



INTRODUCTION TO ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE:

The first course in the EA Professional Development series.

This course is designed to be the first exposure to foundational enterprise architecture (EA) concepts and practices. The course sets the “common language” for EA discussions for professionals new to the EA field as well as functional business people, customers, suppliers, and others that desire an overview of enterprise architecture and the benefits it can bring to an organization.

This self-paced, online course is approximately 40 hours in length and organized into three main modules each consisting of five to six supporting topics.

MODULE 1: Introduction To Enterprise Architectural Concepts

This module introduces the foundational concepts behind enterprise architecture and discusses the business value that enterprise architecture brings to the organization. The module discusses the nature of complex organizations and provides an overview of the layers of the enterprise technology architecture.

MODULE 2: Initiating Enterprise Architecture

This module discusses fundamentals of planning for enterprise architecture initiatives, modeling the different layers of the enterprise, and building and maintaining an EA. The importance of governance and change management for EA success is also explored.

MODULE 3: Enterprise Architecture Implementation and Maintenance

This module discusses topics related to successful EA implementation and maintenance. The importance of leadership and effective decision making to the success of EA is explored as well as the composition and management of the EA project team. Factors that influence the success of EA in an organization are discussed as well as concepts and issues surrounding the measurement of EA value and risk identification and analysis for EA initiatives. The module concludes with a comparison of popular EA frameworks and a discussion of “hybrid” EA frameworks.

Course Conclusion

The course concludes with a discussion of current trends and issues in the EA profession and a summary of the business implications and value of enterprise architecture. After the successful completing of this course, students will be awarded two graduate credits that can be applied toward a planned online professional masters program in enterprise architecture to be offered at Penn State.

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This course is maintained through the Center for Enterprise Architecture. For more information, please visit <http://ea.ist.psu.edu/>.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to understand:

- The business case and value proposition for enterprise architecture
- Discuss and compare contemporary EA frameworks
- Foundational concepts, best practices, and approaches for effective enterprise architecture
- Articulate how enterprise architecture supports the strategic objectives of the organization
- The role of enterprise architecture in the strategic alignment of the organization
- How complex organizations work
- Key elements, technologies, and issues surrounding the enterprise information technology landscape
- Key concepts, best practices and issues surrounding planning, building and maintaining Enterprise Architecture
- Enterprise modeling approaches
- Leadership, decision making, governance and change management for effective enterprise architecture
- Success factors for enterprise architecture
- Value and risk analysis approaches for enterprise architecture