



White Paper

Enterprise Architecture and ERP



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Introduction

Today's organizations need access to immediate, accurate information, as a base on which to make informed decisions, and to see how the organization is performing against corporate goals.

In many cases, organizations have found it difficult to synchronize business strategy with operational execution because they lack visibility into the information needed to support decision-making. Often, organizations use disconnected applications (for example, Excel® spreadsheets) to record and analyze data, or managers have to wait for another department to complete some work before getting information.

To achieve the following important goals:

- real-time access to operational information;
- data-driven decision making; and
- target-oriented management;

businesses need to apply new approaches, acquire tools and solutions, and ensure a centralized, integrated information system is in place.

The role of Enterprise Architecture (EA) is to help bridge the gap between strategy and execution by providing a framework in which information can be delivered in the appropriate way and at the right time, so that plans can be reviewed, objective progress assessed, and performance evaluated.



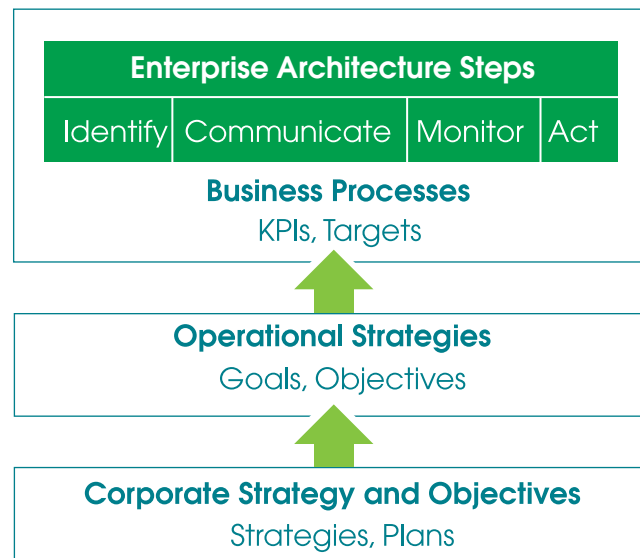
Defining Enterprise Architecture (EA)

Enterprise Architecture is an organizational strategy, determined and driven at executive level, to help the business move in the right direction.

Companies with experience in Business Intelligence (BI) applications should not assume that EA is just another name for something they have been doing for some time. BI is a technology solution, whereas EA is a business strategy and process which uses BI tools, among others.

While a number of the applications that make up EA could be in use already, EA provides the framework to align those applications for a common strategic purpose and to assist in driving all parts of the business in the same direction towards common objectives.

Steps to EA implementation



The role of an Enterprise Architecture solution is to provide appropriate information to:

- Analyze business conditions and trends
- Monitor and measure progress and performance
- Gain visibility into operations and bottlenecks

This information should be:

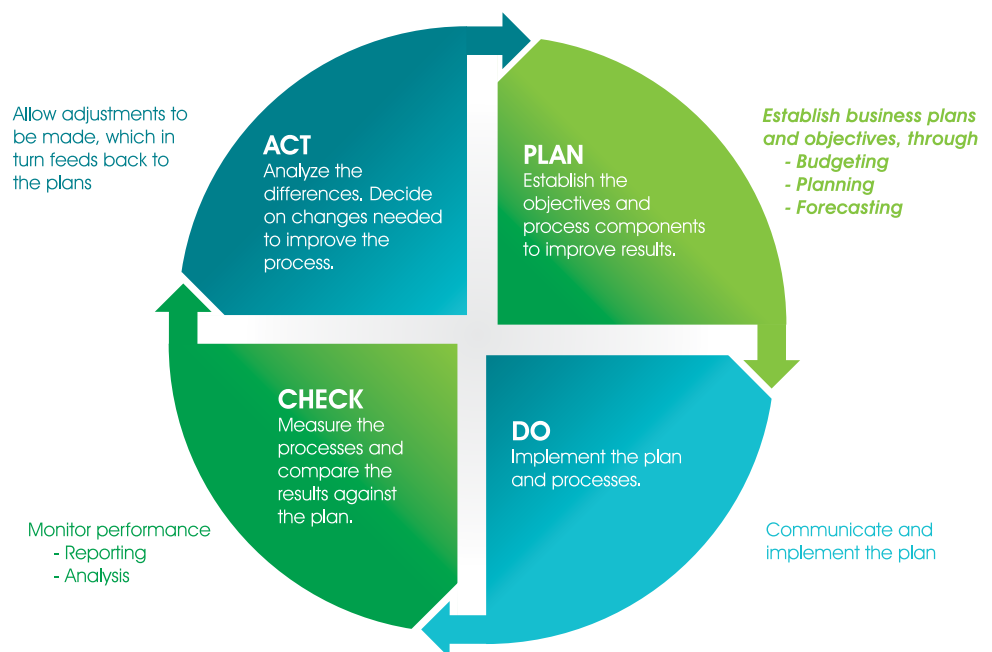
- Goal-oriented – enabling businesses to define objectives
- Metric-based – providing the tools for measuring and managing performance against those objectives
- A closed-loop process – there is feedback between plans, goals, targets and measures
- Capable of addressing financial as well as operational activities
- Integrated – allows organizations to be structured, measured, and managed as a whole, rather than in parts



Implementing Enterprise Architecture

Implementing an EA solution requires a management strategy that will instill a goal-oriented culture in the organization. The process of establishing strategic goals and performance objectives has been guided in recent years by the growth of continuous improvement methodologies, such as Lean, Six Sigma and Theory of Constraints. Many of these methodologies use the Deming Cycle of Plan-Do-Check-Act. Using the 'closed loop' approach, EA complements continuous improvement programs.

Deming Cycle EA Steps



As the name suggests, continuous improvement is a dynamic process, so the continued acceptance of the architected solution will depend on how it can be changed as business needs dictate. Consequently, the solution must be flexible and configurable so that modifications, updates and maintenance can be easily applied.



Integrated Enterprise Architecture and ERP

Getting the right information to the right person at the right time in the right format is a primary requirement for a successful EA implementation. Organizations with an implemented ERP system know that the data needed to run their business is stored in the system, but have often found it difficult to access and make use of this transactional data for decision making. By deploying a modular EA solution, integrated with the ERP, organizations can implement strategy, define objectives, set targets and be sure that there is a base of information against which activities and goals can be measured.

The benefits of applying an integrated EA/ERP solution are:

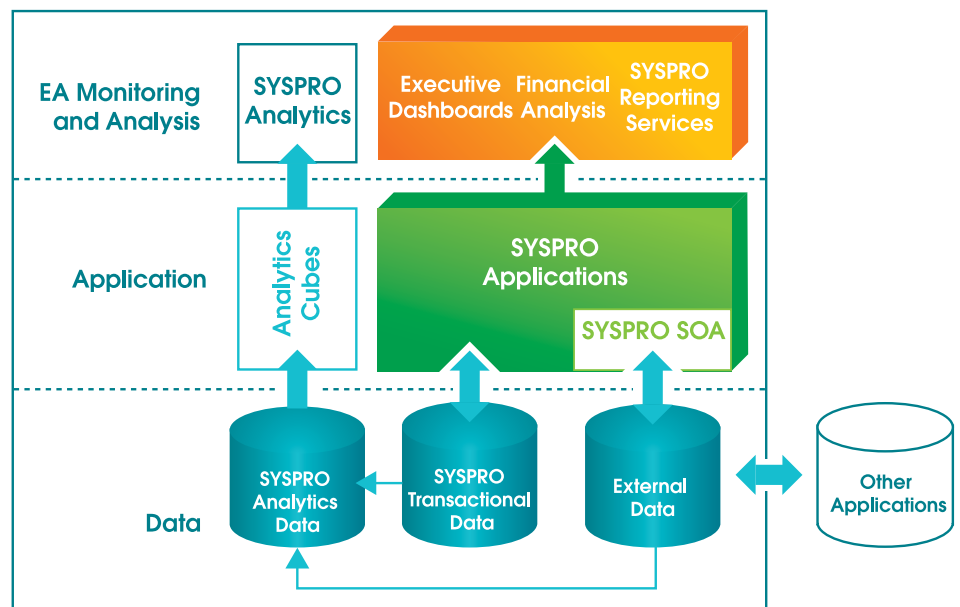
- Data accuracy and validity - data used can be traced to the source
- Cost effective - no added investment associated with third-party tools
- Flexible deployment - with modular software, deployment can be started with any component of the solution
- Timeous information - no delays as a result of the real time data

Delivering Enterprise Architecture with SYSPRO

SYSPRO recognizes that EA data must be based on more than just an operational data store, therefore SYSPRO provides a set of solutions for different types of monitoring, measurement and collaboration. These include:

- Executive Dashboards
- SYSPRO Analytics
- Financial Analysis
- Boardroom Quality Reporting

SYSPRO Enterprise Architecture





As SYSPRO EA tools can be deployed on standard SYSPRO screen views, users at all levels in the organization, from executive to operator, can be provided with the information they need to ensure their work contributes to, and is in line with the goals of the organization.

For an enterprise wanting to use its ERP system as part of an organization change process, giving employees access to appropriate information via an EA tool enables everyone to have visibility of their work and how it links to corporate objectives.

Executive Dashboards

SYSPRO Executive Dashboards is an interactive visual analysis solution. Seamlessly integrated into the SYSPRO ERP solution it provides executives with monitoring and what-if analysis tools to leverage their investment in ERP to strategic advantage.

SYSPRO Analytics

SYSPRO Analytics provides a multi-dimensional view of pre-defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) covering all aspects of the business. Transactional data is extracted and populated into SYSPRO Analytics data warehouses, from which Analytics cubes can be created. Although SYSPRO Analytics has its own viewer, any front-end tool (such as Excel) can be used to access Analytics data. Alternatively, an Analytics session can be set up within any SYSPRO application.

Financial Analysis

SYSPRO Financial Analysis comprises a set of tools which allow managers to forecast and perform what-if-analysis on financial data. The tools include:

- Cash flow forecasting
- Financial ratio analysis
- Budgeting and planning functionality

Boardroom Quality Reporting

For financial and operational reporting, SYSPRO Reporting Services (SRS) has the functionality to produce high quality reports and documents as well as visual analysis capabilities. SRS uses Crystal Reports which provides flexibility for designing reports to almost any requirement. SRS reports are version independent so companies can upgrade to a new version of SYSPRO without negatively affecting their customized reports.

For more information on SYSPRO Solutions visit www.syspro.com.

The SYSPRO Approach

SYSPRO software is an award-winning, best-of-breed Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software solution for cost-effective, on-premise and cloud-based utilization. Industry analysts rank SYSPRO software among the finest, best-in-class enterprise resource planning solutions in the world. SYSPRO software's powerful features, simplicity of use, scalability, information visibility, analytic/reporting capabilities, business process and rapid deployment methodology are unmatched in its sector.

SYSPRO, formed in 1978, has earned the trust of thousands of companies globally. SYSPRO's ability to grow with its customers and its adherence to developing technology based on the needs of customers is why SYSPRO enjoys one of the highest customer retention rates in the industry.



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