



EACOE Enterprise Architecture Benefits

EACOE uses three overarching categories of benefits for the EACOE Enterprise Architecture approach, which can provide a measurable Return on Investment (ROI), or related measures. Of course, these categories of benefits are dependent upon the definition of Enterprise Architecture – we use the Enterprise Architecture Center Of Excellence (EACOE) definition. We have moved away from “other” non-measurable benefits types, as most business stakeholders have heard these “platitudinal” statements from information technology professionals for years. We are not suggesting that benefits that are not ROI specific are unimportant, but we are tired of seeing the “rolling eyes” from business people! The three categories are financial (reducing costs, enhancing revenues, etc.), services (business agility, improving service to customers, suppliers, stakeholders, providing consistent predictable services, etc.), and infrastructure (reducing unneeded redundancy, optimizing transaction costs, etc.). An endless stream of temporary advantages must replace sustainable advantage as the means to winning. This comes from the EACOE approach to Enterprise Architecture, and is measurable.

Numerous additional other benefits from the EACOE approach to Enterprise Architecture include:

- Establishing a common vocabulary.
- Minimally Disrupting Current Operations and Staff.
- Providing Human “Consumable” Results requiring less than ninety seconds of instruction to understand any specific EACOE Deliverable.
- Explicitly presenting a shared organizational vision.
- Facilitating transparency in decision making.
- Transitions from textual behemoth miscommunications and understandings, to graphical representations that are concise, unambiguous, easy to access, and simple to understand.
- Ensuring that the business intent that is captured can be unambiguously transformed into manual or mechanized solutions.
- Providing a universal communication language for business to business staff communication, and business to technologist communication.



EACOE Enterprise Architecture Benefits (continued)

- Focusing on business solutions without carrying technical baggage.
- Making business stakeholders active participants in developing and meeting business goals, rather than spectators.
- Providing the ability to describe project or undertakings in non-technological terms.
- Providing technology neutrality rather than technology lock-in.
- Developing a functional vocabulary.
- Reaching across organizational boundaries.
- Providing full traceability of all actions – models, definitions, sources, changes, stakeholders – etc.

Validating conclusions draw through seven iterations and phases.

- Setting up the organization for an easily reusable EA process, once the first iteration is done (the waterfall)

Providing the choice of optimizing the entire organization or a business unit. The Methodology is repeatable no matter the size or type of “enterprise”.

- Reducing misunderstandings between the business and information technology personnel, as they now have the same terms of reference. Business people and information technology people build from this same frame of reference.
- Allowing for Cost reduction (standardization and reuse)
- Providing True Enterprise Agility (persistent and standardized models)
- Allowing Business Flexibility
- Providing Reconfigure Resources
- Facilitating Portfolio Rationalization
- Facilitating Technology Simplification



EACOE Enterprise Architecture Benefits (continued)

- Speeding Knowledge Access
- Providing the Ability to Manage IT
- Facilitating Professionalism of Staff
- De-coupling Knowledge from Individuals – Providing a True Knowledge Base (cope with volatility of staff)
- Providing a Governance mechanism for Critical Assets
- Establishing a Context for Architecture Education and Assessment
- Creating an Adaptive Mechanism to Promote Alignment Between IT Assets and Business Initiatives
 - Allowing for Managing Complexity
 - Enabling Managing Change
 - Providing a Mechanism for Determining Outsourcing Options
 - Allowing for the Continuous Exploiting of Intellectual Capital
 - Enabling Governance
 - Supporting Organizational Change
 - Reducing Costs
 - Facilitating Developing Strategic Initiatives
 - Redesigning the Business Models
 - Reducing Information Technology Complexity
 - Realizing the Engineering Design Objectives of:
 - Alignment
 - Integration
 - Interoperability
 - Reusability
 - Flexibility
 - Reduced time-to-market