

Key terminology of the TOGAF® 9 standard

One of the requirements of the TOGAF 9.1 Foundation Exam (OG0-091, Part 1) is an understanding of the key terminology of TOGAF. So here it is in one easy-to-print document. The key terms of TOGAF that might be part of the exam and you certainly need to know and understand while studying for the exam.

This is a subset of my TOGAF 9.1 Part 1 course, available at <https://www.udemy.com/togaf-enterprise-architect/>. Contact me for additions, corrections, comments or questions.

Source: The TOGAF® 9.1 Standard, <http://pubs.opengroup.org/architecture/togaf9-doc/arch/chap03.html>

Application

An IT system designed to support business functions. Applications use data, and run on top of technology (such as computers and networks), but it's important not to confuse the business system from the technology components. TOGAF treats them separately.

Application Architecture

One of the four key Architecture Domains (see definition), the application architecture is defined during Phase B of the ADM (see definition). A logical grouping of the application components of the overall architecture of a business.

Architecture

TOGAF defines architecture as two things:

1. A formal description of a system, or a detailed plan of the system at component level, to guide its implementation (source: ISO/IEC 42010:2007).
2. The structure of components, their inter-relationships, and the principles and guidelines governing their design and evolution over time.

Emphasis mine.

Architecture Continuum

One-half of the Enterprise Continuum (see definition). The architecture continuum is a way of classifying architecture components from most generic (foundation architecture) to most specific (organization-specific architecture).

The Architecture Continuum can be divided into four subcategories, listed from generic to specific:

1. Foundation Architecture
2. Common Systems Architecture
3. Industry Architecture
4. Organization-Specific Architecture

Architecture Building Block (ABB)

This is part of the architecture model that describes a single aspect over the overall model. If the overall architecture is a molecule, this is an atom.

Architecture Development Method (ADM)

The ADM is the central thesis of TOGAF. This is the standard process by which architecture is defined and implemented in an organization. It can and should be customized (tailored) to meet the business need.

Architecture Domain

The entire architecture of an organization can be divided into four parts, called domains. In TOGAF, they are divided into Business Architecture Domains (see definition), Data Architecture Domains (see definition), Application Architecture Domains (see definition), and Technology Architecture Domains (see definition). They are defined in Phases B-D of the ADM Domains (see definition). The acronym BDAT is used to describe this.

Architecture Framework

An architecture framework provides principles and practices for creating and using architecture. It is a set of definitions or terminology, a process for creating architecture, and a way of storing that architecture in a content Metamodel (see definition).

Architecture Principles

A set of statements that are used by architects to guide decisions made along the way. They rarely change, and usually include a supporting rationale and a measure of importance.

Architecture Vision

A succinct description of the future vision for the architecture that describes the changes the enterprise needs to implement and the business value from implementing them. This is developed during Phase A of the ADM (see definition).

Baseline

The current description of the system or architecture. Changes to the baseline happen through change management processes.

Building Block

A potentially reusable component of an architecture domain architecture – business, data, application or technology. Building blocks are combined with other building blocks to model the architecture and solutions.

Business Architecture

A description of the business related components of the architecture – strategy, organization, processes, functions, and information needs.

Capability

An ability that an organization, person, or group possesses.

Concerns

The key interests that are important to stakeholders (see definition) in a system. Not meeting the key concerns usually means the architecture has failed those stakeholders.

Constraint

An external factor imposed upon an organization, that prevents it from meeting its goals.

Data Architecture

A description of the data related components of the architecture – data types and sources of data. This includes logical data assets, physical data assets, and data management.

Deliverable

An architectural work product that is contractually specified, formally reviewed, agreed upon, and signed off by the stakeholders. Deliverables represent the output of projects.

Enterprise

The highest level of description of an organization. An enterprise will often span multiple organizations.

Enterprise Continuum

The enterprise continuum consists of the Architecture Continuum (see definition) and the Solutions Continuum (see definition). The enterprise continuum is a way of classifying the contents of the architecture repository from most generic (foundation) to most specific (organization-specific).

Foundation Architecture

The most generic building blocks of the architecture repository, typically not specific enough for implementation. The Technical Reference Model (TRM) (see definition) is an example of a foundation architecture.

Gap

This is the difference between two architectures, when used in the context of TOGAF. The differences between the Baseline (see definition) Architecture and the Target (see definition) Architecture is the gap. The gaps are the items you need to implement.

Governance

A formalized process for monitoring, managing and steering a business to deliver the business outcome required. There are typically several levels of governance, from the company's board of directors down to the architecture governance.

Metamodel

A way to describe data. Since the architecture of a system is a model, the structure of that architecture is described using a metamodel.

Method, Methodology

A repeatable approach to doing something. The Architecture Development Method (see definition) is TOGAF's repeatable approach to defining an architecture.

Model

A simplified or abstract definition of something. We create models of enterprises systems and processes to make it easier to understand and improve them.

Objective

A milestone you need to reach to achieve a goal. Objectives have end dates assigned to them in advance, such as “I will lose 20 pounds by Summer 2016.” This objective supports the overall goal to improve your health and self-confidence.

Reference Model

An abstract framework, produced by an external organization or group of experts, that you can use to model your own architecture after. For instance, The Open Group provides two reference models with TOGAF – the TRM and the III-RM. It is not intended that you implement these reference models directly, but use them as guides to create your own architecture model that follows that style.

Repository

A system that manages all of the data of an enterprise, including all models, architecture definitions, standards, reference library, governance log, and capability documents.

Requirement

A statement of need that an architecture or work package must meet.

Segment Architecture

Within the architecture landscape, there are three levels of architecture within an organization: strategic, segment and capability (solution). The segment architecture is the architecture at the program level. It fits between the specific architecture of the solution architecture, and the high-level architecture of the enterprise strategic level.

Solution Architecture

Within the architecture landscape, there are three levels of architecture within an organization: strategic, segment and capability (solution). The solution architecture is most detailed level of architecture, which describes the functionality of a system at the application or process level. Both strategic and segment architecture are above it, in terms of broader, but less-detailed architecture.

Solution Building Block (SBB)

A candidate solution which conforms to the associated Architecture Building Block (ABB) (see definition).

Solutions Continuum

One-half of the Enterprise Continuum (see definition). The solutions continuum is a way of classifying solution components from most generic (foundation solutions) to most specific (organization-specific solutions).

The Solutions Continuum can be divided into four subcategories, listed from generic to specific:

1. Foundation Solutions
2. Common System Solutions
3. Industry Solutions
4. Organization-Specific Solutions

Stakeholder

An individual, team or organization with interests in, or concerns (see definition) relative to, the outcome of the architecture. Stakeholders have viewpoints (see definition).

Strategic Architecture

Within the architecture landscape, there are three levels of architecture within an organization: strategic, segment and capability (solution). The strategic architecture is highest-level architecture of an enterprise, set at the enterprise level as a generic set of rules and guidelines for the enterprise to follow. It rarely gets into specifics about how individual applications or businesses should operate, but aims to set direction.

Target Architecture

The future state of the architecture. The goal, once the architecture has been developed and implemented, the target architecture should become the baseline (see definition) architecture.

Technology Architecture

A description of the technology related components of the architecture – platform services, logical and physical technology components such as wiring, networks, servers, operating systems.

View

A representation of a related set of concerns. A view is seen from a viewpoint. An architecture view is a customized model of the architecture to demonstrate to stakeholders (see definition) that their concerns (see definition) are being addressed by the architecture, without overwhelming them with information that is not relevant to them.

Viewpoint

A definition of the perspective on which views (see definition) are created. For instance, you might have a technical view of the architecture, a business view, a financial view, a customer service view, etc.

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