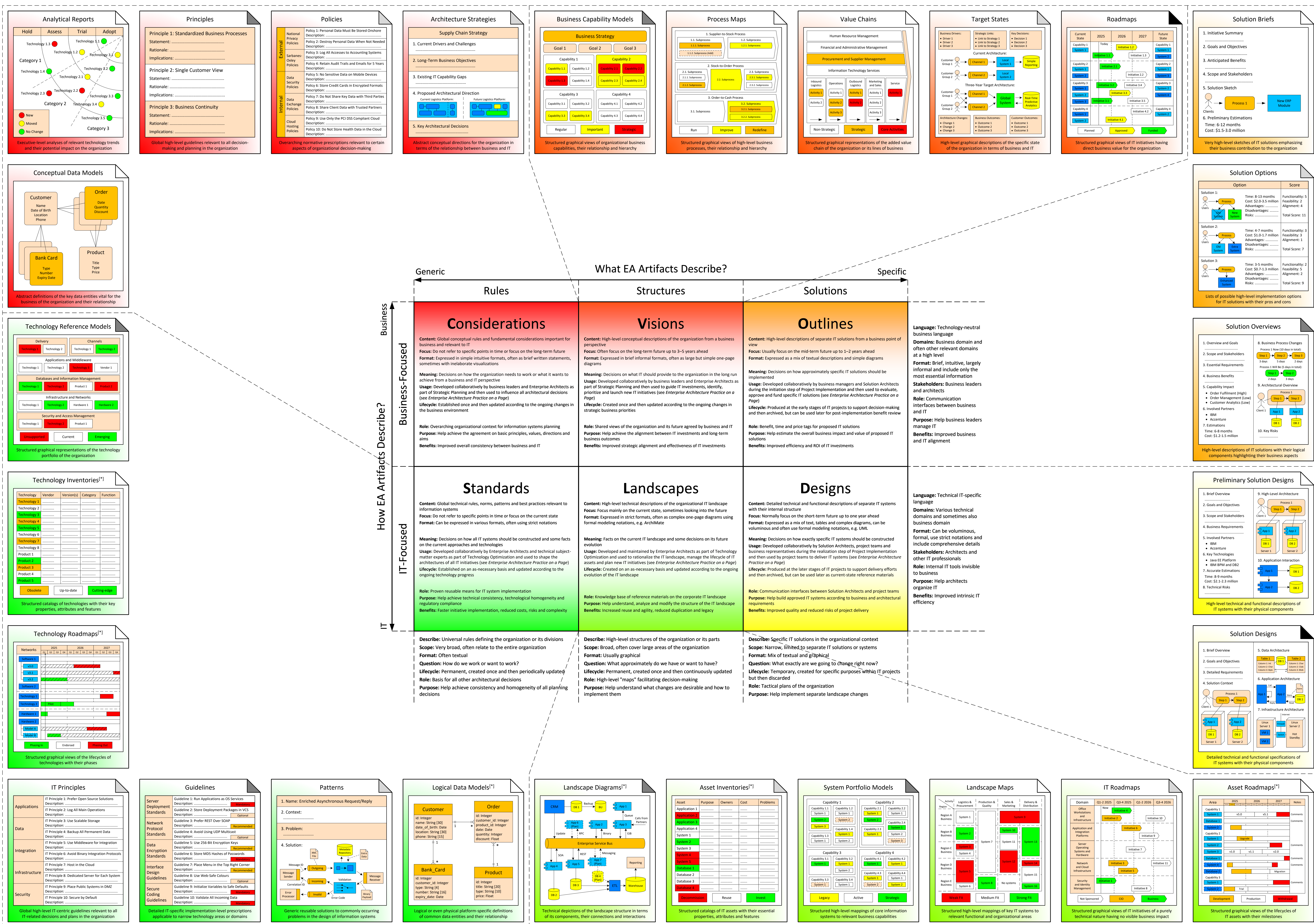# Enterprise Architecture Artifacts on a Page

(An aggregated one-page view of popular EA artifacts used in organizations with their most essential properties)

Analytical Reports

Hold	Assess	Trial	Adopt

- New
- Moved
- No Change

Executive-level analyses of relevant technology trends and their potential impact on the organization

Principles

Principle 1: Standardized Business Processes
Statement: ....
Rationale: ....
Implications: ....

Principle 2: Single Customer View
Statement: ....
Rationale: ....
Implications: ....

Principle 3: Business Continuity
Statement: ....
Rationale: ....
Implications: ....

Global high-level guidelines relevant to all decision-making and planning in the organization

Policies

External:
- National Privacy Policies
- Sarbanes-Oxley Policies

Internal:
- Data Security Policies
- Data Exchange Policies
- Cloud Hosting Policies

Policy 1: Personal Data Must Be Stored Onshore
Policy 2: Destroy Personal Data When Not Needed
Policy 3: Log All Accesses to Accounting Systems
Policy 4: Retain Audit Trails and Emails for 5 Years
Policy 5: No Sensitive Data on Mobile Devices
Policy 6: Store Credit Cards in Encrypted Formats
Policy 7: Do Not Share Key Data with Third Parties
Policy 8: Share Client Data with Trusted Partners
Policy 9: Only Use Only the PCI DSS Compliant Cloud
Policy 10: Do Not Store Health Data in the Cloud

Overarching normative prescriptions relevant to certain aspects of organizational decision-making

Architecture Strategies

Supply Chain Strategy
1. Current Drivers and Challenges
2. Long-Term Business Objectives
3. Existing IT Capability Gaps
4. Proposed Architectural Direction
5. Key Architectural Decisions

Abstract conceptual directions for the organization in terms of the relationship between business and IT

Business Capability Models

Business Strategy
Goal 1 | Goal 2 | Goal 3

Regular | Important | Strategic

Structured graphical views of organizational business capabilities, their relationship and hierarchy

Process Maps

1. Supplier-to-Stock Process
2. Stock-to-Order Process
3. Order-to-Cash Process

Run | Improve | Redefine

Structured graphical views of high-level business processes, their relationship and hierarchy

Value Chains

Human Resource Management
Financial and Administrative Management
Procurement and Supplier Management
Information Technology Services

Non-Strategic | Strategic | Core Business

Structured graphical representations of the added value chain of the organization or its lines of business

Target States

High-level graphical descriptions of the specific state of the organization in terms of business and IT

Roadmaps

	2025	2026	2027	Future

Planned | Approved | Completed

Structured graphical views of IT initiatives having direct business value for the organization

Solution Briefs

1. Initiative Summary
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Anticipated Benefits
4. Scope and Stakeholders
5. Solution Sketch
6. Preliminary Estimations
   Time: 6-12 months
   Cost: $1.5-3.0 million

Very high-level sketches of IT solutions emphasising their business contribution to the organization

Solution Options

	Option	Score
Solution 1:		Time: 8-13 months; Cost: $2.0-3.5 million; Feasibility: 2; Alignment: 4; Functionality: 5; Disadvantages: ...; Risks: ...; Total Score: 11
Solution 2:		Time: 4-7 months; Cost: $1.0-1.7 million; Feasibility: 5; Alignment: 1; Functionality: 4; Disadvantages: ...; Risks: ...; Total Score: 7
Solution 3:		Time: 3-5 months; Cost: $0.7-1.3 million; Feasibility: 5; Alignment: 2; Functionality: 1; Disadvantages: ...; Risks: ...; Total Score: 9

Lists of possible high-level implementation options for IT solutions with their pros and cons

Conceptual Data Models

Abstract definitions of the key data entities vital for the business of the organization and their relationship

What EA Artifacts Describe?

Generic ←→ Specific

How EA Artifacts Describe? (Business / IT)

	Rules	Structures	Solutions
Business-Focused	**Considerations**	**Visions**	**Outlines**
IT-Focused	**Standards**	**Landscapes**	**Designs**

Considerations

Content: Global conceptual rules and fundamental considerations important for business and relevant to IT
Focus: Do not refer to specific points in time or focus on the long term future
Format: Expressed in simple intuitive formats, often as brief written statements, sometimes with inelaborate visualizations
Meaning: Decisions on how the organization needs to work or what it wants to achieve from a business and IT perspective
Usage: Developed collaboratively by business leaders and Enterprise Architects as part of Strategic Planning and then used to guide IT architectural decisions (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Established once and then updated according to the ongoing changes in the business environment
Role: Overarching organizational context for information systems planning
Purpose: Help achieve the agreement on basic principles, values, directions and aims
Benefits: Improved overall consistency between business and IT

Visions

Content: High-level conceptual descriptions of the organization from a business perspective
Focus: Often focus on the long-term future up to 3–5 years ahead
Format: Expressed in brief informal formats, often as large but simple one-page diagrams
Meaning: Decisions on what IT should provide to the organization in the long run
Usage: Developed collaboratively by business leaders and Enterprise Architects as part of Strategic Planning and then used to guide IT investments, identify, prioritize and launch new IT initiatives (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Produced once and then archived, but can be used later for post-implementation benefit review
Role: Shared views of the organization and its future agreed by business and IT
Purpose: Help achieve the alignment between IT investments and long-term business outcomes
Benefits: Improved strategic alignment and effectiveness of IT investments

Outlines

Content: High-level descriptions of separate IT solutions from a business point of view
Focus: Usually focus on the mid-term future up to 1–2 years ahead
Format: Expressed as a mix of textual descriptions and simple diagrams
Meaning: Decisions on how approximately specific IT solutions should be implemented
Usage: Developed collaboratively by business managers and Solution Architects during the initiation step of Project Implementation and then used to evaluate, approve and fund specific IT solutions (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Created once at the early stages of IT projects to support decision-making and then archived, but can be used later for post-implementation benefit review
Role: Benefit, time and price tags for proposed IT solutions
Purpose: Help estimate the overall business impact and value of proposed IT solutions
Benefits: Improved efficiency and ROI of IT investments

Language: Technology-neutral business language
Domains: Business domain and often other relevant domains at a high level
Format: Brief, intuitive, largely informal and include only the most essential information
Stakeholders: Business leaders and architects
Role: Communication interfaces between business and IT
Purpose: Help business leaders manage IT
Benefits: Improved business and IT alignment

Standards

Content: Global technical rules, norms, patterns and best practices relevant to information systems
Focus: Do not refer to specific points in time or focus on the current state
Format: Can be expressed in various formats, often using strict notations
Meaning: Decisions on how all IT systems should be constructed and some facts on the current approaches and technologies
Usage: Developed collaboratively by Enterprise Architects and technical subject-matter experts as part of Technology Optimization and used to shape the architectures of all IT initiatives (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Established on an as-necessary basis and updated according to the ongoing technology progress
Role: Proven reusable means for IT system implementation
Purpose: Help achieve technical consistency, technological homogeneity and regulatory compliance
Benefits: Faster initiative implementation, reduced costs, risks and complexity

Landscapes

Content: High-level technical descriptions of the organizational IT landscape
Focus: Normally focus on the current state, sometimes looking into the future
Format: Expressed in strict formats, often as complex one-page diagrams using formal modeling notations, e.g. ArchiMate
Meaning: Facts on the current IT landscape and some decisions on its future evolution
Usage: Developed and maintained by Enterprise Architects as part of Technology Optimization and used to rationalize the IT landscape, manage the lifecycle of IT assets and plan new IT initiatives (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Created on an as-necessary basis and updated according to the ongoing evolution of the IT landscape
Role: Knowledge base of reference materials on the corporate IT landscape
Purpose: Help understand, analyze and modify the structure of the IT landscape
Benefits: Increased reuse and agility, reduced duplication and legacy

Designs

Content: Detailed technical and functional descriptions of separate IT systems with their internal structure
Focus: Focus mainly on the short-term future up to one year ahead
Format: Expressed as a mix of text, tables and complex diagrams, can be voluminous and often use formal modeling notations, e.g. UML
Meaning: Decisions on how exactly specific IT systems should be constructed
Usage: Developed collaboratively by Solution Architects, project teams and business representatives during the realization step of Project Implementation and then used by project teams to deliver IT systems (see Enterprise Architecture Practice on a Page)
Lifecycle: Produced at the later stages of IT projects to support delivery efforts and then archived, but can be used later as current-state reference materials
Role: Communication interfaces between Solution Architects and project teams
Purpose: Help build approved IT systems according to business and architectural requirements
Benefits: Improved quality and reduced risks of project delivery

Language: Technical IT-specific language
Domains: Various technical domains and sometimes also business domain
Format: Can be voluminous, formal, use strict notations and include comprehensive details
Stakeholders: Architects and other IT professionals
Role: Internal IT tools invisible to business
Purpose: Help architects organize IT
Benefits: Improved intrinsic IT efficiency

Describe: Universal rules defining the organization or its divisions
Scope: Very broad, often relate to the entire organization
Format: Often textual
Question: How do we work or want to work?
Lifecycle: Permanent, created once and then periodically updated
Role: Basis for all other architectural decisions
Purpose: Help achieve consistency and homogeneity of all planning decisions

Describe: High-level structures of the organization or its parts
Scope: Broad, often cover large areas of the organization
Format: Usually graphical
Question: What approximately do we have or want to have?
Lifecycle: Permanent, created once and then continuously updated
Role: High-level "maps" facilitating decision-making
Purpose: Help understand what changes are desirable and how to implement them

Describe: Specific IT solutions in the organizational context
Scope: Narrow, limited to separate IT solutions or systems
Format: Mix of textual and graphical
Question: What exactly are we going to change right now?
Lifecycle: Temporary, created for specific purposes within IT projects but then discarded
Role: Tactical plans of the organization
Purpose: Help implement separate landscape changes

Technology Reference Models

Delivery | Channels
Applications and Middleware
Databases and Information Management
Infrastructure and Networks
Security and Access Management

Conceptual | Current | Emerging

Structured graphical representations of the technology portfolio of the organization

Technology Inventories[*]

Technology	Vendor	Version(s)	Category	Function
Technology 1				
Technology 2				
Technology 3				
Technology 4				
Technology 5				
Technology 6				
Technology 7				
Technology 8				
Product 1				
Product 2				
Product 3				
Product 4				
Product 5				

Obsolete | Up-to-date | Cutting edge

Structured catalog of technologies with their key properties, attributes and features

Technology Roadmaps[*]

Networks | 2025 | 2026 | 2027

Phasing In | Endorsed | Phasing Out

Structured graphical views of the lifecycles of technologies with their phases

Solution Overviews

1. Overview and Goals
2. Scope and Stakeholders
3. Essential Requirements
4. Business Benefits
5. Capability Map
6. Order Fulfillment (High)
   - Order Management (Low)
   - Customer Analytics (Low)
7. Involved Partners
   - IBM
   - Accenture
8. Estimations
   Time: 4-8 months
   Cost: $1.2-1.5 million
9. Business Process Changes
10. Key Risks

High-level descriptions of IT solutions with their logical components highlighting their business aspects

Preliminary Solution Designs

1. Brief Overview
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Scope and Stakeholders
4. Business Requirements
5. Involved Partners
   - IBM
   - Accenture
6. Key Technologies
   - Java EE Platform
   - IBM BPM and DB2
7. Accurate Estimations
   Time: 8-9 months
   Cost: $2.1-2.5 million
8. Technical Risks
9. High-Level Architecture
10. Application Interaction

High-level technical and functional descriptions of IT systems with their physical components

Solution Designs

1. Brief Overview
2. Goals and Objectives
3. Detailed Requirements
4. Solution Context
5. Data Architecture
6. Application Architecture
7. Infrastructure Architecture

Detailed technical and functional specifications of IT systems with their physical components

IT Principles

Applications:
- IT Principle 1: Prefer Open-Source Software
- IT Principle 2: Log All Main Operations

Data:
- IT Principle 3: Use Scalable Storage
- IT Principle 4: Backup All Permanent Data

Integration:
- IT Principle 5: Use Middleware for Integration
- IT Principle 6: Avoid Binary Integration Protocols

Infrastructure:
- IT Principle 7: Host in the Cloud
- IT Principle 8: Dedicated Server for Each System

Security:
- IT Principle 9: Place Public Systems in DMZ
- IT Principle 10: Secure By Default

Global high-level IT-centric guidelines relevant to all IT-related decisions and plans in the organization

Guidelines

Server Deployment Standards:
- Guideline 1: Run Applications as OS Services (Recommended)
- Guideline 2: Store Deployment Packages in VCS (Optional)

Network Protocol Standards:
- Guideline 3: Prefer REST Over SOAP (Recommended)
- Guideline 4: Avoid Using UDP Multicast (Optional)

Data Encryption Standards:
- Guideline 5: Use 256-Bit Encryption Keys (Recommended)
- Guideline 6: Store MD5 Hashes of Passwords (Optional)

Interface Design Guidelines:
- Guideline 7: Place Menu in the Top Right Corner (Recommended)
- Guideline 8: Use Web-Safe Colours (Optional)

Secure Coding Guidelines:
- Guideline 9: Initialize Variables to Safe Defaults (Recommended)
- Guideline 10: Validate All Incoming Data (Optional)

Detailed IT-specific implementation-level prescriptions applicable to narrow technology areas or domains

Patterns

1. Name: Enriched Asynchronous Request/Reply
2. Context: ....
3. Problem: ....
4. Solution: ....

Generic reusable solutions to commonly occurring problems in the design of information systems

Logical Data Models[*]

Logical or even physical platform-specific definitions of common data entities and their relationship

Landscape Diagrams[*]

Technical depictions of the landscape structure in terms of its components, their connections and interactions

Asset Inventories[*]

Asset	Purpose	Owners	Cost	Problems
Application 1				
Application 2				
Application 3				
Application 4				
System 1				
System 2				
System 3				
System 4				
Database 1				
Database 2				
Database 3				

Recommended | Reuse | Invest

Structured catalog of IT assets with their essential properties, attributes and features

System Portfolio Models

Legacy | Active | Strategic

Structured high-level mappings of core information systems to relevant business capabilities

Landscape Maps

No systems | Medium Fit | Strong Fit

Structured high-level mappings of key IT systems to relevant functional and organizational areas

IT Roadmaps

Domain	Q2 2025	Q3-Q4 2025	Q1-2 2026	Q3-4 2026	Notes

Not Sponsored | OK | Updated

Structured graphical views of IT initiatives of a purely technical nature having no visible business impact

Asset Roadmaps[*]

Area	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Notes

Development | Production | Decommissioned

Structured graphical views of the lifecycles of IT assets with their components

Legend

- **Essential Artifacts** (Used in almost every mature EA practice)
- **Popular Artifacts** (Used in about 50–75% of EA practices)
- **Common Artifacts** (Used in about 25–50% of EA practices)
- **Uncommon Artifacts** (Used in about 10–25% of EA practices)

Notes

Mature EA practices usually use pragmatic sets of 10–15 value-adding EA artifacts, or only about a half of all the presented artifacts

Templates demonstrate only the most typical content, structure and format of EA artifacts; they should be adapted, not copied mindlessly

[*] These EA artifacts are particularly often stored in specialized tool-based architectural repositories and extracted as views