IT Architecture Practice

THE *Open* GROUP

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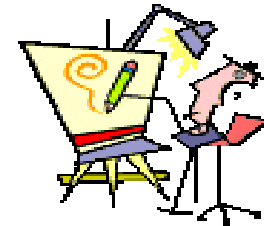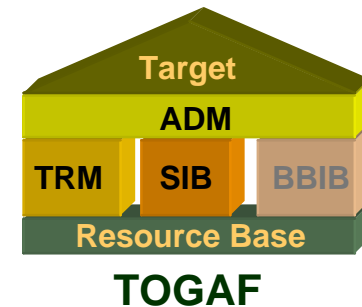Fax +44 118 950 0110
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Agenda

❑ Background

❑ Goal & Rationale

❑ Envisaged Operation

❑ Relationship to TOGAF Certification

❑ Next Steps

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Architecture Forum – Vision

- ❑ An effective, open framework and method

- ❑ Knowledgeable and professional practitioners

- ❑ Adequate "Commercial Off-The-Shelf" tools

Target

ADM

TRM | SIB | BBIB

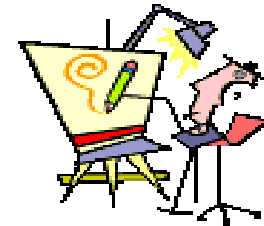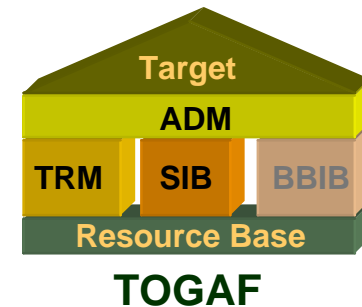Resource Base

TOGAF

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Architecture Forum – Vision

❑ An effective, open framework and method

TOGAF

❑ Knowledgeable and professional practitioners

❑ Adequate "Commercial Off-The-Shelf" tools

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IT Architecture Practice - Goal

- ❑ A global industry standard, including a standard certification process, for the practice of IT Architecture.

IT Architecture Practice - Rationale

- ❏ Place the practice of IT Architecture on a more professional footing within the industry.

- ❏ Reduce the time, cost, and risk involved in training, hiring, and managing IT Architecture professionals, both internal and external.

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Background

- IT Architecture skills in increasing demand within the industry.
- The terms "Architecture", "Architect" widely used, poorly defined in the IT industry.
- Lack of uniformity causes problems:
  - Contracting consultants / professional services
  - Recruiting / assigning staff to IT Architecture positions
- Mis-communication between recruiters and those seeking to fill IT Architecture roles.
  - Staff apply in good faith, still lack required skills / experience.
  - Staff capable of filling roles are overlooked, or do not apply.
  - Increased risk of engaging unsuitable personnel.

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Background (continued)

- Many enterprises considering an in-house "IT Architecture Practice"
  - Goal: foster development of in-house skills / experience to support IT architecture tasks within the enterprise.
- An effective certification process a key component:
  - The means to formally recognize skills of practising IT Architects.
  - Need a similar process anyway when contracting consultants.
- BUT… Certification processes difficult and costly to set up:
  - Document requirements
  - Establish peer review board
  - Time and talent of technical leadership
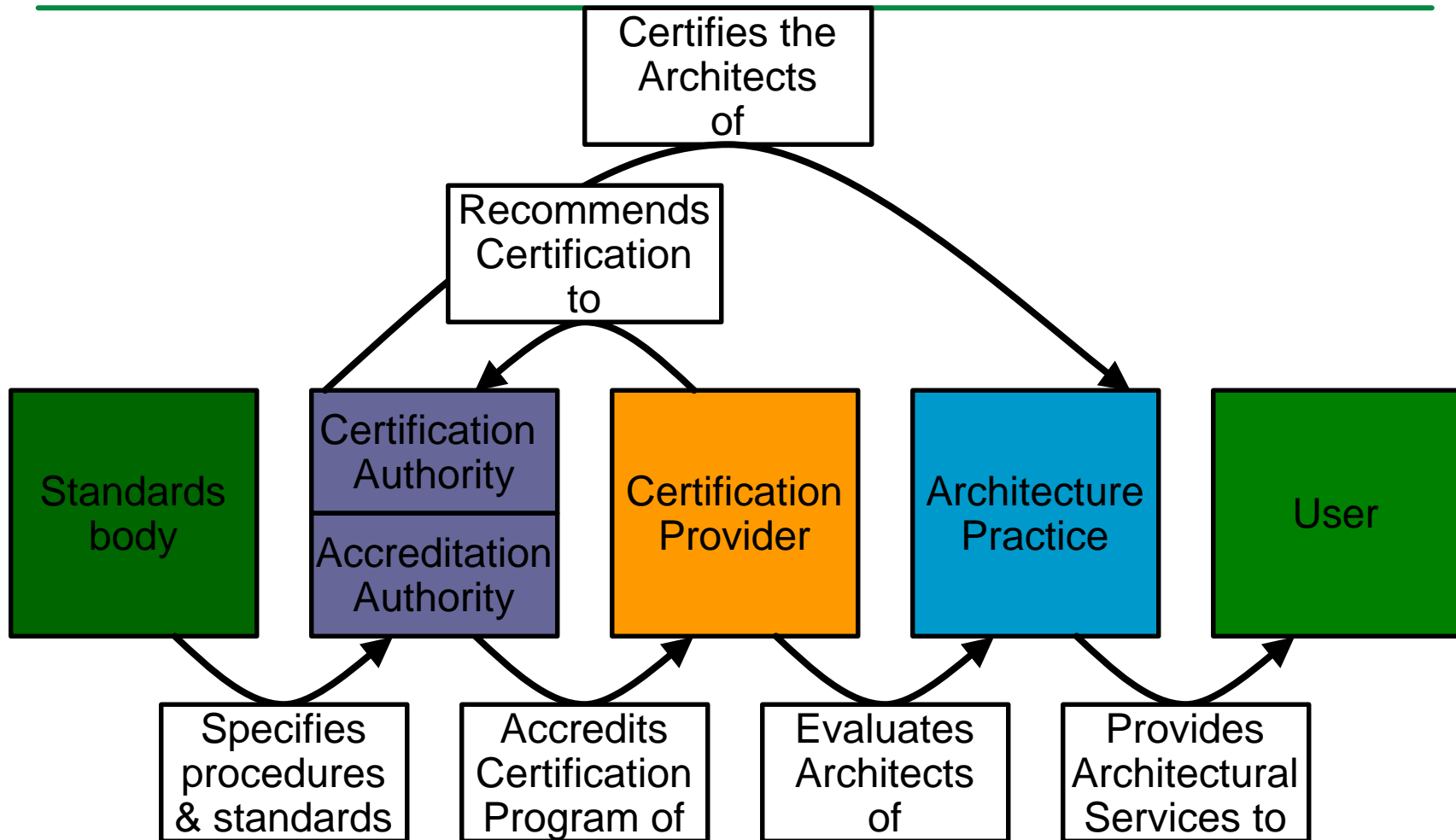 - Time of candidates in preparing for assessment

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How?   … How Far?

1. Define the different "Architect" roles involved in developing information systems.

2. Identify the skills, knowledge, proficiency levels, and experience necessary for each role.

3. Identify reliable techniques for validating (2).

4. Define an effective IT Architect Certification Process, based on (1-3).

5. Encourage enterprises with IT Architecture practices to establish internal certification programs based on (1-4).

6. Implement a program to accredit conformant certification programs, to achieve a global level playing-field for IT Architect certification.

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Roles…

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... and Players

*The Open Group
Architecture Forum
(possibly with others) --
standards*

*The Open Group company
(possibly with others) --
Certification/Accreditation*

*IT vendor and customer
enterprises -- any one,
two, or three roles*

Standards body	Certification Authority / Accreditation Authority	Certification Provider	Architecture Practice	User

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Relationship to TOGAF Certification

- Complementary, not competing, programs
- TOGAF Certification about knowledge and experience of TOGAF (specifically)
- IT Architecture Practice about overall profession of IT Architecture
  - Typically, IT Architects need to know more than one architecting framework / method
  - TOGAF could (but need not) be one such method
  - In which case, TOGAF certification would be an accepted credit for this program

Stakeholder categories

- Enterprise Users
- IT industry
  - Individual IT Architects
  - Suppliers of architecting services – internal or external (professional services organizations)
  - Suppliers of certification & supporting services
  - The Open Group
- Academic institutions
- Education & Training organizations
- Professional Bodies and Associations
- Legislators
- Recruitment Organizations

- 28 Stakeholder categories identified

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The story so far

- November 2001 – Workgroup meeting hosted by IBM in New York
- June 2002 – UK Chapter BoF meeting in London
  - Separating the issues
  - Identifying the stakeholders
- October 2002 – Cannes meeting
  - Matrix of benefits against stakeholders
- February 2003 – San Francisco meeting
  - TOGAF Certification launched
  - Agreement to canvass other bodies
    - IEEE, WWISA, ...
- June 2003 – Workgroup meeting hosted by IBM in New York
  - Strawman IT Architecture Skills Matrix

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Next Steps

- Further development of the IT Architecture Skills Matrix within the Architecture Forum
  - **To be discussed in tomorrow's Architecture Forum workshop**

- Survey The Open Group membership to further understand drivers and barriers

- Promote and recruit

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