2020: **Year in Review**

OrbusSoftware

It's safe to say that 2020 has been one of the most tumultuous years in modern times, and it's not even over yet. Nonetheless, while much of the world has shut down, business has continued almost as normal for the likes of CIOs, Enterprise Architects, Risk professionals, Project Managers and Business Analysts. Technology, both hardware and software, has continued to evolve and advance. Governments have continued to impose new regulations. Digital transformation has, if anything, become even faster and more important with the changes imposed by the pandemic. There's plenty to look back on.

COVID-19

It's safe to say that 2020 has been one of the most tumultuous years in modern times, and it's not even over yet. Nonetheless, while much of the world has shut down, business has continued almost as normal for the likes of CIOs, Enterprise Architects, Risk professionals, Project Managers and Business Analysts. Technology, both hardware and software, has continued to evolve and advance. Governments have continued to impose new regulations. Digital transformation has, if anything, become even faster and more important with the changes imposed by the pandemic. There's plenty to look back on.

Key Statistic

UK GDP was 25% lower during the depth of the crisis in April than it was only two months earlier in February. Overall, GDP was 8% lower in September than before the pandemic.

Source: **House of Commons Library**

2021 Outlook

Though there may be long lasting damage from the pandemic, the future does look promising when it comes to ending direct impacts. Vaccines from Pfizer, Aztra Zeneca and Moderna have all had studies confirming their effectiveness in preventing infection, though logistical difficulties may prevent the lessening of restrictions until at least the spring.

COVID Resources & Key Quotes

COVID-19 Underscores the Imperative for a Short Strategy to Execution Cycle
"At these times, responsiveness and agility are critical to enterprise survival. However, if there are any traits which large enterprises lack, then those two would be the first to be named"

COVID-19 - The Time for Application Rationalization Is Now More Than Ever
"Given the disruption incoming there has never been a more important time to focus on cutting costs, and ... what better area to focus on than slashing your application costs?"

When Disaster Strikes: Your Role and Strategy as an Enterprise Architect
Learn how architects aligned to Forrester's 3 waves of Enterprise Architecture are helping their firms respond to the current disaster.

Dealing With COVID-19 Through Enterprise Architecture
"These continued risks underscore the need for preparation. Organizations will have to ... move quickly. Enterprise Architecture is about delivering transformation"

What Drove EA in 2020?

1. **Application & Technology Roadmapping**
2. **Application Portfolio Management**
3. **Application Rationalization**

Given how much change was forced onto enterprises this year, it is perhaps unsurprising to see Application and Technology Roadmapping top the charts as the biggest driver for Enterprise Architecture. Even the best roadmaps probably wouldn't have accounted for a global pandemic, but they can provide some sense of stability for stakeholders.

Applications proved to be a focus for enterprises in general, with enterprises looking at managing their portfolios and reducing costs. While these are likely always going to be popular uses for EA, the shift towards home working likely played a role here. The necessity of different applications would have been thrown in sharp relief by the lockdowns. Given the additional fi nancial pressures most fi rms faced, Explore futher

Roadmap Resources & Key Quotes

Roadmaps Starter Pack

A collection of Visio templates for all your roadmap needs, providing a quick start for any organization looking to plan for the future.

Roadmaps – Preparing Your Organization for Successful Transformation >>

Senior Consultant Josh Farmer talks through the alignment of Strategic Initiatives and Technology lifecycles using roadmaps

6 Key Mistakes to Avoid When Creating a Technology Roadmap >>

"These mistakes emphasize the need for continual, effective enterprise architecture, and not one off or quick fixes."

One to Watch for 2021

What's going to emerge in the next year as a driver for enterprise architecture? Enterprise Architecture has many candidates for greater utilization, but we predict that Ideation/ Innovation Management could be the next big thing.

Ideation Management is the crowdsourcing of ideas from stakeholders, to solve problems and help innovation. This is not completely new, with 'Suggestion Boxes' having fulfilled this role in a considerably lower tech manner. Modern EA tools allow crowdsourcing to be much more efficient, however, allowing for easier comparison, with visualizations of all ideas and votes on the strongest.

Explore Ideation Management further ▶

Most Popular Resources 2020

How to Begin Application Rationalization?

Blog

> 66 *Application rationalization helps reduce unnecessary costs across the IT estate, improve productivity and technology utilization and eliminate high-risk/non-compliant technologies. But application rationalization is an ongoing process which requires a defined set of objectives and preparatory steps.* 99

eBooks

The TOGAF framework remains as relevant, and as complicated, as ever in 2020, and so the starter pack continues to be our most popular download.

Amongst this year's resources, Application Rationalization proved to be the biggest hit, both for blogs and eBooks.

All Releases: TOGAF Starter Pack ▶

2020 Releases: The Definitive Application Rationalization Guide ▶

Webinar

Roadmaps – Preparing Your Organization for Successful Transformation >>

> 66 *Why is transformation necessary? Mainly due to external factors, such as remaining competitive, staying up to date with technology, keeping within government legislation, meeting customer expectations, and social responsibility. All of these require an organization to adapt.* 99

Orbus Developments

In the midst of the disruption from the pandemic, Orbus have continued to develop iServer and other new products. This year saw the launch of iServer365, the new Cloud platform for Enterprise Architecture, as well as the Solution's Hub, which provides self-service, turn-key Solutions for hundreds of potential use cases

SaaS Continues to Grow

The Software as a Service model has begun to take over the enterprise software market, with Orbus being no exception. We looked at the spread of SaaS in:

The Impact of SaaS on Business Continuity >>

"Gartner predicts that SaaS products, and cloud computing products in general, will continue to grow rapidly through to 2021, predicting total revenues of $113B for SaaS and $278B for the cloud market, compared to 2017 figures of $59B and $145B respectively"

What's next for Orbus?

Looking forwards, we recently discussed the potential developments for iServer and iServer 365 when looking at the next 5 years in Enterprise Architecture:

The Next 5 Years in Enterprise Architecture >>

> 66 *In the longer term, AI will become a feature of iServer and iServer 365...a lot of manual work will become automated as more sophisticated AIs arrive, smoothing the process of digital transformation. Orbus also plan to launch a technology partner ecosystem, providing support to partners to create their own digital transformation solutions* 99

OrbusSoftware