The Top 10 Factors to Consider When Selecting a TOGAF® 9 Repository

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All sustainable TOGAF® 9 based Enterprise Architecture Practices must have a solid architecture repository

Current challenges in selecting a tools

- No clear understanding on what is required by an architecture repository
  (Watch this space –> Open Group have a workgroup tackling this issue!)

- Different projects / environments have different levels of maturity and need

- Vendors repackaged wide range of tools as EA Tools
  - Open Source Ontology tools
  - Data management tools
  - Business Intelligence tools
  - Business Process Management tools
  - UML Systems Modelling tools

10 Factors to consider before buying an EA tool
- Based on own project experience, professional feedback from peers and professionals EA's I trained over the last 8 years
- No Quadrant analysis or vendor lists used as input

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1 It must be a real repository

A Central Enterprise Architecture Repository with the ability to extract different views of the information.
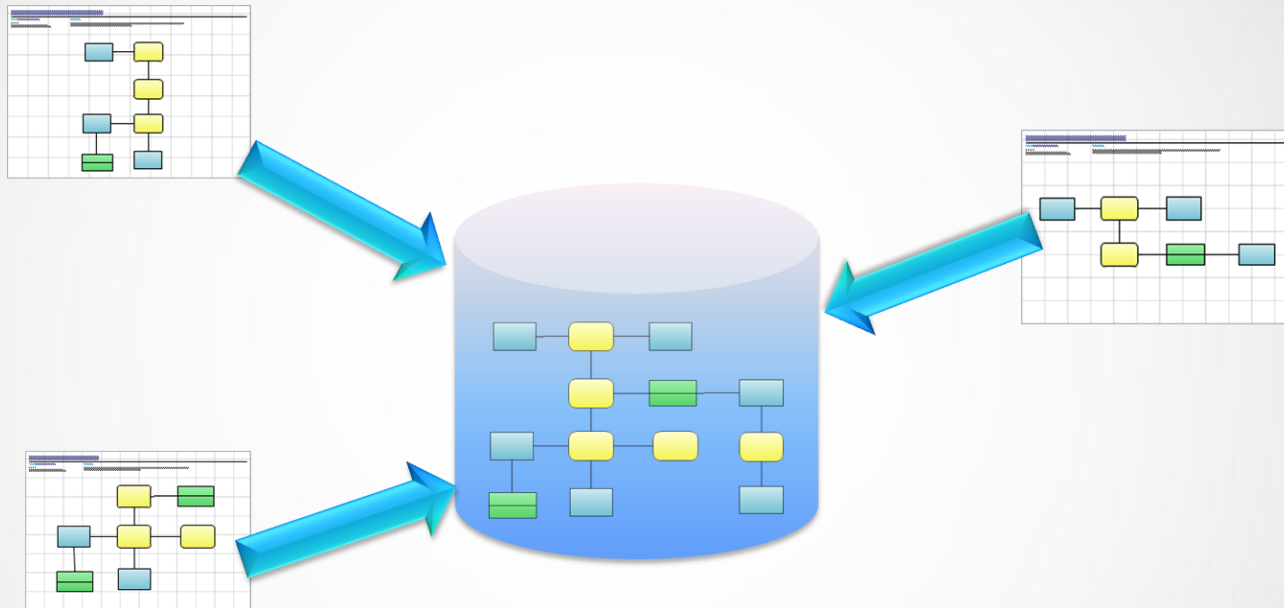

- More that just MS Visio diagrams
- Models shared with the rest of the team
- Ability to re-use the models on multiple views and projects
- Ability to access the data (or building blocks in TOGAF® terminology) without being forced to use the modeling front-end

#2 It must be simple to extend the meta-model

The repository meta-model must be updatable by someone who does not necessarily hold an advanced degree in microprocessor design or quantum physics.

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3 It must have an intuitive User interface

Any tool that I use on a project must be able to either:
- use Visio
- import Visio diagrams and map it to my custom meta-model
- visually look like Visio
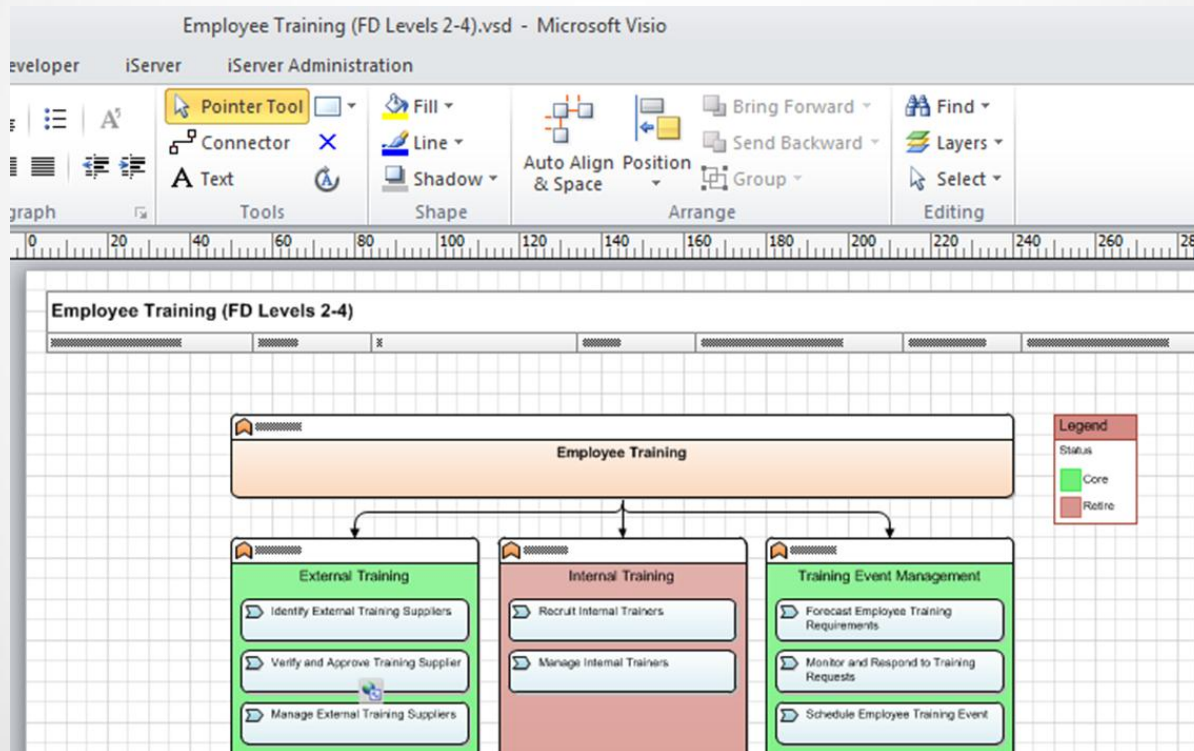
4 Out-of-the-box TOGAF® 9 Support is required

The TOGAF® 9 Architecture Development Method allows me to define a set of Viewpoints at the start of the project, which I can confirm with stakeholders and distribute to the architects and modelers to create, with a predictable, consistent result at the end.

5 It must be easy to load data in bulk

The modeling tool must be able to import excel spread sheet data.

Manually creating over 700 application & 300 process objects by hand and then linking them is not fun!

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6 Visualisation must be varied, accessible and stunning

Build visualizations for the stakeholders of the repository, who need to make key decisions using information from the repository.

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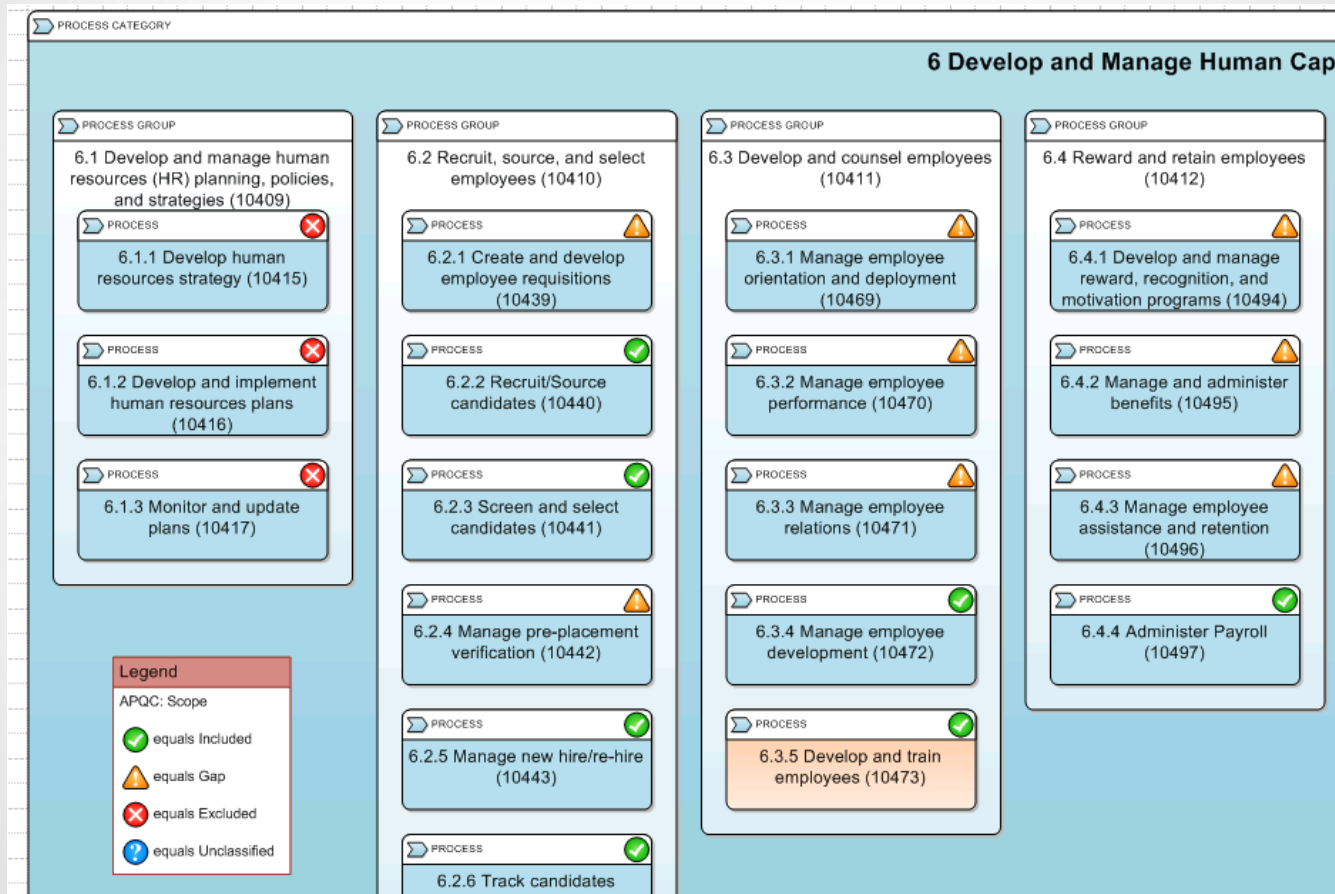
7 It must have native support for data analysis

I will not buy or implement a tool in the future that does not give me the capability to dynamically interact with the repository and perform data analysis on objects.
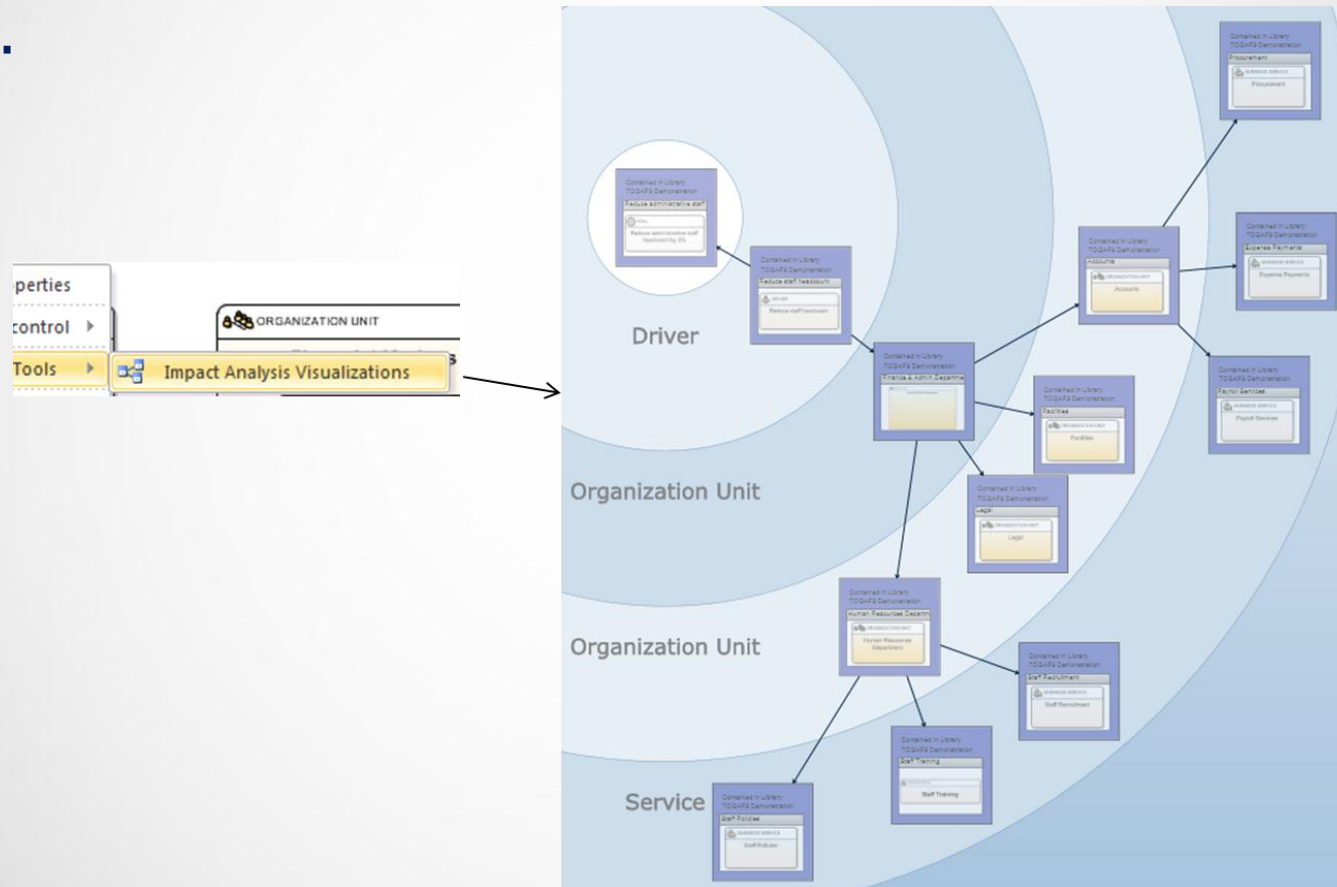
8 It must have technical integrity tools and reporting

Users must believe the data is accurate and consistent and it must be readily available.

- Information quality and the consistency of the repository must be reviewed on a regular basis by performing *technical quality assurance*

- *Logical quality assurance* is a human function and although I would have loved to embed an Artificial Intelligence module into the repository to do the checking, it is still a role that has to be performed by someone on the Enterprise Architecture team

# # 9 Technical team must use familiar infrastructure

Pick technology that your internal support staff are comfortable with, i.e. if you are using SQL Server and Windows Server in your data centre then pick a tool with those technology components.
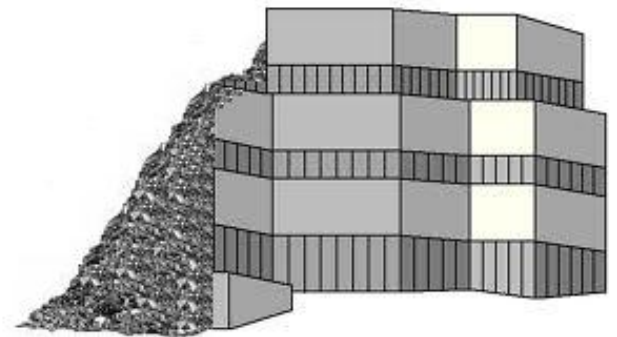
10 Vendor support must be credible

Maintaining and supporting an Enterprise Architecture Repository is a serious on-going business.

Vendor Supported Architecture
Repository Software

Unsupported Architecture
Repository Software
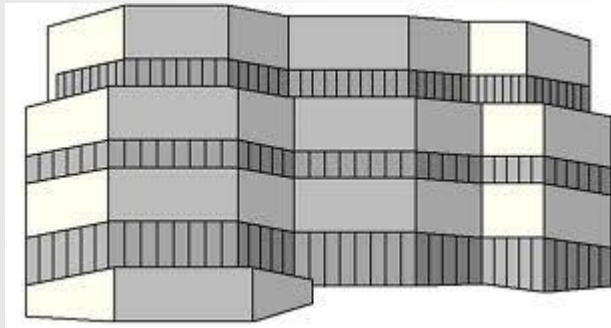
- ✓ Vendor with local skills
- ✓ Roadmap with regular upgrades
- ✓ Support contract

- ✓ "Leader" in the market without local references
- ✓ No support contract
- ✓ No local skills / experience on the software
- ✓ "community edition"
- ✓ D.I.Y. repository

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Questions and Answers

Download this Presentation and White Paper from:
(http://orbussoftware.com/downloads/)

Visio Starter Packs (TOGAF®/ArchiMate/BPMN):
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