

TOGAF® Poster Series #93

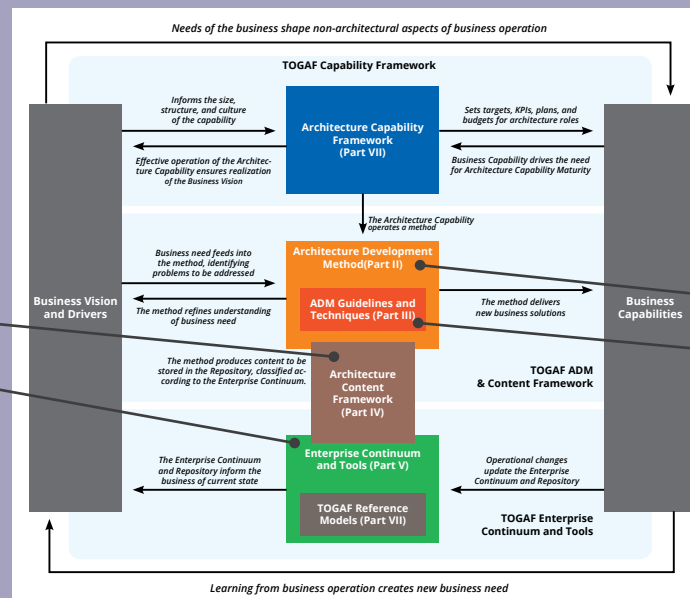
Using TOGAF: How to Choose Solutions

In this poster we give tips and advice on which parts of TOGAF will help you choose EA solutions. Throughout the standard, TOGAF makes the distinction between Architecture and Solution. Our poster highlights concepts in TOGAF that will help you realise an enterprise architecture with solutions that are compliant with requirements.

Where to Look in the TOGAF Documentation [this is not an exhaustive list]:

Part IV explains the concept of building blocks – in particular the distinction between Architecture Building Blocks and Solution Building Blocks. The Content Framework and Metamodel help configure solutions in the overall architecture.

The Enterprise Continuum provides methods for classifying architecture and solution artifacts, both internal and external to the Architecture Repository, as they evolve from generic Foundation Architectures to Organization-Specific Architectures.



Phases E and F in the ADM Define the overall solution building blocks to finalize the Target Architecture and Finalize the Architecture Roadmap.

Part III describes how Gap Analysis, Migration Planning Techniques, and Interoperability Requirements are used to choose the solutions.

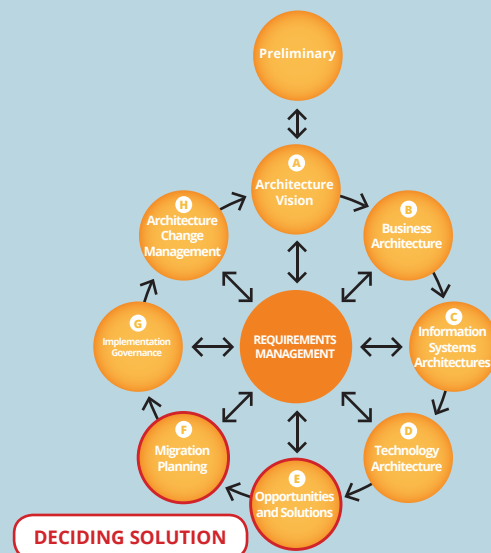
Figure 1: Structure of the TOGAF Standard

Architecture Versus Solution

TOGAF makes a clear distinction between Architecture and Solution:

The early phases of the ADM focus on developing the architecture – the Architecture Vision, the Business Architecture, the Information Systems (Data and Application) Architectures, and the Technology Architecture. Existing solution building blocks are included if they are to be kept or replaced, but it is in Phase E Opportunities and Solutions and Phase F Migration Planning that options for the detailed use of solutions is examined and decided.

Phase E and F will give you a step-by-step guide for selecting solutions.



The Enterprise, Architecture and Solutions Continuum

Architecture Continuum assets (such as the Architecture Building Blocks) are used to guide and select the elements in the Solutions Continuum. It defines the available re-usable Solution Building Blocks (SBBs).

The Solutions Continuum is populated with reference building blocks – either purchased products or built components – that represent a solution to the enterprise's business need expressed at each of the four levels.

The Enterprise Continuum provides a way of managing use and reuse of solutions at the foundation, common-systems, industry and organization-specific levels.

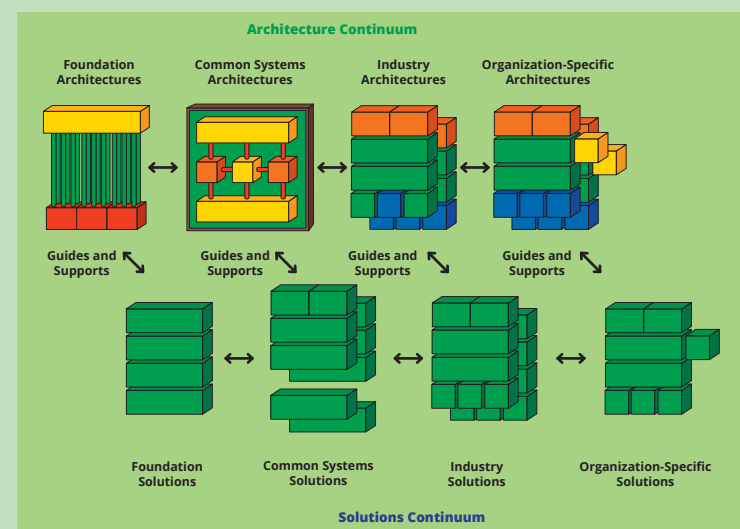


Figure 35.4: Relationships between Architecture and Solutions Continua

Techniques for Choosing Solutions:

The most important solutions should realize and implement architectural requirements and specifications. These are directly defined in 32.2.1 **Architecture Building Blocks**, 32.2.3 **Architecture Definition Document**, and 32.2.6 **Architecture Requirements Specification**, but also in all other TOGAF artifacts.

In addition, in **Part III** of the documentation, TOGAF specifically describes some techniques for understanding the gap between the current and transition or target architectures, and for assessing the interoperability and fit of alternative solutions.

Building Blocks, Content Framework and Metamodel

The TOGAF content framework and metamodel need to be customized to fit your exact needs, but a good EA metamodel is essential for specifying how building blocks (and solution building blocks in particular) are configured to form the Enterprise Architecture.

When you have a short list of possible solutions, it is important to check them against the metamodel and against a set of defined qualities for suitability. Finally, all solutions should be checked for compliance: see Chapter 42. Architecture Compliance

