enterprise; thus, a properly maintained and evolved architecture may not *have* a fixed one-off end-state.

Projects, initiatives, and phases each have defined deliverables, and so too does the effort of each iteration of the EACOE Enterprise Architecture development. The initial artifact efforts may be of a certain depth and understanding, as a strength of humanity is in its ability to abstract and pattern things such that we need not focus attention on details. However, the initial phase of establishing an Enterprise Architecture requires that the best and brightest dive into the details of those items of interest to the business, to find the architectural core of the business. Business and IT participants will see the artifact's value grow as elements are interrelated, associated to others in newly discovered affinities, and organized to define initiatives of projects that support the Business' prioritized goals.

A greater point of emphasis is the value of the *advantages* each solution will realize when developed in accordance with the EACOE Enterprise Architecture.

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[1] EACOE's Practitioner methodology can focus on a smaller 'slice' of the enterprise, and within that slice, we focus on a particular complex project.

On the next few pages, we list the advantages that the EACOE Enterprise Architecture Methodology has seen arise from Business and IT client executives and teams, as they develop and deploy their solutions through the EACOE Enterprise Architecture methodology and approach.

Brief Points of Advantage

Resulting from Solutions designed and developed

from the EACOE Enterprise Practitioner Methodology

Advantage	Enables
1. Business executives clearly communicate the priorities of goals (Business needs)	IT focus on top Business need impacts, iteratively deploying as much as is possible for each iteration window Iteration enables multiple ongoing checks and adjustments to Business direction and customer or partner feedback
2. Business goals and directives trace through from source to all related elements	Eliminates contradiction of projects and clarifies solutions' intent, enterprise priorities, and executive sponsorships
3. Business can easily use the Architecture artifacts – they are Human Consumable	Business personnel, as well as IT, are able to use the information and keep it up to date without having to have special tools or training on such special tools. Artifacts are available, to any person involved in discovering, prototyping, managing, designing, developing, testing, deploying, and operating a solution.
4. Business gains confidence and a cadence in working with the architecture, as each follows a consistent form	Encourages compliance to produce a consistent and complete definition. Quality communication without assumptions or gray areas.
5. Business realizes their expertise is the key to success	No complex tools need be purchased, developed or trained upon; any source that the enterprise deems worthy can be a basis to build or enhance the architecture and will be traced across the elements that reference that source
6. Business discovers previously unrealized / masked relationships	New discoveries may lead to new opportunities, new points of leverage, and filling of gaps in services that can or should be provided to enterprise personnel, partners and customers.

Advantage	Enables
7. Business can develop a Bill of Health for all critical and contributing systems and their platforms	Clarified hardware and software dependencies for solution deployment.
	Alerts Business to systems' conditions, re. vendor support, licenses or seats, vendor package versions vs. current versions, user and operations view of system quality, backup policies, backup / swappable platforms, clusters, multi-site hosted, policies for disaster recovery and data recovery, etc.
8. Business discovers systems that must be made available for the processes to meet the Business needs	Plan and budget early enough for systems ready to support development, test, and operation of the solution
9. Business can plan evolutions with confidence	Identify needs and existing solutions that can or must be updated, upgraded, clustered, virtualized, repurposed, or retired.
10. Business operations and test groups can identify early where a solution will need specific care	Solution definition will highlight all impacted systems, sites, roles, data stores, etc., which will enable planning for network design, bandwidth, clustering, mirroring, or separate site backups, etc., and the testing and deployment approaches for these various topologies.

11. Business realizes each process' value
   a. Process support for goals
   b. Process that must be created (gap)
   c. Existing process needing updates
   d. Existing process ready for focus need
   e. Existing process is candidate to retire, its contribution has expired or is redundant (overlap)
	Architecture clarifies each process within a solution to highlight the impact changes or dependencies each will have upon other users of the process or its related processes, in that they may alter data the related processes depend upon.

	Processes may be unique to specific groups, functions, sites, or countries; they may be simple or complex and be global in impact.

Advantage	Enables

12. Business gains clear view of the Material (data) needed for a process, and the related processes that also depend on that material
   a. Existing material viable for solution
   b. Existing material needs updates
   c. Existing material is redundant (overlap)
   d. Existing material is stale, no longer of business value (remove)
   e. New material is needed (gap)
	Material (data) becomes a high level focus and any gaps, overlaps or alterations will reflect immediately to other systems / solutions that will feel the ripple. This will help prevent changes that are not vetted with all interested and impacted parties and tested thoroughly before deploying and causing damage to the data integrity and the Business reputation.

13. Business realizes a broad scope of relationships between processes and materials (data)	Grouping of processes and data and their support systems occurs, as needed by the solution, into initiatives
14. Business realizes the groups of people and the roles impacted or involved in the solution	Training for the roles as needed, accurate inclusion of all areas of the business needed to successfully deploy the solution and support it operationally
15. Business may identify new roles or changes to existing roles to meet the demand of the solution	Training for new or altered roles to meet the demand, or acquire the needed skill-set through transfers or hiring.
16. Business clearly sees the sites or locations impacted or involved, via the relationship to involved Systems and roles	Identify each solution site, their fail-over/ mirror sites, or their application / data hosting sites, and contacts for each within the roles involved.
17. Business more clearly sees the per-site roles, systems and unique processes	Assumptions are avoided on global and in-country sites. Identify their specific needs per the solution, such as language specific interfaces, references, and support channels

18. Business realizes the dynamic nature of the architecture
   a. by nature cyclic, iterative, "evergreen"
   b. by seizing market opportunities because of flexibility
	A definitive basis is set for iterative, prioritized development
	
	Traceable descriptions of architectural elements enable IT to react quickly to design and deploy with confidence

Advantage	Enables

19. Business experiences the evolution of the architecture
   a. Naturally evergreen
   b. Additional enterprise "slices" of the business contribute
   c. Additional projects introducing or altering solutions across slices contribute
	Communication across Business to IT, and Business to Partners and Customers is naturally improved, as smaller, prioritized focus items deploy, their utility and acceptance measured, etc.
	
	Business becomes a natural partner with IT
	
	External parties are closely engaged

20. Business realizes faster designs as Architecture becomes robust	Successive iterations through additional projects and 'slices' of the business build up the robustness of the architecture, increasing its reference value as iterations continue. This trends future projects to lessening architecture work and faster time-to-market.
21. Business realizes greater performance as they assign top Personnel to highest priority efforts	Multiple paths on IT Roadmaps enable top people to work on a variety of priority, high impact, visible projects for each iteration window, which will almost always have additional room for additional projects of lower priority, but nonetheless important projects, relating enterprise resources available and schedules
22. Business adjusts initiatives to reflect experts' experience and non-documented knowledge	Not all knowledge in the business areas of focus is available in written form, where it can be harvested. Initial initiatives are suggestions and will be analyzed and adjusted to properly reflect the known world of the experts.
23. Business develops a single source reference Glossary for Business Material (data) and Process definitions – a common vocabulary	Consistent source of accepted definitions for both Business and IT designers removes ambiguity from definitions of business Materials (data, things), Processes (actions), Roles, Locations, and Events, and the ever-popular Acronyms.