The role of the Accenture Enterprise Architecture Planning Solution in achieving high performance
Business challenge

Within any information technology (IT) organization, enterprise architecture is therefore a key feature of efficient and effective IT operations. In addition, well-planned enterprise architecture integrates information technology with business capabilities to provide a cohesive operating environment thus assisting the business to drive high performance.

However, when operational and budget constraints result in incremental and disparate improvements to the architecture with no specific end vision in mind, the foundation cracks and organizations are unable to achieve the desired efficiency and effectiveness improvements. Technology operations risks steadily grow if appropriate investment is lacking. Only sustained, long-term commitment to enterprise architecture leads to a flexible, cost-effective information technology environment.

The Accenture approach

The key elements in helping to confirm a successful enterprise architecture implementation are organizational commitment, sponsorship and appropriate governance. Careful upfront planning is required to understand what enterprise architecture is and why it is important, and every enterprise architecture project needs a senior executive sponsor in order to succeed.

The Accenture Enterprise Architecture Planning solution helps customers define how IT will enable the organization. The process is designed to facilitate collaboration and partnerships between IT and business stakeholders. Many organizations have undertaken enterprise architecture planning activities that have failed to deliver their potential long-term value. The success of Accenture's approach derives from our focus on plans that are value-driven and pragmatic, and which establish client ownership and infuse discipline into architecture governance.

The Accenture approach leverages industry tools and frameworks, client EA platforms and processes where they exist, and brings our own assets to bear to fill in the capability gaps. Accenture equips the IT organization with key architecture governance processes and tools. Effective architecture governance drives the adoption of enterprise architecture principles in all IT decisions at all levels of the IT organization.

Our comprehensive methodology contains the detailed tasks and activities that we have developed from our experience on client engagements. They are as follows:

1. Understanding the organization's direction and current environment.

The team analyzes what IT must do to help the organization achieve its goals by evaluating the organization's
current position in terms of assets, its
internal and external environments,
and the objectives it wants to achieve.

2. Defining business capability and
information technology blueprints.
Accenture teams up with leaders from
both business and IT as they collaborate
to create the blueprint for how the
future business capability should
operate. The blueprints frame business
processes, information, applications,
and infrastructure in terms that are
succinct and can be translated into
concrete actions for both IT and
business owners.

3. Defining the transition plan. The
Accenture team works with the IT
organization to translate the business
and IT capability blueprints into
practical plans with specified time
frames, budgets and resourcing.

Throughout these activities, Accenture
uses comprehensive architecture
governance practices to introduce a
disciplined approach to enterprise
architecture management, IT
procurement and deployment projects.
Principles of Accenture’s Enterprise
Architecture Governance framework
are infused throughout the planning
process to help confirm that what is
laid out in the blueprint can be easily
governed, managed, measured and
monitored.

Accenture at work
A state agency in the United States
was faced with a huge budget
shortfall and needed to find ways to
reduce costs, balance the budget and
attain high performance. It launched a
transformation program to examine its
decentralized systems which consisted
of 40 separate government departments
and IT operations. The state needed to
streamline a tangle of duplicated
services and assets, inconsistent
performance, lack of coordination and
widespread inefficiencies. Accenture's
Enterprise Architecture Planning
solution was leveraged to create a
master transformation plan, architecture
strategy, and a rationalization road map
to help achieve an IT transformation
that achieved more than $150 million
in IT cost reduction to-date.

Accenture's resources
and delivery capabilities

Accenture's Enterprise Architecture
practice is part of a global, cross-
industry architecture and core
technology group with highly
specialized architects. Accenture has
more than 5,500 architects distributed
throughout every major enterprise
architecture marketplace worldwide.
These professionals include both
type of architects and specialized
practitioners in the areas of
information architecture, custom/
packaged application architecture,
service oriented architecture and
infrastructure. Our methods result in
actionable, pragmatic plans and
processes which are built into clients’
core IT capabilities and enable high
performance.

Accenture is organized in a matrix
structure, allowing the Enterprise
Architecture practice to leverage
strategy and business architects
from disciplines such as customer
relationship management, supply chain
management, human performance,
and finance. Multi-disciplinary
enterprise architecture teams can
therefore meet both technical and
business challenges.

While the benefits of enterprise
architecture planning usually accrue
over a three- to five-year period, the
gross returns far exceed the costs of
building this capability, making
enterprise architecture investments
very attractive propositions. They can
result in direct information technology
cost reductions of up to 30 percent.
Indirect benefits driven by cost
avoidance and risk reduction
opportunities can amount to between
10 and 50 percent.

Contact
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Accenture can help you to achieve
high performance, and develop a
proactive enterprise architecture
strategy, contact:

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About Accenture

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