



Enterprise Architecture serving Business Projects



A large European group in the industry sector positioned Enterprise Architecture at the heart of its modeling projects

With the help of MEGA, the IT department has implemented a consistent repository to continually adapt to environmental pressures. The enterprise architecture developed with MEGA modeling tools helps decision makers to easily understand an increasingly complex environment.

This process meets our need for continual development and improvement. Indeed such “grand” in the industry must constantly keep up with the new technologies, new standards (ISO 9001-2000), regulations (SOX 404) and other European directives. *“This induces that an information system must continuously adapt to the environmental pressures regarding pollution or noise, as well as the requirements of its parent company in the United States with which it is closely integrated”* said the IT Director. *“We must be able to restore all of the information systems if a disaster occurs. We are aiming for the best outcome with the lowest possible production costs.”*

+ “An information system that must continuously adapt to environmental pressures”

A Single Repository

Developed with the help of MEGA, this highly-effective process is based on knowledge management and a single repository. The first step was taken in 2003 following the creation of a Data Center in order to describe its processes. The second step was to use MEGA for describing process and procedures of the IT department within the ISO 2000 version standard; allowing hence to capitalize on their know-how. *“We tried to ‘sell’ the Business Units on this initial enterprise architecture concept in 2004”* explained the IT Director. This project has gradually raised an implication from management. *“The system provides a representation of what happens throughout the company, whereas we usually rely on the operational level, which does not provide any means of creating model strategies,”* added the IT Director.

In practical terms, the repository and the maps making up the enterprise architecture can be accessed via a website which was created using MEGA’s automatic document and website generation tools. Via this portal, users can access their own specific areas of interest: this ability to share the information is the key to the project success.

Views adapted to each business unit

+ “A particular advantage of the enterprise architecture is that it allows for better management of interoperability”

+ “Pooling individual work, capitalizing on expertise, encouraging communication between the people involved and providing relevant analyses.”

The system is being deployed in four business units: finance, HR, engineering and supply chain, with a process geared to each unit's needs. For instance, for the engineering and supply chain units, the aim was to define individual responsibilities and clear, simple operating methods. For the HR unit, it was to create a target view of their process, adding visibility and simplifying communication, and for the finance unit, it was to ensure compatibility with SOX404. Although the repository offers representations of each level of employment - top management, middle management and line personnel - it is the same for all professions.

This view is based on a conventional three-layer architecture: at the top are the “Business Processes”, followed by “Applications & Data”, and then the “Infrastructure”. In addition to such a logic in three layers, enterprise architecture goes far beyond this allowing a great control of interdependence between such layers. It is important to point out that the quality requirements for the business call for improvements in infrastructure performance, which in turn require improvements in applications & data performance, and vice-versa. This virtuous circle allows for a higher rate of change for business.

The “Business Process” layer is the only one accessible for users, since they do not need to know where their applications are hosted. However between the various layers, the enterprise architecture enables the impact on the different levels to be assessed, therefore ensuring transparency. In order to conclude particular advantage of the enterprise architecture is that it allows for better management of interoperability between the three layers, hence pooling individual work, capitalizing on expertise, encouraging communication between the people involved and providing relevant analyses. Such know-how database provided the IT department with a real opportunity to react massively facing new adaptations required by the business evolution, in the field of competition and regulations.

MEGA OFFERING

The MEGA enterprise architecture solution is designed for the managing executives of large companies. It assists them in anticipating issues and making complex decisions that affect the organization and the information system. It provides them with an enterprise repository that offers a clear and global vision of the business processes and resources they are responsible for.

MEGA covers three basic areas: methods, tools and specialized consultants.

The MEGA methodology includes a modeling method with value analysis techniques, a modeling process called MOKA (Mega Open Kit Approach) and a document structuring framework.

Enterprise architecture projects are based on the MEGA Suite mapping system, a modular Windows platform. The structure of its meta-model fulfills all of the modeling needs of the company and its information system. The flexibility of its deliverables (website and documentation) allows the maps to be widely distributed and appropriated.

Company modeling is a specialized profession. For this reason, a team of specialized consultants is a central component of MEGA's offering. In addition to the approximately 100 MEGA consultants, there is also an international network of several hundred more consultants certified by MEGA University.