Enterprise Architecture: the alpha and omega

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When the question is asked, "What is information systems architecture?" the answer is, "There is not an information systems architecture, but a set of them!" Architecture is relative. What you think architecture is depends on what you are doing. For an example, see Table 6.

We are having difficulties communicating with one another about information systems architecture, because a set of architectural representations exists, instead of a single architecture. One is not right and another wrong. The architectures are different. They are additive and complementary. There are reasons for electing to expend the resources for developing each architectural representation. And there are risks associated with not developing any one of the architectural representations.
Presentation

- Asking fundamental questions on EA
- Opposing views presented
- Voting by audience
- Debate
- Comments by audience
- Final vote
Bayer assigned Greek and Latin letters to stars in order of apparent brightness, from brightest to dimmest, within a particular constellation.

The brightest star in a particular constellation was assigned alpha (α).
Omega (Ω) is the 24th and last letter of the Greek alphabet. In the Greek numeric system, it has a value of 800. The word literally means "great O" (ὁ mega, mega meaning 'great'), as opposed to Omicron, which means "little O" (ὀ mikron, micron meaning "little").

www.wikipedia.org
Views

Please note the views expressed in this presentation are not necessarily those of Real IRM.

The intention is to present opposing views on fundamental questions to make the audience aware of the decisions that need to be made when implementing Enterprise Architecture.
Enterprise Architecture

What is Enterprise Architecture?

EA is the structure and behaviour of business components, their interrelationships, and the principles governing their design and evolution over time.

The definition of the word “architecture” describes the art or practice of designing and building structures.
Model vs. Principle

Should EA be primarily model or principle-based?

EA should be primarily model based.

EA should be primarily principle based.
Scope

What is the scope of EA?

**α**

EA includes all the perspectives of the Zachman Framework – from Contextual down to Out-of-context

**Ω**

EA includes the Contextual and Conceptual perspectives that informs business strategy.
Domains

Is Business, Information, Data, Application and Technology the correct architecture domains?

**α**

BIDAT is the industry accepted architecture domains and should be used.

**Ω**

Architecture domains should be defined based on organisational structure, focus and culture.
Zachman

Is Zachman still relevant?

α

Zachman is a generic classification scheme that will be relevant for any architectural work.

Ω

Zachman was based on the technology of the time and is starting to become irrelevant in the new SOA and virtualised world.
How soon can EA value be realised?

**α**

EA value can be realised over the long term – 2 to 3 years.

**Ω**

EA can have immediate value.

EA: the alpha and omega

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Is TOGAF a relevant framework for EA?

**α**

TOGAF has become the industry standard method for EA.

**Ω**

TOGAF is one of the frameworks that can be used, but EA doesn’t require a formalised method, it should be more responsive.
SOA

Is SOA part of EA?

SOA is a style of architecture and included in the overall EA scope.

SOA is focussed on the solution space and part of the Solution Architecture.
Can EA respond to business change?

EA enables business change, but requires proper governance.

EA should be the catalyst.