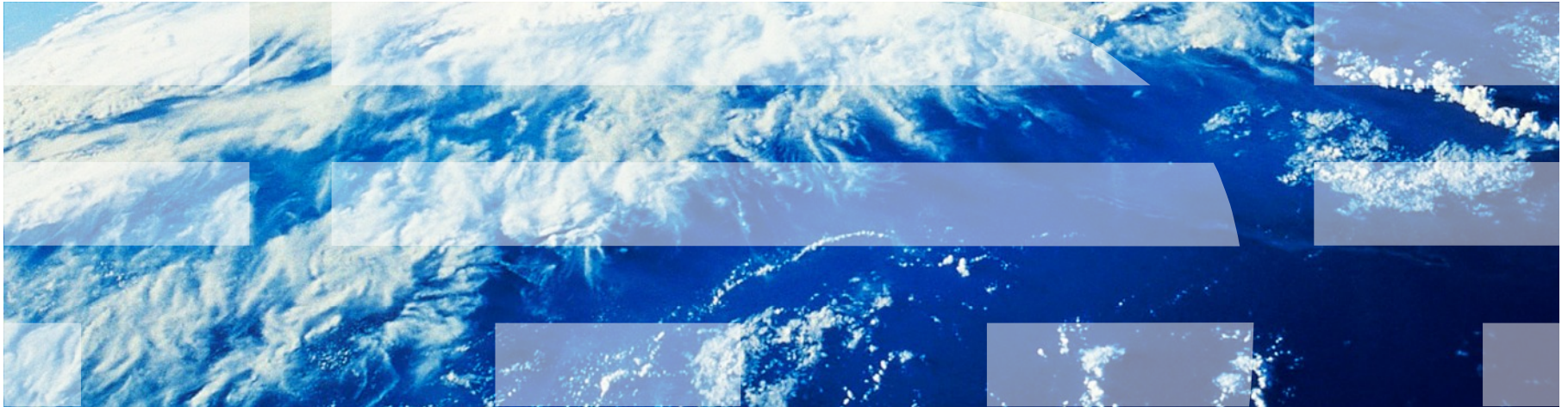


# IBM IT Architect Certification Overview



# Agenda

- ❑ How do I grow a great career?
- ❑ What does an Architect professional do in IBM?
- ❑ Career path for Architects
- ❑ IBM Career Framework
- ❑ Q&A

# How do I grow a great career?

IBMers have many varied reasons to focus on career growth.

And as a first step we need to determine:

- **What do I really like to do?**
- **What do I really want to be?**
- **What options do I have?**
- **What are my career goals?**
- **What will it take to get there?**



Let's say ..we want to be an Architect Professional !!

## What does an Architect professional do in IBM?

- Like the work of a building architect, much of the Architect's work is focused on the front end of the solution life cycle: listening to clients, understanding their business requirements, and systematically forming incrementally more detailed definitions of the structures of an Information Technology solution (an architecture).
- Architects define solutions and/or guide the definition of solutions to business problems.
- The Architect's work is focused on listening to stakeholders, understanding their business requirements and systematically forming incrementally more detailed definitions of the structures of a solution -- an architecture
- The Architect may also be involved during the construction of a solution as an advocate for the client, as the ultimate authority on the architecture that was produced to address the client's business problem, and to provide technical leadership and guidance to the construction team.

## What does an Architect professional do in IBM? (cont.)

- The IBM Architect also has a role throughout the implementation of the solution as a **technical leader**
- Understanding the **business problem** is a key aspect of the method that IBM Architects apply (E.g. Business drivers, functional, non-functional requirements and constraints, and the current business and IT environment)
- The process of defining the architecture involves making **trade-offs** between the requirements and concerns of the various stakeholders which often conflict (e.g. performance vs. security).
- The IT Architect will make the fundamental design decisions that provide the best balance between these often conflicting concerns.

## Some traits of good Architects

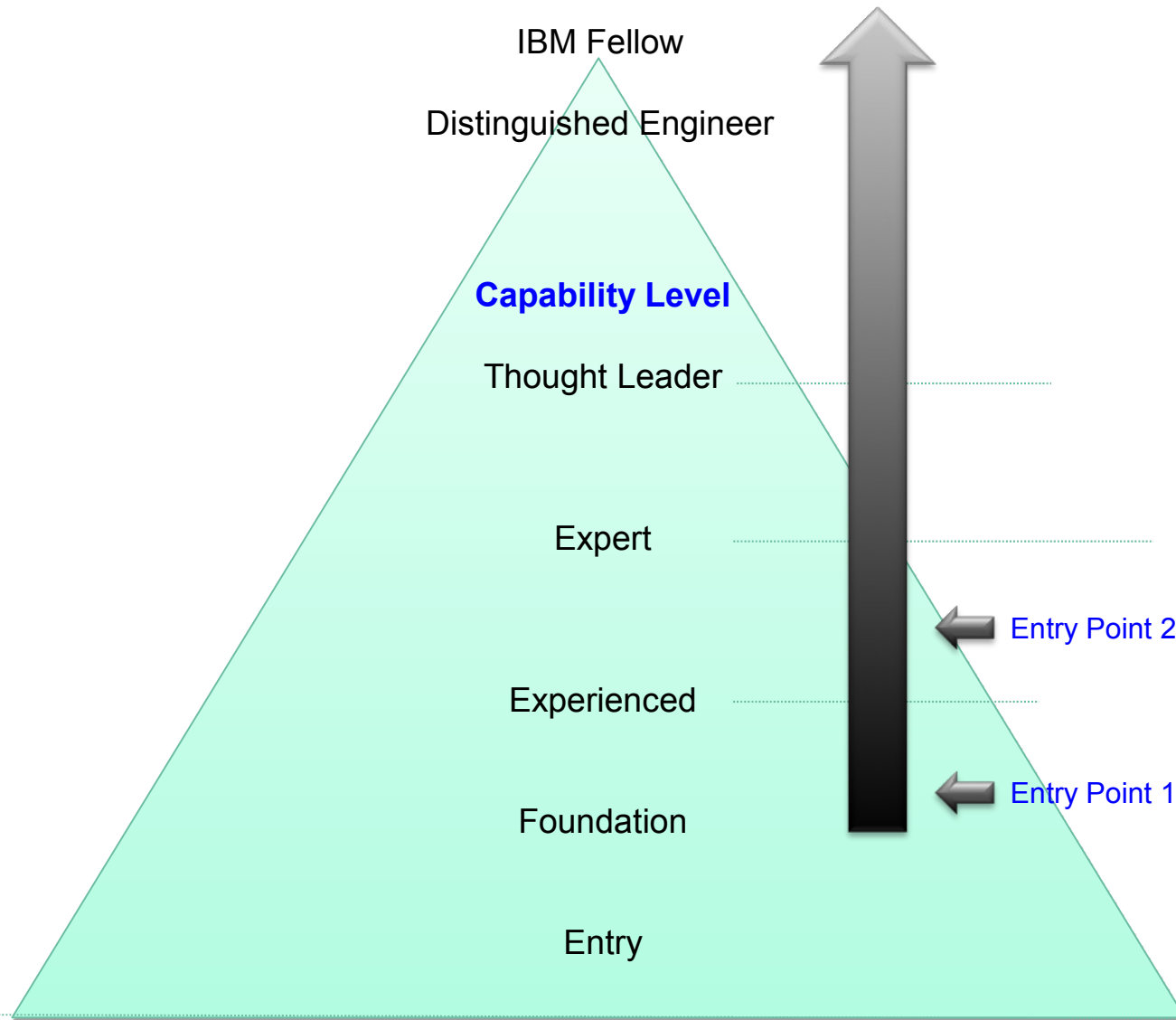
- Strong conviction/vision
- Good communicator (at different levels, consensus builder, listener)
- Capable of abstract thinking
  - Horizontal thinking leveraging on Vertical thinking
- Able to see the big picture but dive into detail when necessary
- Comfortable dealing with uncertainty
- Methodical (logical, disciplined, systematic)
- Solid technical grounding (e.g. many started their career as IT Specialists developing technical depth)
- Versatile (Flexible, adaptable, resourceful)
- Leadership



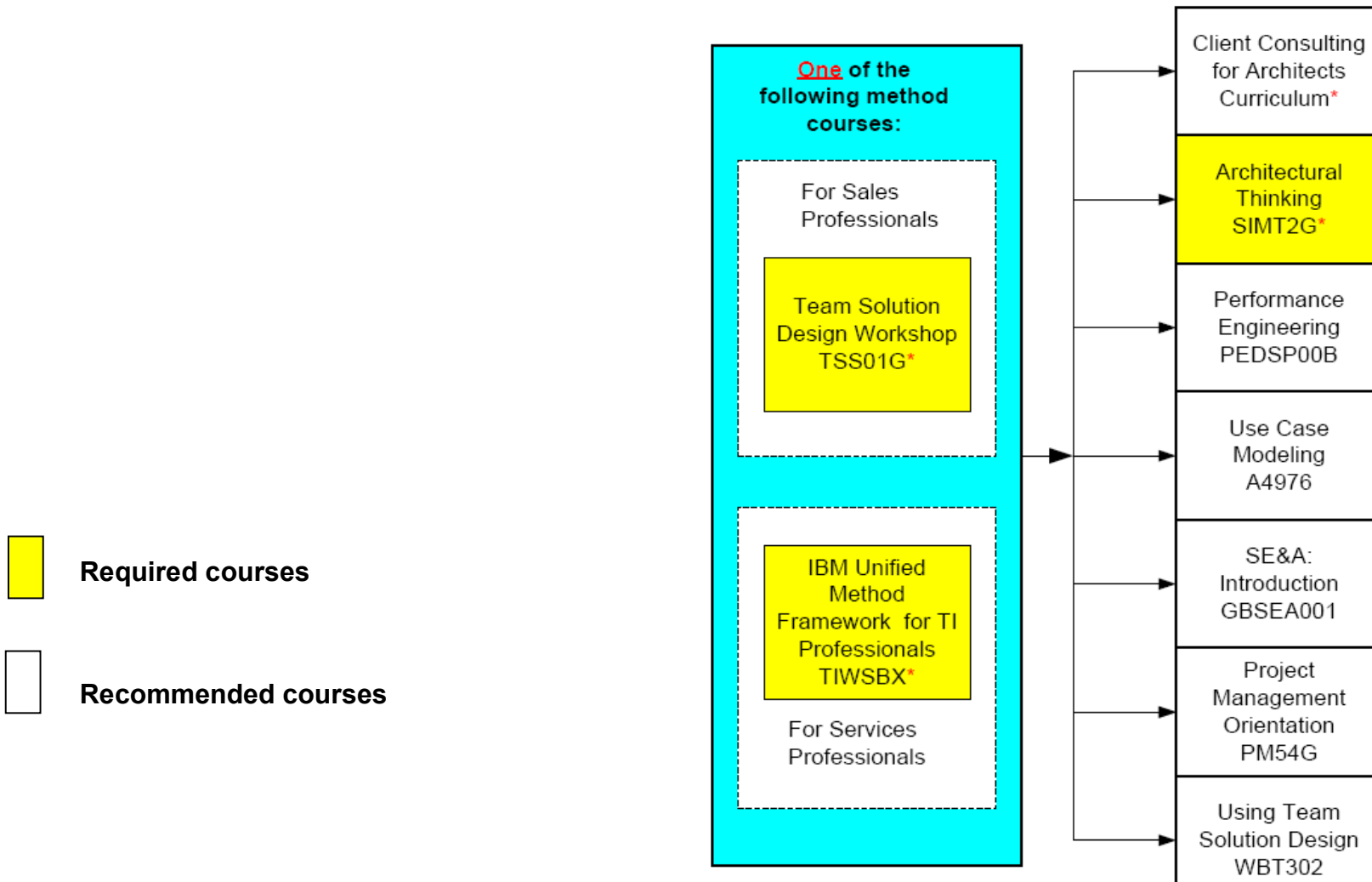
*"The ideal architect should be a [person] of letters, a mathematician, familiar with historical studies, a diligent student of philosophy, acquainted with music, not ignorant of medicine, learned in the responses of lawyers, familiar with astronomy and astronomical calculations."*

**Vitruvius, About 25 BC**

# Career path for Architects



# WW Accreditation (Associate) Education roadmap

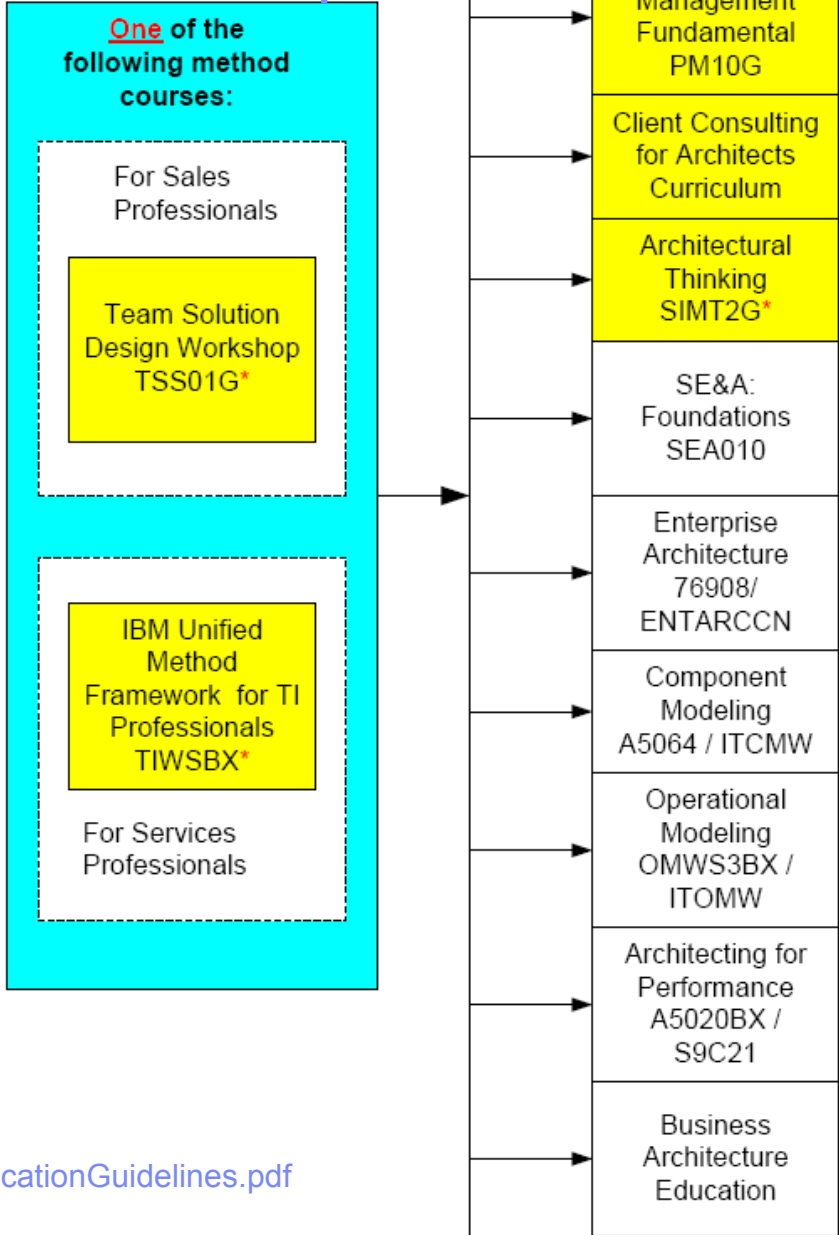


<http://w3-03.ibm.com/hr/careerplanner/WWArchitectEducationGuidelines.pdf>



# WW Certification education roadmap

- Required courses**
- Recommended courses**



# Validation process summary

Validation	Review Summary	Frequency
'Foundation' level validation	Manager + SME Review	On demand
'Experienced' level validation [Associate Certification]	Manager Review + 3 SME Reviewers	On demand
'Expert' and 'Thought Leader' level <u>re</u> validation [Recertification and Senior Recertification]	Manager Review + BU Executive + SME Reviewer(s) <sup>1</sup>	On demand (However it is typically clustered around the certification anniversaries)
'Expert' and 'Thought Leader' level validation [Certification and Senior Certification]	Manager Review + BU Executive + Initial Package Review (IPR) + Board [3 interviews + consensus meeting]	2-7 Boards per year depending on the geography

<sup>1</sup> One SME Reviewer is assigned to review the package. If decision is to decline, two additional SME reviewers will review package to reach consensus.

## Experience Requirements Mapping – ‘Foundation’ Level

### Experience Requirements for Foundation Level Validation

**Experience in IT Industry**

You must have at least two (2) years of experience in the IT Industry.

**Experience with different types of technologies and architectures**

You must have experience working with a range of different technologies or tools.

## Experience Requirements Mapping – ‘Experienced’ Level

### Experience Requirements for Experienced Level Validation

#### **Experience in IT Industry**

You must have at least four (4) years of experience in the IT Industry.

#### **Breadth of architectural experience**

You must have architecture experiences that:

- Involved the application and integration of a variety of elements that came together to produce the architecture
- Encompassed multiple viewpoints to define the architecture
- Utilized multiple architectural styles
- Utilized multiple and diverse technologies

# Experience Requirements Mapping – ‘Expert’ Level

## Experience Requirements for Expert Level Validation

### **Breadth of architectural experience**

You must have architecture experiences that:

- Involved the application and integration of a broad variety of elements that came together to produce the architecture
- Encompassed multiple viewpoints to define the architecture
- Utilized multiple architectural styles
- Utilized multiple and diverse technologies

### **Application of Methods**

You must have experience using more than one method

### **Understanding Implementation Impact**

You must have been involved in the implementation of the solution you defined, experiencing and taking responsibility for the implications of your architectural decisions and influencing a successful conclusion that meets business intent.

### **Architectural Leadership Experience in Business Development**

You must have experience as a leader on at least one major bid, contract negotiation, or business case development effort where your role was Architect.

### **Industry Knowledge**

You must have multiple project experiences designing solutions within a specific client industry.

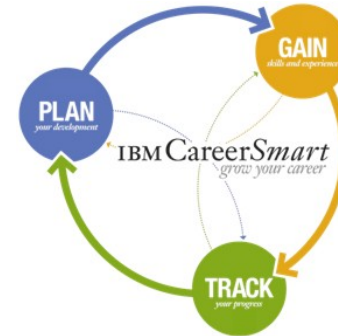
### **Influencing the Business Intent**

You must have experience influencing the business's view of its goals, objectives, or strategic intent based on the constraints or opportunities available in the solution.

# Experience Requirements Mapping – ‘Thought Leader’ Level

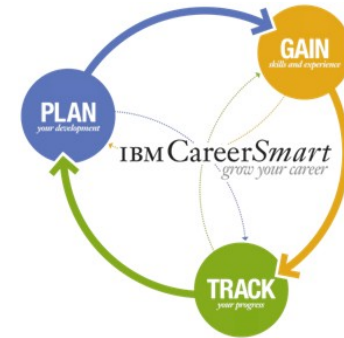
Experience Requirements for Thought Leader Level Validation	
<b>Practice Architecture</b>	You must currently be an IBM Certified Architect.
<b>Establish Architectural Vision</b>	You must have shown architectural leadership and demonstrated impact in a significant opportunity or project.
<b>Demonstrate Strategic Leadership</b>	You must have anticipated, created, and defined innovative concepts in a strategic IT or business environment. .
<b>Conduct Special Architectural Projects</b>	You must have shown leadership in conducting special architectural projects or special strategic initiatives.
<b>Breadth of Experience</b>	You must demonstrate breadth of experience that has resulted in delivering client value and effective leadership of your teams.
<b>Demonstrate Business Impact</b>	You must have demonstrated significant impact on the business by leading complex projects, applications, or system-of-systems architectures.
<b>Establish Architectural Process, Policies and Procedures</b>	You must have experience in defining architectural processes, policies, and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, selecting and adapting the proper architectural methods, governance, and technical standards necessary to realize a strategic IT or business system.

# IBM Career Framework



- On February 2011 IBM has introduced the IBM CareerSmart Tool
- The IBM Career Framework (which is a key part of IBM CareerSmart) can help you build and develop capabilities that are important to our clients, and that will ultimately enable you to achieve your career goals and aspirations.
- IBM CareerSmart will drive you so that you can:
  - o PLAN your development,
  - o GAIN skills and experience,
  - o TRACK your progress.

# IBM Career Framework → How to start

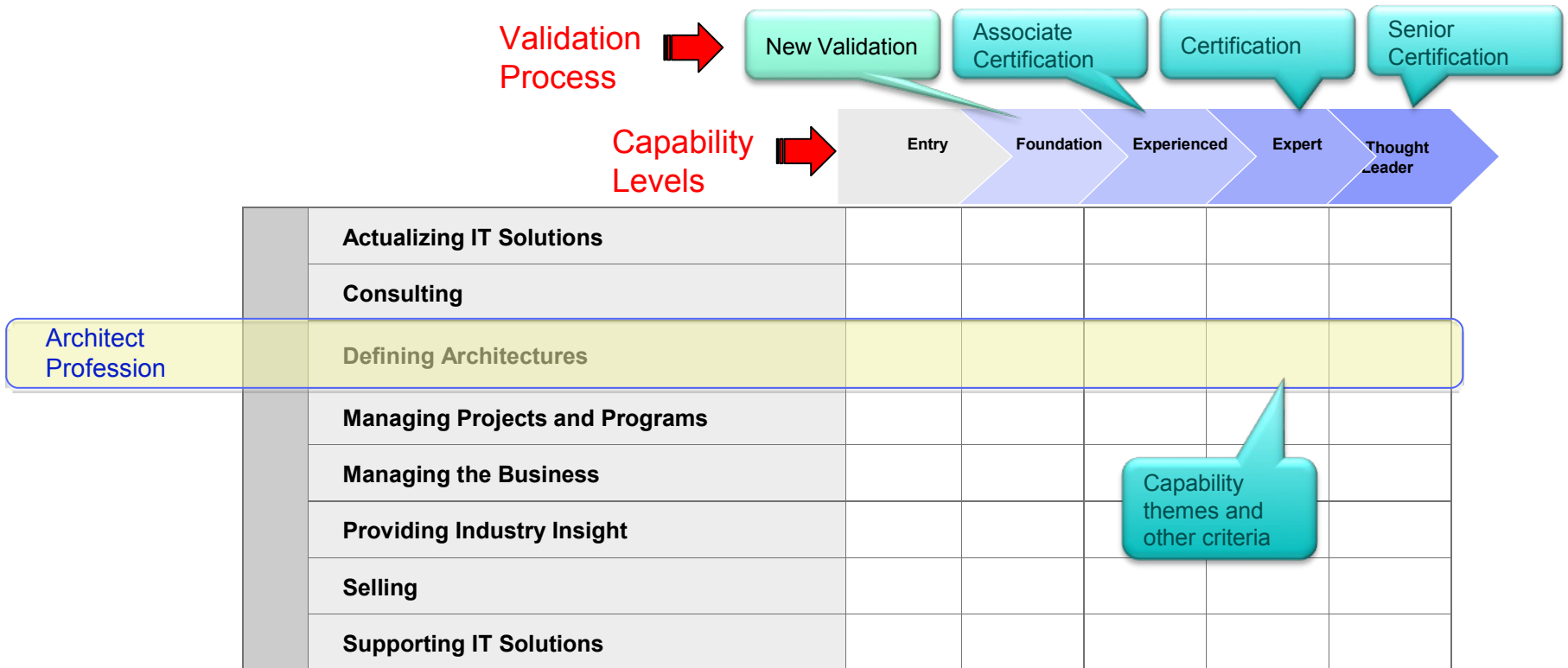


- Access the Wiki at:  
<https://w3.tap.ibm.com/w3ki2/display/ITAProf/Home>
- A new [Certification Readiness Tool](#) is provided and it is a self-assessment tool to determine your readiness to apply for validation or certification.
- You should consider downloading [IT Architect Express](#) and [finding a mentor](#).



# IBM Career Framework and its relationship to the Architect Profession

- The Architect profession assumes responsibility for the “Defining Architectures” Capability in the IBM Career Framework
- The Architect profession certification requirements and process are part of the Defining Architectures validation process



# All IBM Business Units leverage IT Architects for key roles

## ▪ Job roles

### – S&D

- Industry (IA)
- Client Technical Advisor (CTA)

### – SWG & STG

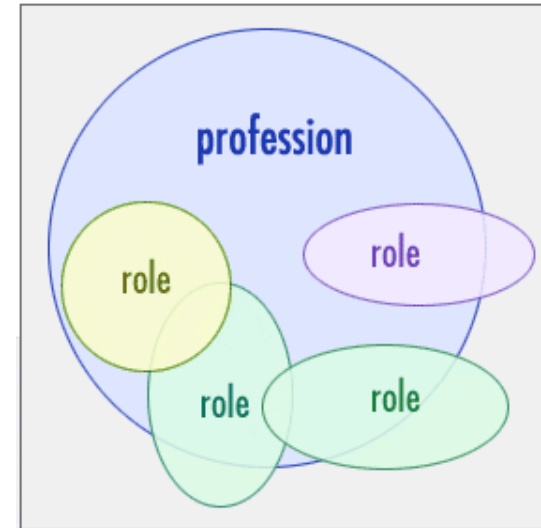
- Software IT Architect (SWITA)
- System Architect (SA)

### – GBS

- Enterprise Architect
- Business Architect
- Application Architect
- Information Architect
- Integration Architect
- Technical Solution Architect

### – GTS

- Technology Architect
- Technical Solution Architect



## ▪ Job Tiles

- Chief / Lead Solution Architect
- Design Authority Lead
- Profession Leader
- Certification Review Board Member

## Profession certification is a career milestone..

- Profession certification is a **career milestone** for technical professionals across IBM who have demonstrated capabilities at or above a defined standard of excellence
- Profession Certification is designed to validate candidates have **repeatable and successful application** of a methodical approach to defining and delivering solutions to our clients
- Profession Certification is an **experience-based** assessment, with board review
- Employees certified by the IBM Architect certification programs qualify for external certification by **The Open Group**.



### The benefit of profession certification include:

- ✓ Recognition as a leader
- ✓ Demonstration of sustained impact to IBM's business
- ✓ Validation of the attainment of leadership traits and characteristics

## Industry Certification - The Open Group IT Architect Certification



- IBM helped The Open Group develop an industry certification program very closely aligned with our internal program which was launched in January 2006
- As a result our internal program has been 'accredited' by The Open Group such that IBM Certified IT Architects are eligible for this industry certification
- The Open Group has, like IBM, three levels of certification. We have accredited our Certification and Senior Certification program with their equivalent levels as follows:

**IBM Certified IT Architect**



**IBM Senior Certified IT Architect**



## Useful References

- [Worldwide Profession Site](#)

<http://w3-03.ibm.com/hr/careerplanner/caita039a.html>

- [Worldwide Profession Wiki](#)

<https://w3.tap.ibm.com/w3ki2/display/ITAProf/Home>

- [IBM CareerSmart Framework](#)

[https://w3.ibm.com/learning/lati/sites/career-development-guidance-site/html/pages/cf\\_overview.html](https://w3.ibm.com/learning/lati/sites/career-development-guidance-site/html/pages/cf_overview.html)

- [Changes to Existing IT Architect Criteria](#)

<https://w3.tap.ibm.com/w3ki2/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=ITAProf&title=Changes+to+Existing+IT+Architect+Criteria>

**Questions?**

# Givebacks

- Initiatives for IBM communities

- Mentoring**

- TSD Compass**  
(Lunch & Learn method)

- Patents awareness and submission**



## TSD Compass

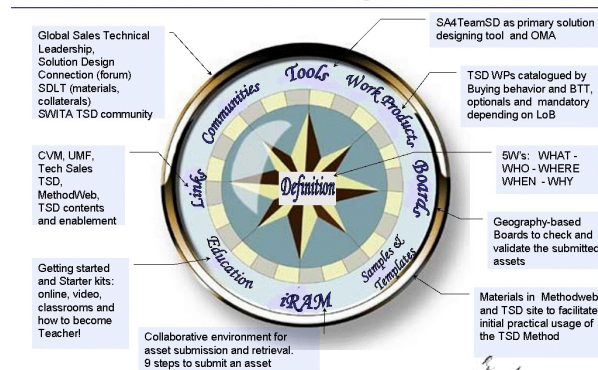


Fig. 1.

