

QUICK TAKE



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EA Frameworks Book Provides An Overview Of Leading Models

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An endeavor as potentially broad in scope as enterprise architecture (EA) requires a unifying conceptual model, a vision that can communicate scope, interdependencies, process flow, and organizational dynamics. This is the role of the EA framework. Organizations must create their own vision, but rather than starting from scratch, they should borrow from one or more of the existing, proven EA frameworks, adapting them to their needs.

RESEARCH CATALYST

A client at GigaWorld 2004 alerted Forrester to a 2003 publication on EA frameworks.

SELECT AND CUSTOMIZE, DON'T INVENT

Enterprise architecture frameworks are conceptual models intended to communicate, at a high level, the complexity and interdependencies of EA to a broad audience, while, at a low level, conveying requirements for complex system design. Some also endeavor to be quasi-methodologies for EA definition, maintenance, and governance. With such a broad array of goals, it can be very difficult to determine which framework is right for an organization.

EA frameworks help provide the common vocabulary and taxonomy essential to an EA program. Unfortunately, they also tend toward overly academic and abstract approaches that convey an attitude that architecture-for-its-own-sake is a worthwhile pursuit. Forrester's recommendation is to keep it simple, borrow from the best, and customize for your own organization. To that end, Jaap Schekkerman's compact 2003 book, "How to Survive in the Jungle of Enterprise Architecture Frameworks," is a handy volume for reviewing the leading EA frameworks.¹

A Concise Survey

The book begins with about 80 pages discussing basic architecture concepts and includes interesting sections on EA in the US federal government and the European Union. It is unfortunate that, despite being published in Canada, there is no coverage of some of the mature EA programs in Canadian provincial and local governments. It is also unfortunate that examples of EA programs are limited to the public sector.



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Figure 1 Frameworks Included In Schekkerman’s Book

Extended Enterprise Architecture Framework (E2AF)	Enterprise Architecture Planning (EAP)	Federal Enterprise Architecture Framework (FEAF)	Treasury Enterprise Architecture Framework (TEAF)	The Open Group Enterprise Architecture Framework (TOGAF)
Zachman Framework	Integrated Architecture Framework (IAF)	Joint Technical Architecture (JTA)	Department of Defense Architecture Framework (C4ISR & DoDAF)	Department of Defense Technical Reference Model (DoDTRM)
Technical Architecture Framework for Information Management (TAFIM)	Computer Integrated Manufacturing Open System Architecture (CIMOSA)	Purdue Enterprise Reference Architecture (PERA)	Standards and Architectures for e-Government Applications (SAGA)	

Source: Forrester Research, Inc.

The author then describes 14 frameworks over the next hundred pages (see Figure 1). Schekkerman avoids editorializing regarding the frameworks. He neither recommends nor disparages and objectively describes each framework’s history, purpose, scope, principles, and structure, and he includes brief sections on guidance available and the compliance issues it addresses. The absence of case studies showing how the different frameworks have been used is somewhat disappointing, but research into such examples typically encounters issues regarding the confidentiality of intellectual property, and so its absence is understandable. Also notably absent are proprietary frameworks from the leading advisory and consulting firms; with the exception of Cap Gemini Ernst & Young’s Integrated Architecture Framework (IAF), the leading proprietary sources are omitted. Again, this is understandable due to the proprietary nature of the consultancies’ intellectual capital.²

The book follows with cursory descriptions of four EA tools -- the US federal government’s Enterprise Architecture Management System (EAMS), Popkin’s System Architect, Computas’ Metis, and Ptech’s Framework. Concluding sections include brief but useful glossary, references, and links sections.

Schekkerman’s book conveniently fills a void: Forrester knows of no other single source of information on so large an array of EA frameworks. The omissions noted above are unfortunate, but had they been included, the volume’s conciseness would have been

sacrificed; more to the point, this book was possible only because the information that is included is either in the public domain or, in the case of IAF, drawn from the author's experience. The writing style is that of a skilled nonnative speaker of English; as such, it is slightly distracting, but this does not inhibit understanding of the content.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ The book is available from print-on-demand publisher Trafford Publishing. Source: Jaap Schekkerman, "How to Survive in the Jungle of Enterprise Architecture Frameworks: Creating or Choosing an Enterprise Architecture Framework," Trafford Publishing, 2003. See <http://www.trafford.com/4dcgi/view-item?item=4668&14262344-16421aaa>.
- ² The author reportedly worked at CGE&Y as Thought Leader in Business Technology Strategy and Enterprise Architecture.