



Enterprise Lifecycle Management

Problem

We readily recognise a number of the important Lifecycle Management (LM) processes involving Information - there is Information or Document LM, Device LM, even People LM. Some have positioned Risk as having a lifecycle that needs managing; this is certainly true in the area of Vulnerability LM.

However, in this world of rapidly changing collaborations, not many have recognised the need for managing the lifecycle of the Enterprises with which we collaborate. The length of time a collaboration will be required to run is rapidly falling, as are the expectations of the time needed to set up new collaborations (and close them down).

There is a growing need to be able to effectively manage the lifecycle of the Enterprises with which we do business. At present there is not one clear model for Enterprise Lifecycle Management that integrates all the various functions involved in managing the relationships in such a lifecycle.

Why should I care

Today, collaborations are set up by multiple functions across most Enterprises. The implications of this largely dis-integrated approach are that it is slow, resource heavy, costly, and does not readily spot or address systemic or Enterprise risks - this at a time when our businesses are expecting agility, speed, and low cost, in setting up new collaborations. How long does it take your organisation to “on-board” or “off-board” an Enterprise - ensuring the appropriate contracts are in place, or data repatriated, and dealing with all the other regulatory implications of such activities? There are some organisations today that have partner on-boarding and off-boarding processes that take more time than the average lifetimes of their partnerships. It is also key that we know those organisations with access to our sensitive data.

Recommendation/response

Organisations are encouraged to name an owner of the Enterprise or Partner Lifecycle Management process, and, working across all the related functions, look to reduce the timeline in the processes involved in Enterprise Lifecycle Management. They need to take the times of the key lifecycle management processes from being measured in months, to being measured in minutes. This is not a technical measure; it is an organisational one, which must have as one of their key goals the protection of their information assets.

Background/rationale

Managing the energy and resources involved in setting up new collaborations or partnerships will be a key new capability for future organisations. Importantly managing the information

implications of such a process will be key part of the PRIDE processes (see the COA Framework¹ paper).

Conclusion

Given that a growing proportion of the information assets of our organisations are being handled by our partners, Enterprise Lifecycle Management will become a key control mechanism in the protection of those Information Assets.

How many other Enterprises handle your most sensitive information assets today?
Don't know? Do you think it is time to find out?

¹ The Collaboration Oriented Architectures (COA) and COA Framework papers are available at www.jerichoforum.org/publications