Ten Steps For Preparing a TOGAF Project

Many Enterprise Architecture (EA) projects fail to meet their goals. Following these 10 steps will help to deliver a successful EA project using the TOGAF ADM

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Understand

1

EA practitioners need to know how and why an organization operates, in order to be able to explain how architecture work will benefit them. Knowing how a firm operates is a standard responsibility for architects, but too many forget why, i.e., to increase value, reduce costs, manage risk, etc.

Identify

2

Knowing the business itself is not enough. Architects also need to identify the driving factors behind the industry and sector of the firm, as no business exists in a vacuum. These factors must be reflected in the design of the architecture.

Clarify

3

Architects might understand the business and its surroundings, but does the business understand them? EA practitioners need to know what their expectations are. TOGAF projects will involve a variety of stakeholders across the organization, and failing to account for this can derail work.

Principles

4

Architecture principles need to be based on business principles. Often, EA can end up disconnected from the business, meaning principles need to be agreed and defined before projects are initiated.

5

Governance

Business principles are not the only area that EA needs to conform with. The governance framework of the firm must also align with EA governance. A lack of alignment can undermine the credibility and consistency of EA deliverables.

6

Frameworks

TOGAF ADM processes should be aligned with any existing architecture or industry specific frameworks. This will ensure there is no duplication of effort or deliverables produced.

Maturity

7

Capability Maturity Models should be utilized to determine organizational readiness and identify the key characteristics to measure. TOGAF 9.2 possesses predefined maturity assessments such as CMMi that are well suited to this.

Formalize

8

Sustainable architecture needs a formalized EA function. Formalize HR to assist with succession planning, skills development, resource allocation, and performance management, ensuring that the resources of the EA function reflect the complexity of the organization.
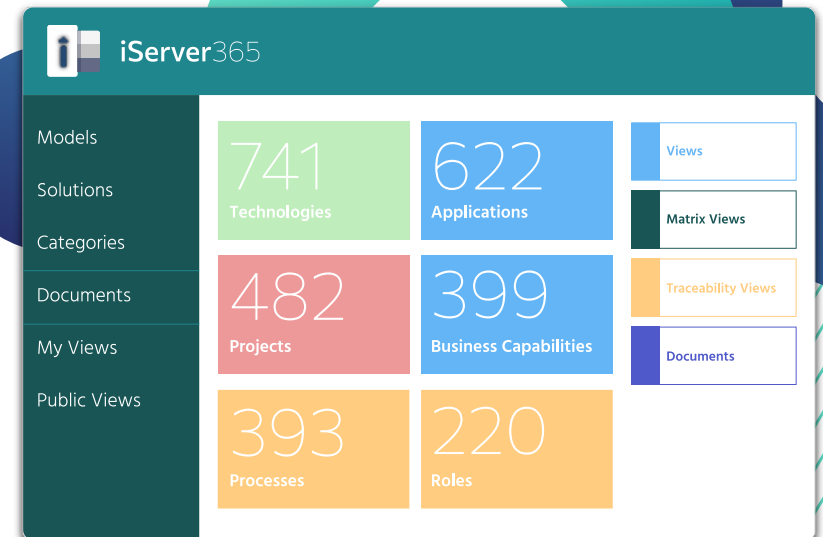
Customize

TOGAF 9.2 is an evolving framework that has been designed to work across a huge variety of sectors. As such, each individual EA should customize their TOGAF implementation to suit their unique needs. This needs to be backed up with documentation, to ensure smooth progress if the team or purpose changes.

9

Repository

10

A powerful central architecture repository is essential for maintaining a sustainable EA practice. Fortunately, this is easily accomplished with an EA tool like iServer365, which has a central repository that can be aligned to TOGAF, or many other frameworks.

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