ARCHITECTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

BUSINESS INFORMATION ENGINEERING CORPORATION

White Paper

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The DC metropolitan area suffers from a growing shortage of well qualified information technology professionals who specialize in "architecting" data and process models.

A strong understanding of software engineering principals, designing and strategies , as well as hands-on implementation experience is indispensable to any organization, employing and maintaining sizeable information systems.

To provide a clear definition of what we are proposing to your organization and why, I'll briefly go over the rationales of establishing an enterprise wide architecture.

Essentially, your corporate wide (enterprise-wide architecture) is the intellectual foundation upon which all application systems are created. Organizations with varying software systems and development efforts need to count on a clear enterprise architecture to provide them with a dependable reference point, blue print or a systems road map.

Proper architectural plans are no longer luxuries that impede development progress. They are crucial and much more practiced and feasible. They result in well analyzed and integrated systems data and process models – necessary for the consistency, integrity and accuracy of business functions and information.

Inaccurate information is probably the single most detrimental side effect of poorly designed systems. It can adversely affect the bottom line of a business and in fact has influenced the future direction of businesses that have sidestepped pertinent engineering or reengineering in favor of rapid interface and various add-on software solutions.

<u>It is far cheaper to consider creating an architectural model earlier rather than later.</u>

Traditionally, IT managers have reacted to the growth of their organization and changes to business rules with the "path of least resistance" - the addition of so called integrated software tools ,COTS or development of more "stove piped" applications.

These remedies, be they at the existing program code level or independent systems level, finally turn out to be very costly and needlessly complex additions.

The lack of cohesiveness between systems' data and processes has been the culprit in forming a cycle of corporate data integrity problems.

Inevitably, larger organizations left with a complicated web of hybrid and poorly integrated systems, will need to continue to spend even more money and time to maintain their information systems. IT managers, end users and customers are left frustrated and dissatisfied with ineffective systems.

Cohesiveness between the systems functions, data and methodology can only be achieved with initial through contemplation ensuring true data integration rather than forcing to interface.

The end result of building the extendible enterprise architecture will be invaluable as the complete set of enterprise data models, process models, mapping definitions, data definitions, data integrity checks and constraints, corporate standards for code development are irreplaceable to maintain control and gain a clear advantage in today's economy.

An increase in global economical challenges coupled with ever changing technology leaves most companies wondering how they can compete. Organizations all over the world have begun to shift focus from building integration interfaces to building corporate-wide information architectures.

Survival and technology go hand-in-hand. As we move into the 21st century, the proficiency in global utilization of web-services and meta data is becoming crucial to most organizations. Only firms with the vision to foster the enterprise-wide information architectures will keep their competitive edge.

Remaining loyal to tradition and ignoring the need for this significant shift in technology, is inevitably forcing out, even formidable competitors.