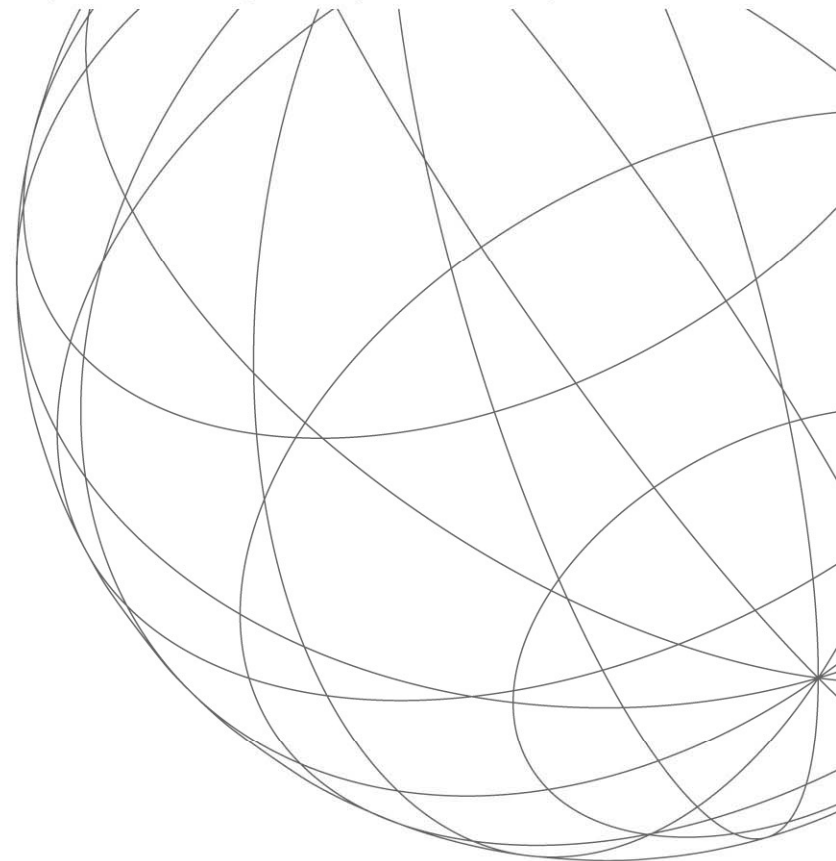




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Enterprise Architecture Panel Best Practices May, 2008

Introduction

- **Summary of best practices from ACORD/LOMA
2008 EA Best Practices panel**

Best Practices (1 of 2)

- EA requires a structure methodology – and don't build one. Several exist already.
- Using methods takes practices, and sometimes help. The most important thing to remember about methods is that they're not static (they can be changed). It's also important to remember that the phases, tasks, and activities in methods represent the superset of all possibilities. The first thing any given project should do is get rid of the things they don't need.
- When building systems, start small – big bangs end up with big bangs (thuds).
- Insurance systems builds should avoid LOB-specific solutions. While this isn't always possible, the best practice is to attempt broad re-usability of components.
- Organizational structure for enterprise architecture is difficult because of project or divisional budget structures. However, the best practice is to have a horizontal (i.e., cross division) architecture team. That said, it's perfectly OK for the EA team to be virtual, with participants coming from across the business. In fact, this is a best practice (versus a think-tank model where the EAs work in their own world).
- EA requires support from the very top down.

Best Practices (2 of 2)

- **Thorough (and frequent) communication is required when implementing an enterprise architecture.**
- **Proper governance – including change management – is required for successful EA rollouts.**
- **Create a catalog or portfolio of applications, software, technologies, etc. Cross reference to whatever key indicators management is using, look for overlap, potential opportunities, create an enterprise architecture roadmap.**
- **The role of the enterprise architect is to remain focused, govern, evangelize, educate, and centralize excellence. The role may be delegated to other roles in a project team for example the lead technical person or the business analysts may assume the role within the specific project and report or review with the enterprise architect.**
- **Don't forget about the BUSINESS ARCHITECTURE, which is as critical element as the technical architecture.**