CREATING A SHARED VISION OF ENTERPRISE ARCHITECURE

A SMART360 Case Study

Fortune 500 Insurance Company partners with SMART360 to implement smartEA, Enterprise Architecture Management software, and transform its Enterprise Architecture delivery capabilities.

Executive Summary

The company offers individual and business life insurance products across 12 states. Ranking among the 500 largest U.S. companies, in terms of revenue, it has a proven strategy to expand its services into new territories. The strategy requires a scalable IT Landscape.

Challenges

The Enterprise Architecture organization, although technically competent, lacked a centralized repository of business, application and infrastructure domain metadata to plan and manage the IT Landscape. Data was dispersed across multiple systems impacting the ability to provide accurate and timely data for executive decisions. Besides the lack of shared understanding for the Enterprise Architecture organization, they faced key challenges:

Lack of transparency across a complex IT Landscape
Incomplete Application and Technical inventories
Focus on short-term solutions at the cost of long-term planning
Limited governance of project architectures, patterns and technologies
Unknown Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Case Study demonstrates the value of smartEA software and services.

CASE STUDY

These challenges restricted the Insurance Company's ability to scale and sustain the IT landscape necessary to support its growth strategy.

How smartEA Helped

The smartEA software and advisory services enabled the organization to quickly demonstrate tangible value and increase stakeholder participation.

Within a few short months:

smartEA was fully utilized and integrated with Websphere Business Modeler and Clarity, Project Portfolio Management System.

Having a 360° view of the architecture domains provided the needed transparency to manage the complexity and increase technical quality.

Robust visualizations and reports supported executive decision-making.

The Governance model was established ratifying technical standards, tracking high-risk projects, and ensuring solution architecture and PMO alignment.

Metrics and visualizations enabled the Application and Technical Portfolios to be managed by health, risk, and TCO.

Skilled resources became available to work on more meaningful architecture activities.

Realized Benefits

The realized benefits the Enterprise Architected organization experienced through implementing the smartEA software and services translated into value across the enterprise.

- A clear understanding of Enterprise Architecture's value and services.

- Reduced complexity in the IT Landscape enabled long term planning.

- Improved alignment with enterprise compliance and standards.

- Technology reuse and the retirement of applications reduced complexity and TCO

- Improved synchronization between IT and Business activities

- Accurate and timely data supported executive decision-making.

"They applied an accelerated and structured methodology to implement the software and assessed our architecture transformation approach. They were instrumental in helping us define a target-operating model and identify industry best practices. We have significantly improved architecture governance and delivery, leading to faster time to market of our projects and reduced exceptions to technology standards. smarEA software has helped us manage our IT landscape and helped synchronize our IT and Business functions."

G.S. Director of Enterprise Architecture

SMART 360° BIZ

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CASE STUDY

About SMART360 Company

Founded by architects for architects. The company is based in Munich, Germany with offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The smartEA software is based on the Enterprise Architecture Management methodology of Inge Hanschke and distilled from multiple Enterprise Architecture organizations across the globe.
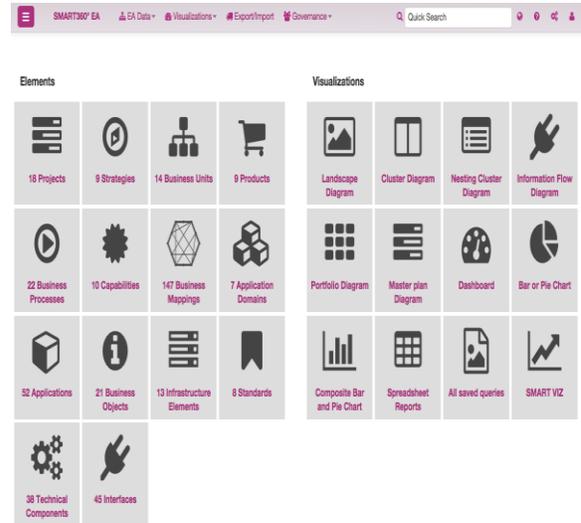
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