IBM

Rational® software

From strategy to solutions: enterprise architecture management in action.

Highlights

- *Supports better enterprise planning, improving the understanding of the impact of decisions to help optimize IT execution*

- *Helps deliver solutions that are better aligned to business goals by involving stakeholders in project prioritization*

- *Helps reduce costs and improve solution quality by increasing asset reuse and linking business and IT strategy to solution delivery*

To gain competitive advantage and boost efficiency in the face of a challenging economy, many companies are working hard to innovate business operations. Unfortunately, an inability to see the big picture across the business and IT landscape — and a lack of insight into how change in one area can impact other processes, departments or the business as a whole — can limit the potential benefits of these transformation efforts.

Enterprise architecture management offerings from IBM can help improve your ability to make strategic business decisions as you work to transform the enterprise. This gives you a clear picture of strategy, business architecture, information systems and technology across the enterprise so you can analyze change, plan and prioritize projects — and successfully manage new business and technology initiatives.

Manage the impact of change, consolidation, and mergers and acquisitions

Business change — such as mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and organizational streamlining — requires coordinated activity across business and IT domains. These initiatives are often hampered by the lack of access to enterprisewide information and lack of insight into the linkages between business strategy, business architecture, information systems and technology infrastructure.

Enterprise architecture management offerings from IBM help you gain clarity in enterprise decision making with centralized, consolidated views of the organization. This helps you create and communicate enterprise blueprints that describe your organization's current and potential future states. It allows you to identify business and technology redundancies so you can optimize how you use business and technology assets. The availability of disparate yet linked business and IT information makes it easier to identify risk areas and develop risk mitigation plans.

Crystallize business priorities for IT action

Effectively prioritizing projects based on critical business needs is essential to optimizing budgets. Linking enterprise architecture and application and project portfolio management through the integration of IBM Rational® System Architect® software with IBM Rational Focal Point™ software gives organizations a powerful vehicle for doing trade-off analysis and prioritization, including application portfolio management and road mapping. And Rational Focal Point software can be used to create advanced visualizations of mapped enterprise architecture data, which help planners prioritize projects, as well as dashboards and roadmaps.

This new functionality is invaluable because it enables you to include a broad set of constituents—including business users—in prioritizing projects and related IT investments. The integration directly enables real collaboration around aligning IT investments with business priorities.

Leverage resources for innovation and improved performance

Picking the right strategic programs to execute can help ensure that IT spending is not wasted on projects that are of low value to the business. This frees up resources—budget, people, time— to focus on innovation, differentiation, capturing and retaining market share.

Creating direct linkages from business and IT strategy to solution development and delivery can improve alignment of solutions to business goals and drive improved asset reuse, solution quality and IT governance. This is part of creating an actionable architecture and is core to enterprise architecture management. An initial step is linking higher-level enterprise architecture blueprints and more detailed solution architecture models through the integration of IBM Rational System Architect and IBM Rational Software Architect technology, and facilitating the reuse of architectural building blocks with IBM Rational Asset Manager software.

For more information

To find out more about how IBM Rational offerings, including Rational System Architect, Rational Focal Point, Rational Software Architect and Rational Asset Manager products, can help your company manage its enterprise architecture, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/rational/ offerings/eam