

IT Governance And Why FOSS Matters?

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Software View
<http://www.swview.org/>

Note!

This presentation is not self contained with all facts embodied into it. Hence, you may not be able to interpret the ideas correctly.

This is published in the Internet for those who were there at the CEIT, University of Peradeniya listening to the presentation.

Doing the right thing and the thing right

We know computers can do...

Are they doing the right thing in your enterprise?

Are they doing the thing right?

Are you doing the right thing and the thing right?

Agenda

- What is IT Governance?
- What is Enterprise Architecture?
- FOSS Benefits to Enterprises
- FOSS Issues
- How to Make the Correct Choice?
- Why FOSS matters?

IT Governance

IT governance is the responsibility of executives and the board of directors, and consists of the leadership, organizational structures and processes that ensure that the enterprise's IT sustains and extends the organization's strategies and objectives.

IT Governance - Why?

The rising interest in IT governance is partly due to compliance initiatives, as well as the acknowledgment that IT projects can easily get out of control and profoundly affect the performance of an organization.

IT Governance Focus Areas

- Strategic alignment
- Value delivery
- Resource management
- Risk management
- Performance measurement

IT Governance Process Category Breakdown

- Plan and Organize
- Acquire and Implement
- Deliver and Support
- Monitor and Evaluate

Can FOSS be a Choice of the Enterprise?

FOSS in the enterprise shouldn't be allowed to be a
wrong decision!

To decide whether to go for FOSS or not, an
enterprise need to follow a proven and credible
decision making process!

Wait!

All of them without any deduction applies to commercial/closed source software as well.

May be the arguments should be based on specific software products as opposed to FOSS in general.

Conclusion?

If an enterprise fears FOSS, it's because they haven't done the homework; not because FOSS is good or bad!

Doing the Homework!

Let's see what Enterprise Architectures are

Department of Defense Architecture Framework

Operational View



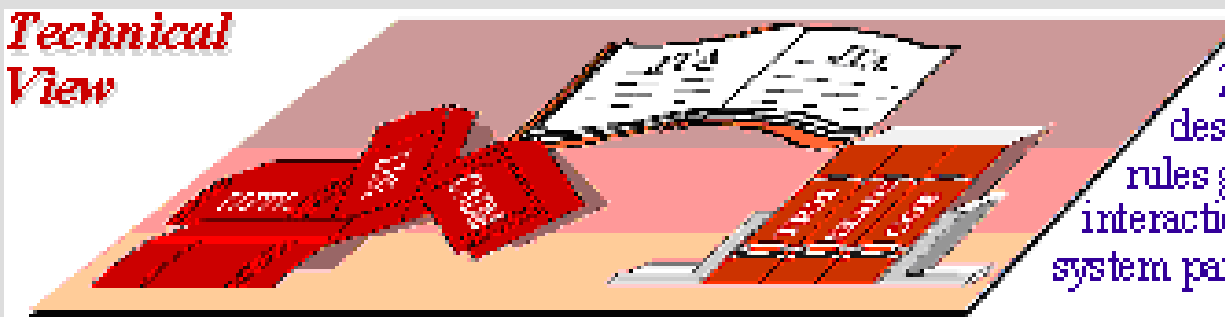
The *Operational View* describes and interrelates the operational elements, tasks and activities, and information flows required to accomplish mission operations.

Systems View



The *Systems View* describes and associates systems and their interconnections and performance to the operational view and its requirements.

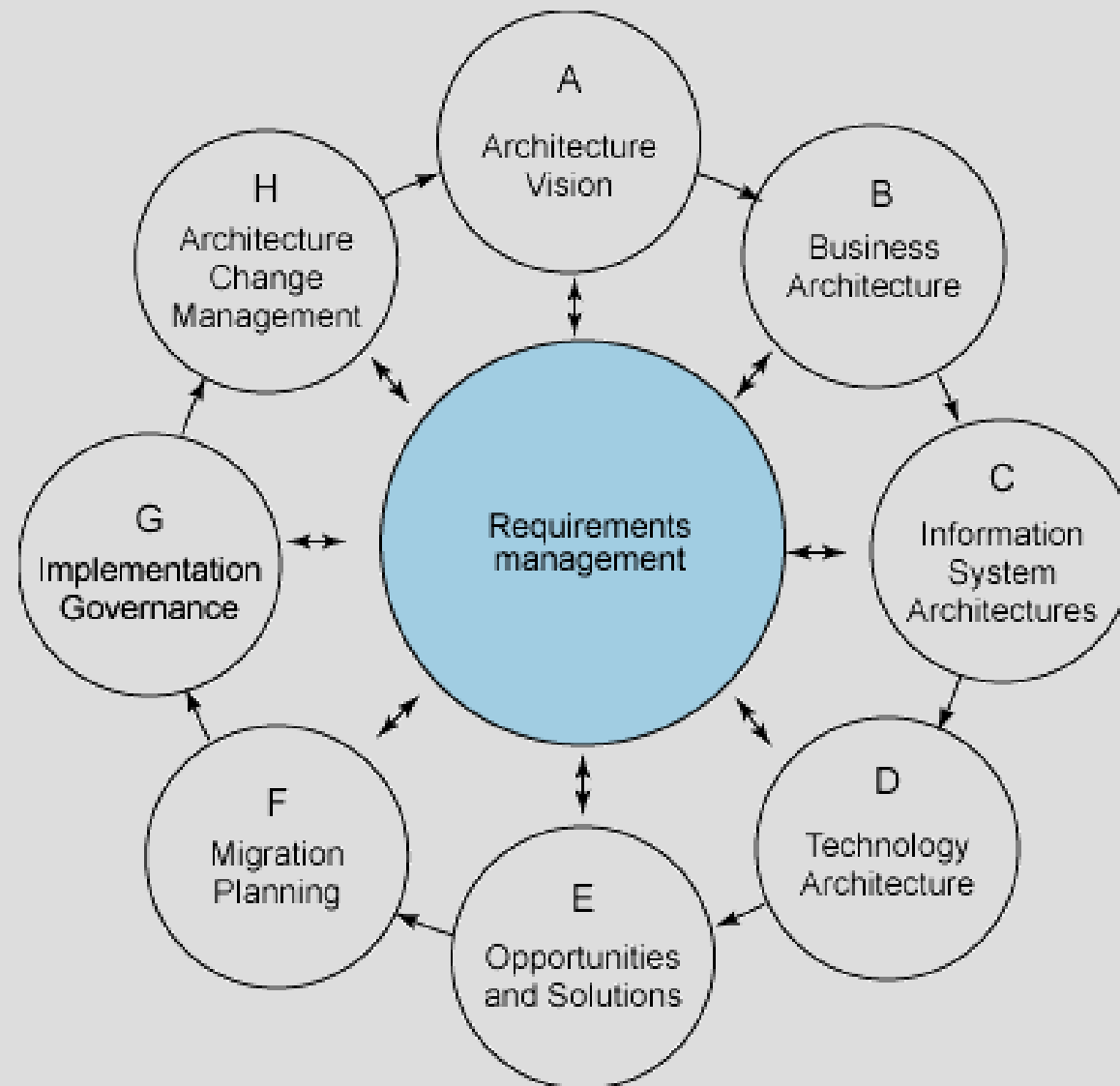
Technical View



The *Technical View* describes the minimal set of rules governing the arrangement, interaction, and interdependence of system parts or elements.

UNCLASSIFIED

The Open Group Architecture Framework



What's the Starting Point?

Principles

Enterprise Architecture

Example Principles - Business

Business Continuity

Enterprise operations are maintained in spite of system interruptions.

Enterprise Architecture

Example Principles - Data

Data Trustee

Each data element has a trustee accountable for data quality.

Enterprise Architecture

Example Principles - Application

Technology Independence *

Applications are independent of specific technology choices and therefore can operate on a variety of technology platforms.

Enterprise Architecture

Example Principles - Technology

Requirements-Based Change *

Only in response to business needs are changes to applications and technology made.

Enterprise Architecture

Example Principles - Technology

Interoperability *

Software and hardware should conform to defined standards that promote interoperability for data, applications, and technology.

Goods and Bads

Let's weigh them now

FOSS Benefits To Enterprises

- No licensing fee
- May not have supporting fee
- Vendor lock removed
- Quality (Fast release cycles)
- Innovation
- Feasibility of specialization

FOSS Issues?

- Too many projects! What should be my choice?
- Multiple variants of the same software may be created by different people leading to confusion
- Project may die *
- Required support may not be there *

FOSS Issues?

- Open code can lead to security issues *
- Quality and reliability *
- Patent issues *
- Many licensing schemes! *

Guidelines To Make The Choice

- Make sure the enterprise implements good IT Governance
- IT Governance will make sure you do the right thing and the thing right
- Follow these guidelines in making best FOSS choices...(next slide)

Here's a check list

Image replaced with the link!

See the 9-point checklist at the bottom this:

<http://www.ddj.com/dept/java/197003071?pgno=2>

So Why FOSS Matters?

- No one can claim that FOSS is good for you or FOSS is bad for you IN GENERAL
- What can be said in general is that you are going to spend less money
- There are “good” FOSS products and “good” commercial and closed source products
- There are “bad” FOSS products and “bad” commercial and closed source products

One Example

Money making with near zero software cost



Wikispaces Story

<http://www.wikispaces.com/>

"The infrastructure behind Wikispaces runs entirely on Open Source software. We currently have a mix of Debian and RedHat Enterprise Linux systems. We're serving Web traffic using lighttpd and PHP, load-balanced using Linux Virtual Server in a high-availability configuration..."

Wickispaces Story...

“... MySQL is our database of choice, with a set of memcached servers handling data caching. We're using MogileFS to take care of file storage and replication. Our search service runs Apache Lucene. We deliver mail using Postfix. There are dozens of other Open Source packages I haven't mentioned in supporting roles. Naturally, we prefer to browse and develop the site using Firefox.”

Conclusion

When “good” comes for free (or almost free),
And if the needs are matched,
Why should you pay more?

Appendix

Details for the need

Software Types

- System Software
- Programming Software
- Application Software

Application Software Classification

- Enterprise software
- Enterprise infrastructure software
- Information worker software
- Media and entertainment software
- Educational software
- Media development software
- Product engineering software