People and Boundary less Information Flow

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Purpose
To assess and discuss the impact of boundaryless information flow on the Business and IT community.

Background

Boundaryless Information Flow means that there are no boundaries either real or artificial between organisations.

What is the impact on the people operating within those organisations?

What new skills are required and how does one design the People organisation to meet this new need.

Skills are required in the IT Community to understand the responsibilities of architecture and design within their scope and elsewhere.

Skills are required within the business community to use and manage the flow of information.
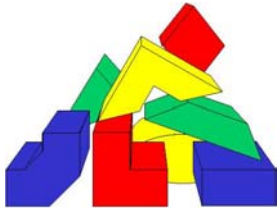
Assessment

Knocking down the functional barriers requires culture change and knowledgeable communities who can work with each other, respecting each others space yet leveraging knowledge to improve their organisational effectiveness.

Today effectiveness can come from
- your people identifying gaps and plugging them fast with your own solutions. Often this is because your suppliers and customers have not seen the gaps and you identify the gap as an opportunity for your products or solutions.
- Meeting your customer's needs better than the next guy

Will Boundaryless information flow reduce these opportunities and will it introduce new ones

Tomorrow effectiveness can come from ???????????

- Working more closely together
- Using more information to refine customer solutions
- Opening up information access yet exerting control of the information

How does this affect architecture and more importantly the Enterprise Architect

Impact

Enterprise Architects & IT Designers suddenly have an ocean of knowledge and information available to them

How do they chose what to use, what to discard, how to play, what to make available

They have spent years being told "not to boil the ocean" then suddenly the tidal wave is upon them.

How can they be equipped to deal with this avalanche of information available.
How do they chose what to make available and what to hang onto
How do they ensure the organisation retains its intrinsic value and is not pulled through the door.

Answer

They can't if they do not have a Cross Enterprise Architecture. CEA

A bold statement.

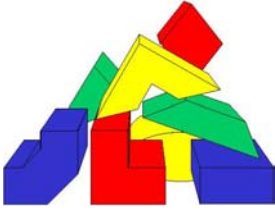An Enterprise defines the boundaries

Understanding what their suppliers and customers own in the way of information, how they can use the information and ensuring that control or ownership rests with the right people has to be the number 1 objective of the Enterprise Architect.

He/She needs to look beyond their own borders and become a Cross Enterprise player.

Is this Federated Enterprise Architecture – not really federated is still siloed

Is this Multiple Enterprise Architecture – not really as these are still siloed

What type of Architecture is required?

A Cross Enterprise Architecture or a Mega Architecture

What skills are needed to work across enterprise boundaries?

The TOGAF skills matrix defines the skills required to do Enterprise Architecure for
Business
Applications
Data
Technology

Is there another Architectural skill – the Mega Architecture skill.

For example:
Last conference discussed the GRID – how are Enterprise Architects managing to
architect the Grid?

It requires Enterprise Architects from different organisations to work with each other –
Should we just throw that at the Outsourcer – or he who owns the GRID

How will this be managed in a multiple sourcing environment?
How will all the architects get together, work out a solution and most importantly agree!

Answer

Through using shared openly available methodologies like TOGAF

Who will win in this space – the Enterprise whose Enterprise Architects have more skill
and knowledge than their counterparts

People are the key to Knowledge sharing which makes boundaryless information flow a
reality.