Zen and Enterprise Architecture Beginner's Mind



Zen and Enterprise Architecture Beginner's Mind

The TOGAF and Zachman frameworks indicate a large number of views into an Enterprise Architecture.

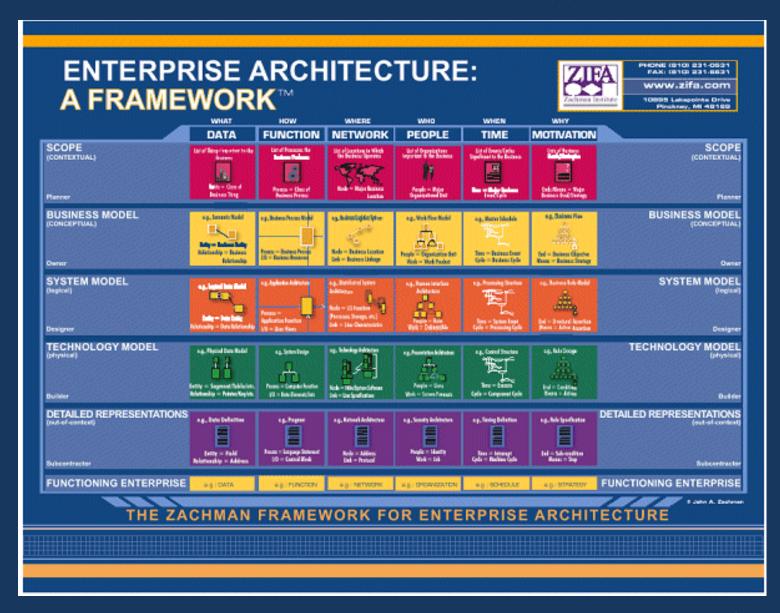
Beginner's may find this daunting.

This presentation provides a simplified overview with some hints about how to get started.

Architecture Frameworks

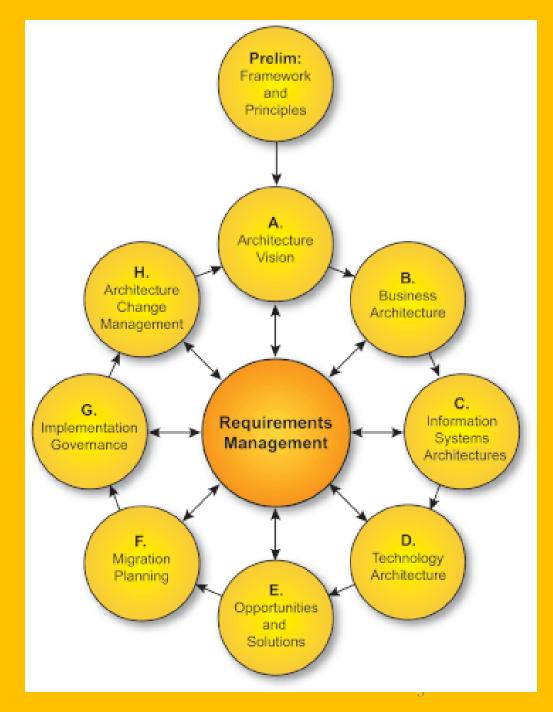
- Standardized Architecture Vocabulary
- Not a methodology
 - Not a sequence
 - Allows you to incorporate existing assets.
- Guidelines ... How to:
 - Organize Enterprise Architecture artifacts.
 - Coordinate multiple teams.

Zachman Framework

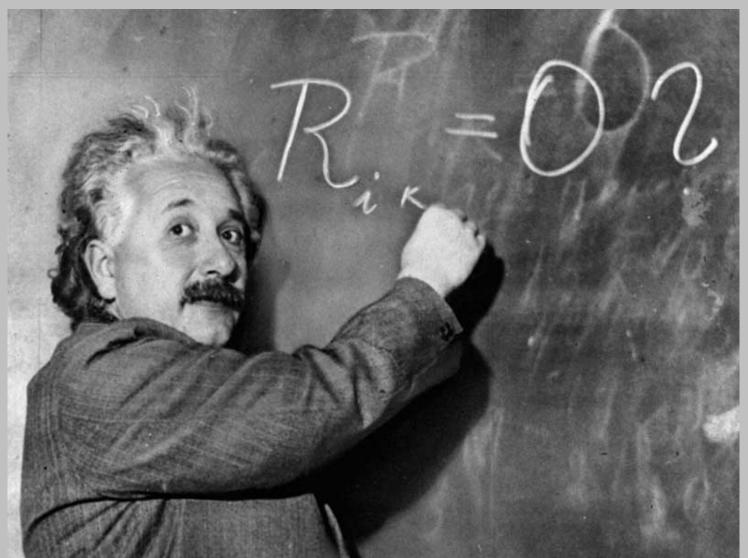


TOGAF

The Open Group
Architecture
Framework



A (model) should be as simple as possible, but no simpler.



4 Dimensions

- 1. Process
 - → Business Architecture
- 2. Information
 - → Data Architecture
- 3. Infrastructure
 - → Standard Operating Environment
- 4. Time
 - → Roadmaps

Where to start?

- Advice:
 - Start with a value chain model.
- Why? ... Synergy
 Engages the business.

 - Defines modeling priorities.
 - By-product: domain entities.
 - Provides the context for Interface Driven Design.
- How:
 - There are many best practices. Coming up: some suggestions



Management Activities





Support Activities

Enterprise-Level Business Process Model



- Focus on the Value Chain.
- Follow the product, not the data.
- Remember that accounting, reporting, and ITS are all support activities, they are not the main-line.
- Write an imperative sentence to describe each activity.

Write an imperative sentence to describe each activity.

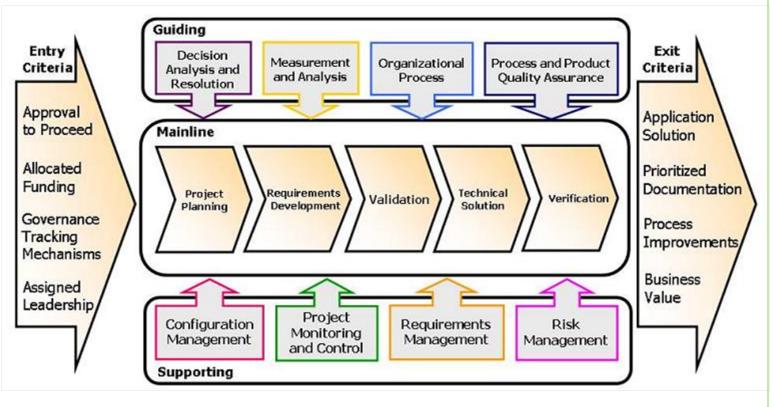
- An imperative sentence starts with a verb.
- A weak verb indicates weak analysis.
 - A sentence that begins with verbs like: process, manage, handle, ...
 simply beg the question.
- Avoid local jargon, especially IT jargon.
 - Industry jargon might be okay.
 - Industry acronyms are marginal.

Agile Business Process Modeling



- Remember that the model is not the goal. It is the vehicle.
- Just Enough, Just In Time:
 - You only need enough information to plan the next step.
- Focus on hand-offs between business units.
 - At the enterprise-level, the interface is more important than the internal process.

Example: ITS as an enterprise



You cannot model in a vacuum.

Different
organizations
will have
different
terms
for
similar
activities.

There will be differences in emphasis.

Boxes will be ordered and sized according to the local point of view.

Software Agile Development Value Chain

Plan future features.

Plan products / features.

- Identify future products.
- Request new features.
- Prioritize new features.

•

Plan software releases.

- Allocate resources.
- Publish roadmap.
- Forecast releases.

Design features.

Identify requirements.

- Business requirements.
- Derived requirements.
- Write test plan.

•

Design software.

- Design the UL
- Decide architecture.
- Code the API.

Build current release.

Construct Software

- Use cases \rightarrow tests.
- Pass each test.
- Integrate continuously.

•

Final-Test Software

- Exploratory Testing
- Acceptance Testing
- Load and Stress Testing

Instant Enterprise Data Model

- Review the **nouns** found in the process model statements.
- Many of those nouns are data entities.
- Create a **glossary** to standardize the vocabulary.
 - You don't need attributes for planning. They only serve to clarify entities.
 - Nouns that refer to forms or other data processing artifacts indicate misplaced analysis.

Subject Areas – Data Entities

Release Plan Subject Area

- Product
- Feature
- Release
- Resource
- Roadmap
- Forecast

Design Subject Area

- Business Requirements
- Derived Requirements
- User Interface (UI)
- Program Interface (API)
- Architecture
- Test Plan

Test and Code Subject Area

- Test
- Code
- Build
- Document

Subject areas correspond to business process areas. They provide some clues about which data needs to be managed together.

Infrastructure

Layered SOA

The business process model is a good predictor

> **Process** Services

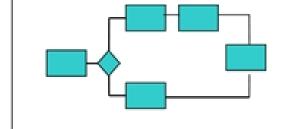
Decision

Services

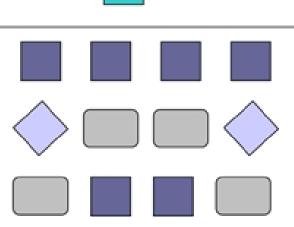
Entity Services

of the services your enterprise should have.

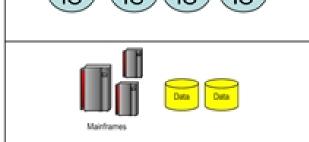
Business Processes



Services



Services



Integration

Enterprise Resources

Infrastructure

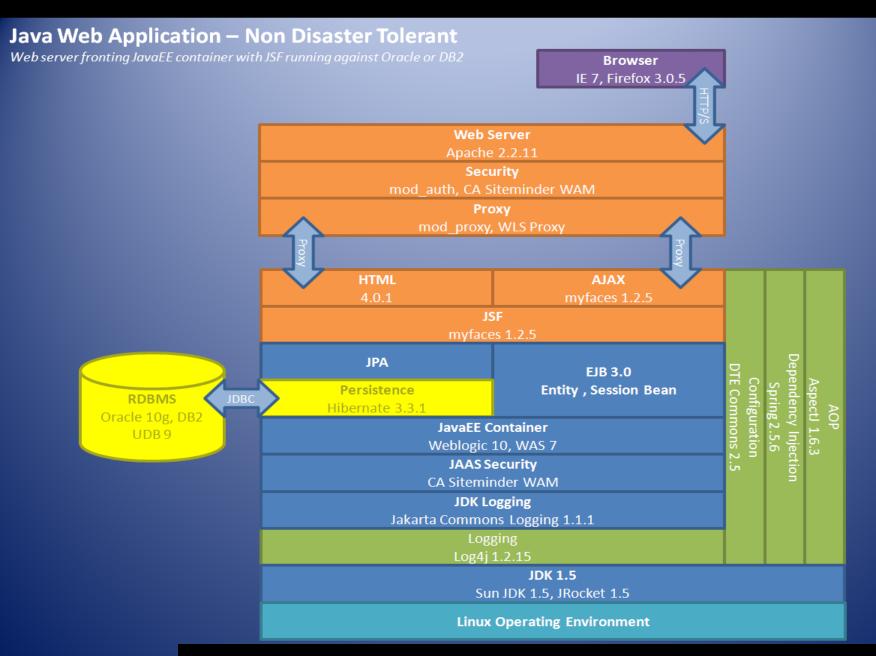
Standard Operating Environment

- Hosting (Host hardware / operating system)
- Storage (Database, Back-Up, Retention)

Messaging

- User Workstations
- Developer Workstations
- Special Workstations
- Web Application Stack
- Management Reporting Stack
- Transaction Processing Stack

Create a wiki so that everyone can maintain their own section.



Standard Architectures for Standard Problems

One project at a time

- Enterprise Architecture is like urban planning.
- There is a large-scale plan, but it is built
 one project at a time.
- How do we do that?

-3/1/10

from the Big Picture to the Gig Picture

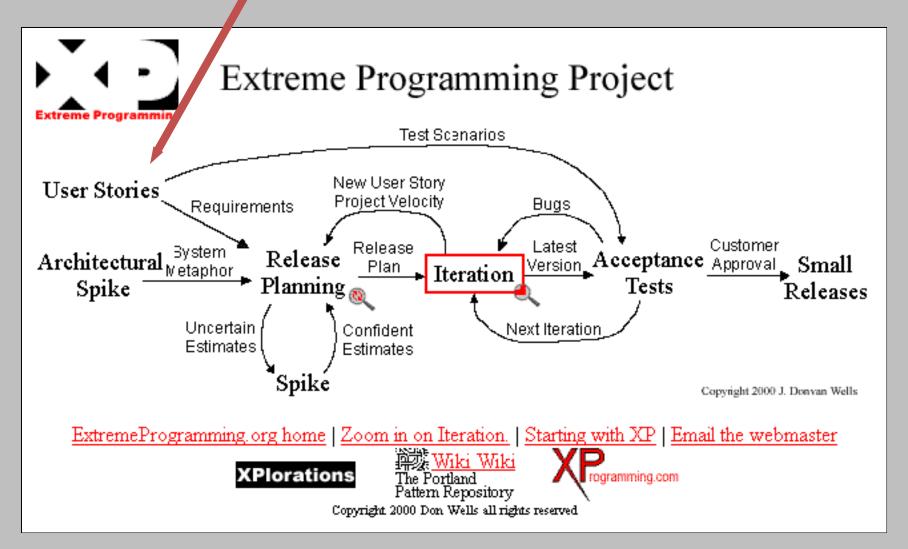
- Business processes communicate by sending **messages**.
- The messages indicate essential entities and implied capabilities.
- For project planning,
 the message is the feature.

How are business process interfaces identified?

- Business level interfaces are messages sent between business sub-processes.
- A handy technique:
 Express each message in a complete sentence.
- Look for four kinds of message:
 - Request: Please process work order W.
 - Response: Work order W was completed at time T.
 - Notice: Person P is no longer certified in skill S.
 - Query: Status S = What is the status of work order W?

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Each message is a user story.



This diagram is cut-and-paste from the www.extremeprogramming.org web site.

Details, Details

Business Process Proxy (sending application)

Detect business event

Assemble message object

Deliver Message (asynchronous)

Receive and dispatch message

Initiate business process

Business Process Proxy (receiving application)

Detecting the business event is relatively easy.
The business application will have an API
that publishes the event. Worst case, one needs
to put a trigger on some table to publish the event.

The message object has a message-sentence (or some handle) and a few objects representing the domain objects referenced in the sentence. These are assembled into the message object. This follows a simple design pattern.

Use a standardized **asynchronous** delivery system. Simply invoke "Publish message M on topic T" and let the infrastructure take care of the details.

Receiving the message also follows a simple design pattern.

This is typically where the **hard-work** happens. The development team needs to translate the domain objects to what-ever form is required by the receiving application's API. Sometimes we have to design and build an API from scratch (old legacy application).

Release planning is a multi-person game.

<u>Planning and Budgeting</u>

- Business Process owner/governor
- Application Portfolio owner/governor
- Component Library architect/planner Design and Construction
- Enterprise Architect architect / planner / coordinator
- Project Manager planner / coordinator
- Software Developer build / test / deploy / maintain

Roadmap

Advantex Mobile Field Force Management Crew Management Advantex Circuit Design **ESRI** Functionality Used by **ESRI** Gas Functionality Used by **ESRI** Gas Field Services - Design Miner & Miner Designer Procurement - Material Maximo Requisition Field Services - W/O Maximo Tracking Analytical Support -Maximo Distribution Management Inv. Mgmt - Installed Maximo Equipment

Next Six Months (2008H1)

Functionality/ Stability Release Following Six Months (2008H2)

Advantex Maint Rel 6 Install Post 1 Year

Upgrade to Advantex 8.1

Upgrade to ESRI 9.2

Upgrade to ESRI 9.3

Upgrade to Maximo 6.2.1

Install Maximo Visual Navigator Upgrade to Maximo 7.1.x

Four Dimensions:

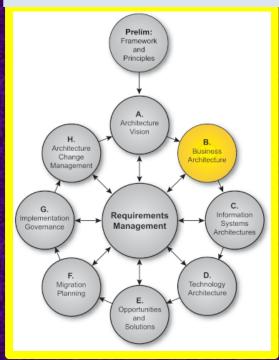
Process

- → Business Architecture
- Information

 Data Architecture
- Infrastructure > S.O.E.

Time

→ Roadmaps



TOGAF:

- http://www.togaf.info/
- http://www.opengroup.org/

Zackman Framework:

- http://www.zachmaninternational.com/
- http://eacoe.org/

Value Chain:

- James Martin: ISBN: 9780814403150

 Martin, James (1995). The Great Transition: Using the Seven Disciplines of Enterprise Engineering
- Ken Orr: Business Enterprise Architecture Modeling http://www.cutter.com/workshops/04.html
- Michael Porter: http://www.isc.hbs.edu/

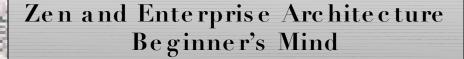
Links



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Zen and Enterprise Architecture Beginner's Mind





The title of my talk is:
"Zen and Enterprise Architecture,
Beginner's Mind"

What does my talk have to do with Zen, absolutely nothing.

Why is there a rock garden on this slide?
The word Zen is in the title,
so the rock garden is required.

It's in the by-laws someplace.

Zen and Enterprise Architecture Beginner's Mind

The TOGAF and Zachman frameworks indicate a large number of views into an Enterprise Architecture.

Beginner's may find this daunting.

This presentation provides a simplified overview with some hints about how to get started.

3/1/10

What is my talk really all about?

Architecture Frameworks
Indicate a large number of views and processes.

Beginner's may find this a bit daunting.

In this talk I attempt to boil enterprise architecture down to a few fundamental techniques and ideas.

These techniques provide a good place to start.

Architecture Frameworks

- Standardized Architecture Vocabulary
- Not a methodology
 - Not a sequence
 - Allows you to incorporate existing assets.
- Guidelines ... How to:
 - Organize Enterprise Architecture artifacts.
 - Coordinate multiple teams.

3/1/10

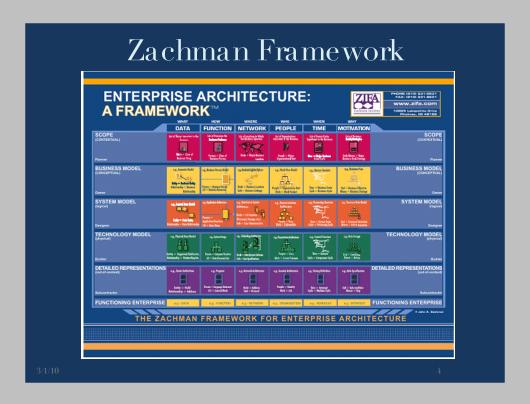
What is an architecture framework?

Basically a framework provides a **vocabulary** for talking about enterprise architecture.

It is not a methodology really.

The procedures that come with a framework are really guidelines, not instructions.

Enterprise Architectureinvolves coordinating multiple teams.TOGAF provides some ideas about how to do that.But the details are left to your group.



This poster for a version the Zachman Framework nicely illustrates the idea that you need many "views" or audience-centric presentations of the Enterprise Architecture.

Enterprise Architects spend most of their time communicating.

Different audiences have different concerns.

As a result, there can be a lot of different "views" or renderings of the architecture.

The Open Group Architecture Framework Framework Indigen the control of the cont

This poster for the TOGAF framework indicates that there are a lot of different **processes** involved in developing or working with an Architecture Framework.

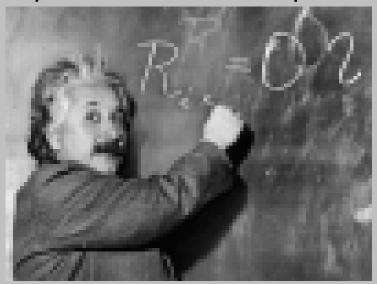
The arrows on the diagram might make you think that there is a sequential process involved.

However, the TOGAF framework does not really prescribe the sequence of the processes.

In practice, all of these processes are going on **simultaneously And iteratively.**

The arrows do represent a good conceptual sequence.

A (model) should be as simple as possible, but no simpler.



Can these frameworks be simplified?

Not really! Each component is there for a reason.

But, I can show a minimal subset that provides a good-enough place for a beginner to get started.

Additional components can be added when the situation and organization calls for them.

4 Dimensions

- 1. Process
 - → Business Architecture
- 2. Information
 - → Data Architecture
- 3. Infrastructure
 - → Standard Operating Environment
- 4. Time
 - → Roadmaps

3/1/10

Zachman and TOGAF are very good frameworks.

But, when I look at them, I worry that beginners might find them too complicated and give up or get lost.

So I am going to provide a simple framework with just four dimensions.

If you already have some experience with systems analysis, these four dimensions should be very familiar.

I am going to show how to apply analysis techniques at the enterprise level.

There are some differences from the way things are typically done at the project level.

Where to start?

- Advice:
 - Start with a value chain model.
- Why? ... Synergy
 - Engages the business.
 - Defines modeling priorities.
 - By-product: domain entities.
 - Provides the context for Interface Driven Design.
- · How:
 - There are many best practices. Coming up: some suggestions



A enterprise is deep and wide.

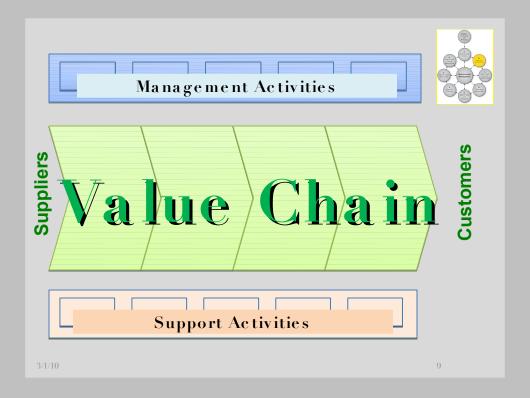
Where should we start?

If you can, the best place to start is with a value chain model.

A value chain model is kind of high-level business process model.

There are many advantages to starting with this kind of model.

But the main one might be that it helps to define modeling priorities.



How do you focus your analysis on the things that matter?

Focus on the "value chain."
The value chain includes the activities
that are most directly concerned
with producing the enterprise's product or service.

As IT people, we sometimes become side-tracked by support activities or management activities because that is where the ITS investment might be or the latest question.

But we need to resist the tendency to be side-tracked and focus on the value-chain.

Use the Management and Support layers as a parking place for those activities.

Enterprise-Level **Business Process Model**



- Focus on the Value Chain.
- Follow the product, not the data.
- Remember that accounting, reporting, and ITS are all support activities, they are not the main-line.
- Write an imperative sentence to describe each activity.

3/1/10

Here are some **general guidelines** that always apply when you are doing business process analysis.

- Focus on the business **product fbw**, **not the data fbw**. As IT people we tend to focus on the data but unless the enterprise product is data, that is the often wrong place to focus when doing process analysis and definitely the wrong place to focus when doing enterprise analysis.
- Frankly, management activities and support activities are a distraction when you are doing enterprise modeling.

 Avoid spending time in those areas.

Use the management and support areas as a **parking place** for those activities.

The last rule here keeps you out of trouble, and enables synergy:

Describe each business process using an **imperative sentence**. If you have trouble writing that sentence, there is something wrong.

Write an **imperative sentence** to describe each activity.

- An imperative sentence starts with a verb.
- A weak verb indicates weak analysis.
 - A sentence that begins with verbs like: process, manage, handle, ... simply beg the question.
- Avoid local jargon, especially IT jargon.
 - Industry jargon might be okay.
 - Industry acronyms are marginal.

When we are working on a white board and trying to fit annotation on a diagram, we tend to be **overly terse**.

A diagram without a "bill of materials" is just a "stage prop."

Good modeling tools provide a place to put text that ties back to the diagram.

You can put the imperative sentence there.

There is a trade-off between innovation and clarity. **Avoid writing sentences that prevent people from thinking outside the box.**

Agile Business Process Modeling



- Remember that the model is not the goal. It is the vehicle.
- Just Enough, Just In Time:
 - You only need enough information to plan the next step.
- Focus on hand-offs between business units.
 - At the enterprise-level, the interface is more important than the internal process.

3/1/10

How do you stay agile when you are doing something as big as a model of the enterprise?

How do you avoid analysis paralysis?

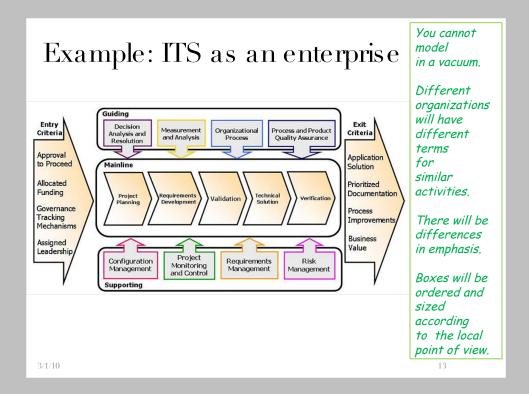
Actually there is some art involved.

How much detail your team needs is often a judgement call.

Generally, you only need enough information to plan the next step.

When you are doing Enterprise Architecture, the details of the various business processes are almost irrelevant.

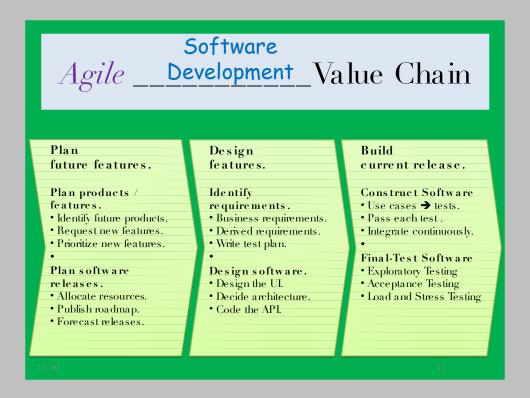
Focus on the **hand-offs** that occur when a business process hands a partial-product off to another or when a business process delegates some work to another process.



Here is a model we use at DTE Energy. Other enterprise ITS groups are almost certainly performing the same activities. But, those groups probably uses different names for many of these activities and may organize them somewhat differently.

Three points:

- [1] There is no right answer.
- [2] Names are important.
- [3] You cannot construct a model without talking to the process owners because you have to get the names right. If you don't get the names right, people will simply not recognize the model as pertinent.



This slide is here to demonstrate that there are value chains within value chains.

If you have an enterprise level model, you don't need to create lower level models until the time comes that you need them. That is another way of being agile.

However, there is a small risk. The risk is that you may need to "re-factor" the higher-level model.

But one of the rules of being agile is that you need to accept, accommodate, and facilitate re-factoring. It is a simple fact that you cannot know everything.

Instant Enterprise Data Model

- Review the **nouns** found in the process model statements.
- Many of those nouns are data entities.
- Create a glossary to standardize the vocabulary.
 - You don't need attributes for planning. They only serve to clarify entities.
 - Nouns that refer to forms or other data processing artifacts indicate misplaced analysis.

3/1/10

Earlier I said that you should write an **imperative sentence** to describe each business activity.

If you do that, it will keep you out of trouble, and it will set you up to create an Information Architecture as a quick by-product.

In fact, many people do process models and data models simultaneously.

Three steps:

- [1] Underline the nouns in the imperative sentences.
- [2] Many of those nouns represent **business objects** (data entities) that are sufficiently interesting that the business records data about them.
- [3] Create a **glossary** that defines how the business uses those terms. The process of creating and reviewing the glossary will smoke-out problems with synonyms and homonyms.

Time management:

- Attributes are not important at this level of analysis. They only serve to clarify the nature of an data entity.

Quality Check:

- Nouns that use the names of forms, acronyms, or data processing objects may indicate a problem with the process model.

Subject Areas Data Entities

Subject Area Product	Subject Area • Business Requirements	Subject Area • Test
• Feature	• Derived Requirements	• Code
Release	• User Interface (UI)	• Build
Resource	Program Interface (API)	 Document
Roadmap	Architecture	
Forecast	• Test Plan	

This is an **optional step**, but it typically only takes about an hour and it is generally worth it.

An enterprise data model typically contains around **80 data entities**. (kernel entities in ERA terms) A small one might contain about 20.

You can gain some insight into your Information Architecture by grouping the data entities into **subject areas**. Subject areas typically correspond to business process areas.

Subject areas provide some clues about which data needs to be **stored together** and which data needs to be **managed together**.

Infras truc ture

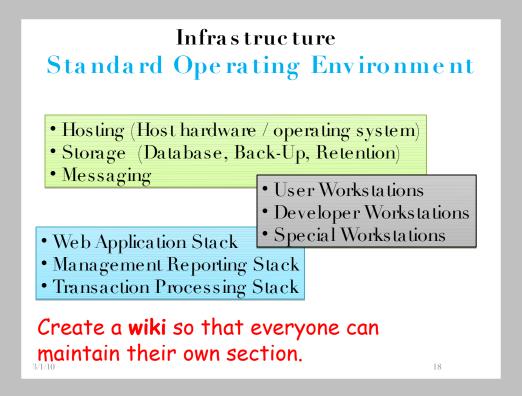
The business process model is a good predictor of the services your enterprise should have.

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I owe Mike Rosen a thank you for this diagram.

The point I want to make here is that ... you can also derive a plan for the service architecture from the business architecture.

- The business processes in your enterprise's business architecture,
 may be represented by process services and decision services.
- The subject areas in your data architecture should be packaged as **Entity Services**.



Of course, service architecture is just one view of the IT infrastructure.

An enterprise of any size will need a **Standard Operating Environment** (SOE). Having a standard environment reduces problems with **interoperability**.

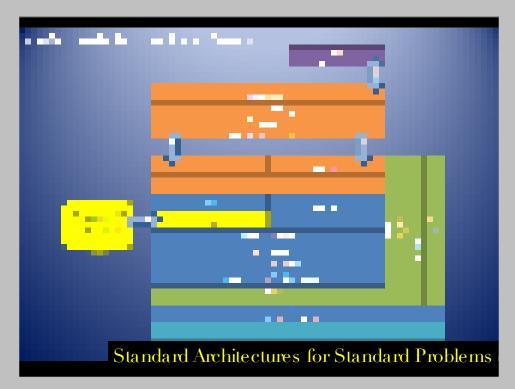
It also means that projects don't need to design the environment.

You need to get all of the technical practices on board. I recommend that you create an private enterprise architecture wiki

inside your firewall.

Each of the technical practices can maintain their own section of the wiki.

You may need to establish some **guidelines** and occasional peer reviews about to shepherd the wiki content.



Here is an example of a standard stack for a standard problem.

This is one of the standard stacks that our Enterprise Architecture Group specifies at DTE Energy. You probably can't see the small print, but the small print specifies which specific implementations of a component are allowed.

There is another document behind this one that gives **guidelines** for making choices when more than one implementation is supported.

For example, two application servers are supported. Question: Which one should you use? Answer: It depends.

The guidelines help sort out each case.
In some cases, it is a judgement call
and the Enterprise Architecture Group will make the decision
after consulting all of the interested parties and other experts.

One project at a time

- Enterprise Architecture is like urban planning.
- There is a large-scale plan, but it is built
 one project at a time.
- How do we do that?

Now we are moving to the fourth dimension, the "time" dimension.

- Enterprise Architecture is like **urban planning**.
- There is a large-scale plan, but it is built one project at a time.
- How do we do that?

from the Big Picture to the Gig Picture

- Business processes communicate by sending messages.
- The messages indicate essential entities and implied capabilities.
- For project planning,
 the message is the feature.

How do we go from the **Big Picture** to the **Gig Picture**?

I've discovered a trick.

You can find almost all of the information that you need for planning purposes by studying the hand-off's between business processes.

Business units delegate work to other units by sending messages.

In the old days, these were seen on sheets of paper.

In a modern system, the messages will be in data. But they are still there.

(read above)

How are business process interfaces identified?

- Business level interfaces are messages sent between business sub-processes.
- A handy technique:
 Express each message in a complete sentence.
- Look for four kinds of message:
 - Request: Please process work order W.
 - Response: Work order W was completed at time T.
 - Notice: Person P is no longer certified in skill S.
 - Query: Status S = What is the status of work order W?

3/1/10 2

Once again the technique involves writing a complete sentence ... but with some twists.

- 1. When one business unit is delegating work to another, look for a request and a response (For planning purposes, just focus on the "happy path" ... you shouldn't need to identify the variants and failure modes.)
- 2. When a business process is publishing a notice, write the notice in the form of a **present tense assertion**.
- 3. Write **queries** as an interrogative sentence with the class of the answer made clear.

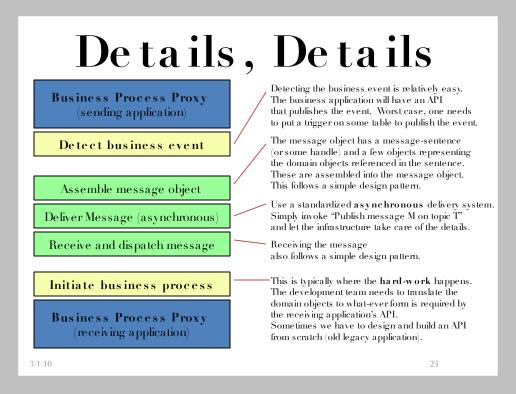
Each message is a user story.



This diagram is cut-and-paste from the www.extremeprogramming.org web site. $^{31449}_{}$

The diagram in the background comes from: www.extremeprogramming.org.

The point I want to make here is that Each message can be treated as a "user story" (use case or feature set) for release planning.



The main point that I want to make here is that ...

You can follow a standard design pattern when you implement each type of message.

This will make it easier to estimate hours and reduce confusion about which team should be responsible for which component.

The design pattern that you select will be partially dependent on your standard operating environment.

One sticky question concerns: How will you represent business objects in message payloads?

Release planning is a multi-person game.

Planning and Budgeting

- Business Process owner/governor
- Application Portfolio owner/governor
- Component Library architect / planner
 Design and Construction
- Enterprise Architect architect / planner / coordinator
- Project Manager planner / coordinator
- Software Developer build / test / deploy / maintain

3/1/10

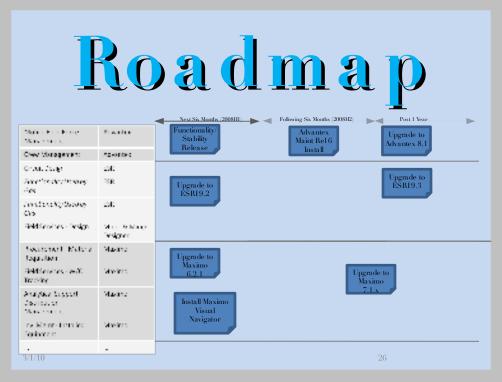
The "Planning Game", as it is called in Extreme Programming practice, can be two or three times as complicated when you are planning enterprise integration.

The reason is that there is a sender and a receiver for every message. The sender process and the receiver process will each have a full complement of project roles. In addition, you may need to involve data service providers.

Thus, you will have at least twice the number of players at the planning table.

I strongly recommend that start thinking about how you will do this if you have not already done so. The biggest hazard to becoming agile in an enterprise integration context revolves around how the planning process works.

I have seen cases where the effort required for planning greatly exceeded the effort required for implementation.



For longer-term planning, we use a document we call a **roadmap**.

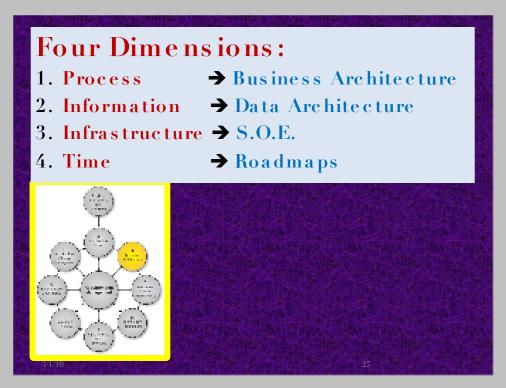
We are primarily a regulated energy utility.
Software is just something our ITS group does to support the main business.
Nevertheless,

we encourage our Information Officers and Portfolio Leads to think like **product managers**.

Of course, we own a lot of **purchased software** in addition to our home-built software. In the case of the purchased software, the roadmap tends to be driven by the **vendor's updates**.

The road map has time on the horizontal axis. The vertical axis has a breakdown of the portfolio.

Again, the business architecture helps to structure the portfolio.



Here is where we've been:

We've seen four fundamental dimensions of Enterprise Architecture.

I've provided a brief overview of some key concepts and techniques in each of those four dimensions.

As you can see, I have only touched on **four** of the **ten** activities in the TOGAF.

The other six activities are **organizational**, and **not to be under-estimated**.

However, if you understand those four, you can get started and the rest will come.

· TOGAF:

- http://www.togaf.info/
- http://www.opengroup.org/

Zackman Framework:

- http://www.zachmaninternational.com/
- http://eacoe.org/

Value Chain:

- James Martin: ISBN: 9780814403150
 Martin, James (1995). The Great Transition: Using the Seven Disciplines of Enterprise Engineering
- Ken Orr: Business Enterprise Architecture Modeling http://www.cutter.com/workshops/04.html
- Michael Porter: http://www.isc.hbs.edu/

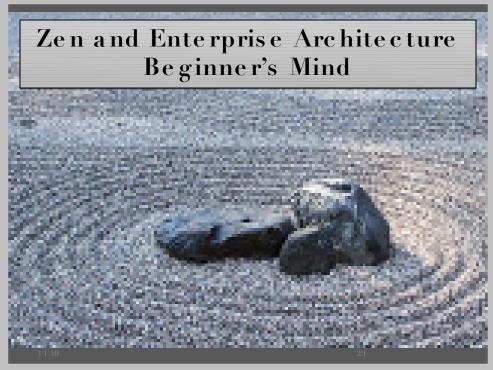
1/10

If you want to learn more about this subject, these **links** are some good places to start.

If you give me your business card, or anything with your e-mail address, I will send you a link to my presentation notes.



Links



I hope that this talk has made Enterprise Architecture look easy. The concepts **are** relatively easy.

But it is kind of like learning object-oriented programming or test-driven development. The concepts are relatively easy to acquire, but acquiring the skill requires weeks of individual practice, and months of team practice.

The really really hard part involves getting all of your teams trained and practicing.