

IBM Rational System Architect

Highlights

- **Supports the evaluation of current business and technology landscapes for risks, redundancies and opportunities**
- **Helps facilitate more effective business change using project roadmaps based on composite business and technology blueprints**
- **Helps improve decisions by comparing proposed changes to the current landscape and revealing the business impact**
- **Supports internal and external audits of business processes, information and supporting technology**
- **Enhances collaboration between business and IT by using role-based interfaces**
- **Helps ensure that application and development teams clearly understand business plans and targets by connecting blueprints to applications and services**

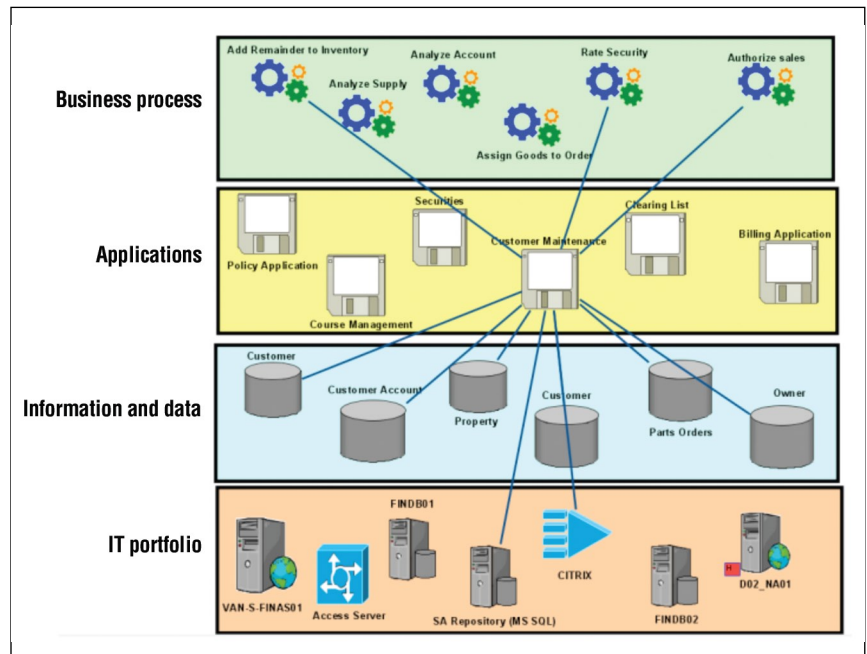


Figure 1: A Rational System Architect solution impact analysis report

As marketplace landscapes shift ever faster, companies that can move quickly to stay ahead of trends have a competitive advantage. But given the complexity of today's organizations, figuring out how to rapidly and efficiently evolve the business based on the latest needs can be daunting. Consider the challenges of a merger or acquisition, consolidation, or cost reduction initiative. Without a clear picture of the entire organization and how changes affect each other, success can be elusive.

The IBM Rational® System Architect® solution is a leading application for visualizing, analyzing, planning and communicating your entire organization's business and technology landscape. By providing an actionable enterprise architecture (EA), it can help you improve decision-making abilities and boost your competitive edge. How? EA can help you better execute business goals by mapping business strategies to processes, the applications and resources that enable those processes, and the underlying

IT infrastructure. Through composite and interactive blueprints, the Rational System Architect solution can help you create a clear map for gradually migrating the organization to an optimized future state.

Designed to support virtually all business process, technology, structured data and object modeling techniques, Rational System Architect software is one of the industry's most powerful, yet flexible, EA solutions. From within one application, you can visualize and trace the relationships between business architecture, technology, processes and applications, and back to their original sources. As a result, you can more quickly understand, analyze and take action on business and technology issues. Key features in the Rational System Architect solution include the following:

- *Time-based visual analysis and impact analysis analytics—supports accurate planning and forecasting*
- *Heatmaps manager—indicates project readiness, risk issues or cost concerns*
- *Workspace feature—helps flexibly organize the architecture into a variety of versions where detailed comparisons can be performed to understand their differences*

- *“Out-of-the-box” frameworks and methodologies, including TOGAF 9; DoDAF; MODAF; NAF; FEA; FSAM; TeleManagement Forum NGOSS including eTOM, SID, and TAM components; ERP solutions; and the Zachman Framework*
- *Multiple modeling standards—supports standards in one highly flexible and configurable repository, including business strategy and architecture, business process, IT portfolio, application and service, and data*
- *Multiple integrations to IBM software brand—expands the impact of your EA through integrations to software reporting, analysis and development solutions*

Improving business agility through enterprise planning and analysis

Rational System Architect software can help you more effectively plan for change, transformation and consolidation, supporting enhanced agility. Enterprise planning capabilities enable you to use architectures to better understand the impact, resources and risks associated with each change:

- *Visual reporting: Use graphical analytics to understand and communicate the resources and risks associated with organizational evolution and growth.*
- *Impact analysis: Perform cause-effect analysis to more easily identify how a change to one discrete area of the business affects the whole business.*

Supporting comprehensive enterprise modeling

Modeling is essential to visualizing your business and technologies and ensuring their intended effectiveness. The Rational System Architect solution provides key capabilities and features for quickly and efficiently building and analyzing models.

Enterprise modeling and analysis

The Rational System Architect solution offers comprehensive support for business architecture and Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN), helping to improve the visualization of inter- and intraorganizational business processes. It reveals the level of efficiency at which your business is operating and simulates the processes for planned improvement. Cross-reference matrices link critical strategies to business deliverables, processes and supporting technologies and serve as a cross-checking mechanism to help ensure that a comprehensive set of goals, business deliverables and business processes has been identified. To help you assess the business impact of change to the entire organization, Rational System Architect software integrates your business architecture processes with strategy maps, organizational charts, functional hierarchy diagrams, relational data models and Unified Modeling Language (UML) application models via matrices.

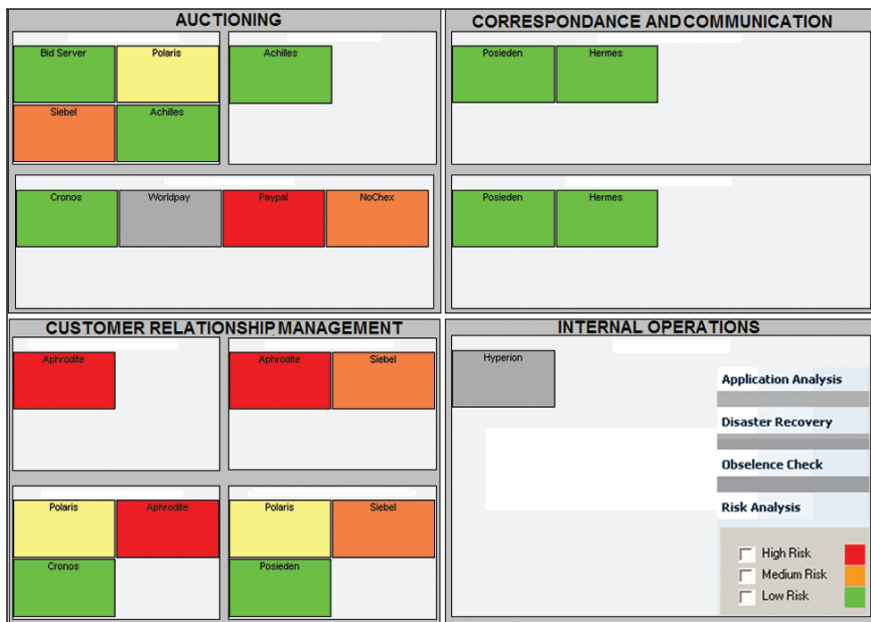


Figure 2: Heatmap reports communicate complex technical content in easily consumed business formats.

IT planning

The Rational System Architect solution supports the modeling notations necessary to capture not only your current IT hardware portfolio but also the applications and services that are hosted by that IT environment. The Rational System Architect solution relates the technologies that support business processes, which helps you evolve your IT systems, assess the effect of implementing new IT projects, consolidate IT assets and align IT investments with business priorities.

Enterprise decision support

The Rational System Architect solution provides multiple analytics and visualizations to support business and technology decision making. Users can view complex information in heatmaps, visualizations or reports that can communicate cost, status or other definable information, as well as infor-

mation that is abstracted to enhance individual and group decisions. In addition, through IBM Rational Focal Point™ integrations, technology decisions can be prioritized and executed based on stakeholder feedback and weighed against available funding, resources and potential benefits.

Relational data modeling

Data modeling in the Rational System Architect tool helps ensure that you have access to high-quality, reliable information about the data used in your corporate systems. The solution supports data modeling standards such as logical data models, physical data models and database synchronization, as well as forward and reverse generation of Database Definition Language (DDL). Unlike many other products, Rational System Architect data modeling capabilities are integrated with business modeling and

EA, which helps your database designers more easily communicate with your business managers and programmers.

Improving team collaboration

Collaboration among distributed stakeholders can be cumbersome and inefficient, making it difficult to keep pace with customer expectations and marketplace drivers. The Rational System Architect solution includes capabilities and features that facilitate communication and collaboration across organizational teams.

Role-based user interfaces

Different stakeholders need to model and consume information in unique ways, so the Rational System Architect solution provides a variety of user interfaces with a common data repository, including a Microsoft® Visio interface, Web modeling and dashboards, and a Microsoft Windows® client.

Organizational reporting

The Rational System Architect solution provides prebuilt, standard reports to effectively communicate project information across the organization. The reporting system contains numerous prebuilt .rpt files, such as Web-based Microsoft Word and XML reports. Rational System Architect Web client and portal solutions help enhance enterprise reporting on the health of the EA and the overall business itself.



Providing add-on modules for unique requirements

In addition to the rich set of standard features and capabilities in the Rational System Architect solution, many add-on modules are also available.

- *IBM Rational System Architect XT software—Leverage a Web-based client that provides real-time, role-based data access and decision support to the extended enterprise, as well as Web modeling.*
- *IBM Rational System Architect Publisher Add On—Build, deploy and maintain content-rich Web sites and portals based on models and data held in a Rational System Architect repository.*
- *IBM Rational System Architect Simulator III Add On—Simulate and optimize business processes to predict and highlight bottlenecks and utilization issues.*

- *IBM Rational System Architect for ERP Interface—Integrate the Rational System Architect solution with enterprise resource planning (ERP) information.*
- *IBM Rational System Architect for FEA Interface, IBM Rational System Architect for DoDAF Add On, IBM Rational System Architect for MODAF Add On and IBM System Architect for NAF Add On—Leverage prebuilt federal and defense frameworks and reports.*
- *Industry reference models—Use predefined architectural content for supply chain, banking, insurance and telecommunications.*

For more information

To learn more about IBM Rational System Architect software, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/rational

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