Information Technology Architect Certification

Conformance Requirements

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Information Technology Architect Certification: Conformance Requirements

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Open Group IT Architect Certification Program (the Program) is designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective practice of IT architecture. The Program is skills and experience-based and goes beyond validating the mastery of any specific knowledge base.

The Program includes a framework for accreditation of third parties to establish IT Architect certification programs affiliated to The Open Group. The framework of accreditation and certification is specifically intended to standardize the process and criteria for IT Architect professional certification and establish a foundation for the required skills and experience necessary to achieve such a distinction. The Program was designed to be flexible and extensible so that the framework may be adopted by any industry, country, or organization.

The Open Group supports two different routes to IT Architect certification:

- The first route is *direct* certification by The Open Group.
- The second is *indirect*, through third-party programs accredited by The Open Group.

The Conformance Requirements for IT Architect certification apply equally to the direct and indirect routes to certification.

Beyond the Conformance Requirements for a Certified IT Architect, third parties operating Accredited Certification Programs (ACPs) may levy additional requirements on their Candidates in order to satisfy their internal skills requirements. Such additional requirements are called *extended certification requirements* or simply *extended requirements*. For example, extended certification requirements might include experience with a proprietary corporate method or appropriate industry or cultural requirements.

The Program requires ACPs' extended certification requirements to be effectively documented and communicated within the accredited program. In addition, extended certification requirements must not relax the skills, experience, or process requirements set forth by the framework established herein.

The Open Group direct certification route may, at some time in the future, also include extended requirements, but these will always be optional to ensure the baseline requirements of the framework remain common across the profession.

The Program is based upon four key documents:

1. The *Certification Policy*, which sets out the policies and processes by which an IT Architect may achieve certification

2. The *Conformance Requirements*, in which the skills and experience that a Certified IT Architect must possess are documented (this document)

3. The *Accreditation Policy*, which sets out the policies and processes by which an Organization may achieve accreditation

4. The *Accreditation Requirements*, in which the criteria that must be met by an ACP are documented

1.2　Terminology and Definitions

This table defines terms or clarifies the meaning of words used within this document. Where an acronym is also used, it is provided in parentheses.

Accredited Certification Program (ACP)	An IT Architect certification program, operated by a third party, that has been assessed by The Open Group as meeting the requirements set out in the Accreditation Policy and which has been entered into the Accreditation Register. Depending on context, the term is also used to mean the company or organizational unit that operates an Accredited Certification Program.
Application Form	The form completed by the Candidate to apply for certification.
Candidate	The individual who is in the process of being certified.
Certificate	The document made available to Candidates who have successfully completed the certification process and whose details have been entered into the Directory of Certified IT Architects.
Certification Agreement	The agreement between the Candidate and the Certification Authority that defines the certification service to be provided and contains the legal commitment by the Candidate to the conditions of the certification program.
Certification Authority (CA)	The Organization that manages the day-to-day operations of the certification program – in this case The Open Group.
Certification Board	The group of subject matter experts appointed by the Certification Authority or by an Accredited Certification Program to assess applications for certification.
Certification Package	The detailed description of the skill levels attained and experience undergone that provides the Certification Authority or Accredited Certification Program with sufficient information to determine whether the Candidate meets the Conformance Requirements. The Certification Package is never made public.
Certification Program Guide	The document that describes the processes for how a Candidate achieves certification. The Certification Program Guide is used in conjunction with this Certification Policy document. This Certification Policy document defines what a Candidate must do, whereas the Certification Program Guide provides detailed instructions on how a Candidate gets certified and where to obtain relevant information and documents.

Certification Record	The information identifying the Candidate, including contact details, and describing the way in which the Candidate meets the Conformance Requirements, including which optional criteria are met.
	The Certification Record of a Certified IT Architect is made available by the Certification Authority at the discretion of the Certified IT Architect.
Certification System Deficiency (CSD)	An agreed error in the Certification System, which is inhibiting the certification process. A Certification System Deficiency is one possible outcome of a Problem Report.
Certified IT Architect	A Candidate that has successfully completed the certification process and who has been notified in writing by the Certification Authority that certification has been achieved.
Conformance Requirements	A definition of the mandatory and optional criteria a person must meet in order to be eligible for certification.
Direct Certification	Direct certification is achieved by applying directly to The Open Group, or to a third party operating the Program on The Open Group's behalf, and successfully completing the certification process.
	Direct certification is open to any Candidate, regardless of who they work for, or where in the world they live and work.
Directory of Certified IT Architects	The official list of all Certified IT Architects, which is maintained by the Certification Authority and made publicly available via the Internet.
Evaluation Process	The documented process by which the Certification Authority determines whether a Candidate has met the Conformance Requirements. The Evaluation Process consists of evaluation procedures and criteria.
Evaluation Process Deficiency (EPD)	An agreed error in the Evaluation Process used to evaluate whether a Candidate meets the Conformance Requirements, which impacts certification. An Evaluation Process Deficiency is one possible outcome of a Problem Report.
Indirect Certification	Indirect certification is achieved by applying to an Accredited Certification Program and successfully completing the certification process.
	To be eligible for certification by a particular ACP, Candidates must work for the Organization running the Accredited Certification Program.
Interpretation (INT)	Decision made by the Specification Authority that elaborates or refines the meaning of the Conformance Requirements, or a standard or specification referenced within the Conformance Requirements. An Interpretation is one possible outcome of a Problem Report.

Problem Report (PR)	A question of clarification, intent, or correctness of the Conformance Requirements, the Evaluation Process, or the Certification System, which, if accepted by the Specification Authority, will be resolved into an Interpretation, Evaluation Process Deficiency, or Certification System Deficiency, respectively.
Program Logo	The logo or other trademarks as designated from time to time by The Open Group for use within The Open Group IT Architect Certification Program in relation to Certified IT Architects.
Specification Authority (SA)	The Open Group IT Architect Certification working group, or its successor, which is responsible for developing, maintaining, and interpreting the Conformance Requirements and Accreditation Requirements of The Open Group IT Architect Certification Program.
Trademark License Agreement (TMLA)	The agreement between the Certified IT Architect and The Open Group that contains the legal commitment by the Candidate to the conditions for use of the Program Logo.

2. IT ARCHITECT: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (INFORMATIVE)

An IT Architect defines solutions to client business problems through the reasoned application of information technology.

Those solutions are documented as architectures and can include systems, applications, and process components. They may also involve the application and integration of a broad variety of products; technologies and services; various systems and applications architectures; and diverse hardware and software components.

2.1 Characteristics of the IT Architect

The key skill and contribution IT Architects bring to their pursuits is the creation of architectures that address business problems.

Effective IT Architects typically possess and exhibit the following:

Skills and experience producing architectures	IT Architects develop architectures; the definition of the structures of an IT solution to a business problem. In order to accomplish this they must be proficient at the techniques that go into the formulation of architectures, including requirements discovery and analysis, application of abstraction, formulation of solution context, solution alternatives identification and assessment, technology selection, and architectural configuration.

Appropriate technical skills and experience, including technical breadth	IT Architects require practical skills and experience with many application and infrastructure (operational) products, technologies, and services. While often relying on professionals with specialized skills for the construction, implementation, and operation aspects of solution delivery in many of these areas, the IT Architect must have enough skills and experience across them to be able to successfully architect appropriate solutions of heterogeneous components. Beyond that base of technical breadth, effective IT Architects usually possess additional architectural skills in one or more disciplines.
Disciplined, method-driven execution	The IT Architect uses formal methods to guide and drive the development of solutions, the management of their work, and the production of their deliverables.
Full lifecycle experience	In the development of architectures that address business problems, the IT Architect's work is primarily performed at the front end of the solution lifecycle. Full lifecycle experience – in particular, the knowledge and appreciation of the construction, implementation, and management aspects of the solution lifecycle – enables the IT Architect to produce solution designs that are truly viable and that can be successfully constructed, implemented, operated, and managed.
Leadership	The effective IT Architect is a leader, providing knowledge, technical, and team leadership skills in their work, to their clients, and for their teams.
Strong personal and professional skills	The IT Architect must have a high level of communications, consulting, and client relationship skills. The IT Architect must be able to clearly communicate complex technical and business concepts, both to clients (internal or external) and to team members, and to negotiate change. Problem-solving of client business and technical issues is a principle role of the IT Architect, and he or she must be capable of effectively identifying and framing problems, leading the collection of elements of information, and integrating this information to produce timely and thoughtful decisions.

2.2   Types of IT Architects – Sample Architecture Disciplines

This version of the Conformance Requirements does not set any requirements for architecture disciplines, but the Program is expected to be revised to include disciplines as specific options in the near future.

As part of those future discipline requirements, IT Architects will be expected to demonstrate a higher level of proficiency in one of several areas of architectural focus that reflect organizational requirements and IT industry views, in addition to the fundamental skills defined in this Conformance Requirements document. The types and requirements of the IT Architect disciplines will evolve with the needs of the IT industry and will be updated accordingly. Examples of such potential disciplines against which Candidates might obtain certification include:

- Enterprise Architecture
- Business Architecture
- Information Architecture
- Application Architecture

- Technology Infrastructure Architecture

2.2.1 Defining Additional Disciplines

Accredited Certification Programs (ACPs) will be able to define additional architectural disciplines against which they can certify individuals. In so doing, the description of the discipline:

- Must be well-formed and supported by the industry or the business needs of the Organization running the ACP
- Must not relax the skills, experience, or process requirements of the Program
- Must be ratified by The Open Group as part of the accreditation process

2.3 Example IT Architect Roles

While IT Architects share the same overall skills or characteristics associated with the profession and one or more disciplines, the role they perform may vary based on more tactical business-driven requirements from their organization or work activity. Some of these roles are described below.

2.3.1 Business Analyst

The IT Architect may lead and coordinate activities to understand a client's business problem and translate them into requirements that can be implemented and verified.

2.3.2 Methodologist

In this role the IT Architect leads customers in selecting, employing, and influencing the use of appropriate methods and design tools to achieve the desired business and technical results.

2.3.3 Project Advisor

The IT Architect may also lead project technical teams in ensuring that the business vision is free of architectural errors, and observing the deployed system to harvest lessons for future projects.

2.3.4 Solutions Designer

In this role the IT Architect analyzes a customer's business and IT challenges and designs a comprehensive solution that integrates smoothly into the customer's environment, and is checked carefully for reliability, availability, and scalability.

2.3.5 Technology Advisor

The IT Architect may also lead architectural engagements in promoting the cause of technology, and of specific technologies, in order to achieve buy-in from the enterprise's management and IT communities, seeking to create new opportunities and business relationships.

3. CONFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (NORMATIVE)

The Conformance Requirements for a Certified IT Architect are broken down as follows:

- Core Foundation skills
- Discipline skills
- Experience requirements

Requirements that are stated as applying to Certified IT Architects apply equally to Candidates for certification and *vice versa*.

3.1 Skill Levels

For the Core Foundation skills and Discipline skills, Candidates must meet or exceed the minimum skill level defined for each of the skills.

Skill levels are defined as follows:

Table 1: Skill Levels and Proficiency Ratings

Skill Level	Proficiency	Experience
Limited	Limited or no knowledge	None
General	General conceptual knowledge only	Limited – read about it, some education
Applied	Applied knowledge	Performs with supervision or mentoring
Deep	In-depth knowledge	Mastered the current state-of-the-art and is able to perform without supervision
Expert	Expert knowledge	Advances the state-of-the-art

3.2 Core Foundation Skills

The following is a list of the Core Foundation skills for The Open Group IT Architect Certification Program. Core Foundation skills are also referred to as the *framework skills* or *foundation skills*.

The Core Foundation skills are categorized into People skills, Project Management skills, and Architecture skills.

The Applicant must be able to document that they have demonstrated these skills at the required level (or higher) repeatedly and successfully.

Table 2: Core Foundation Skills

Ref	Category	Skill	Description	Required Skill Level
CFS01	People	Apply Communication Skills	Demonstrate good written communications, including the use of proper grammar, spelling, document organization, clarity, and use of content appropriate for the audience. Demonstrate good verbal communications, including strong eye contact, responsiveness to questions, ability to stay on subject, use of good feedback, and follow-up questions, etc., so that effective two-way communications is demonstrated.	Deep
CFS02	People	Lead Individuals & Teams	Given a scope of architectural work to be accomplished, plan the work, form a team to perform the work, and guide the team in performing the work to completion.	Deep
CFS03	People	Perform Conflict Resolution	Mediate opposing viewpoints and negotiate equitable solutions to ensure successful and stable outcomes.	Applied
CFS04	Project Management	Manage Architectural Elements of an IT Project Plan	Given a project plan, identify those elements of the plan that put the integrity of the architectural elements at risk and manage those elements through to the agreement by the client/project manager that the project has been successfully completed.	Deep
CFS05	Business	Understand Business Aspects	Understand business objectives, strategies, and measures.	Deep
CFS06	Architecture	Develop IT Architecture	Given one or more business requirements, create the structures of a solution that can be validated to meet those requirements.	Deep
CFS07	Architecture	Use Modeling Techniques	Use modeling techniques – such as business function and business process modeling, prototyping, benchmarking, and performance modeling – to describe the problem space, to size the solution, and to validate that the proposed architecture addresses the business requirements.	Deep
CFS08	Architecture	Perform Technical Solution Assessments	Given a technical solution and the underlying business requirements that drove its development, assess the technical integrity and risks inherent in that solution in such a way that the recommendations and findings are appropriate and implementable.	Deep

Ref	Category	Skill	Description	Required Skill Level
CFS09	Architecture	Apply IT Standards	Given project requirements that call for or would benefit from the use of standards, establish, implement, and enforce appropriate standards in the creation and implementation of the solution to meet those requirements.	Deep
CFS10	Architecture	Establish Technical Vision	Given requirements and a list of stakeholders, identify approaches, tools, techniques, and technologies to meet the requirements, and explain the present and future rationale so that stakeholders accept the choices and agree with the rationale.	Deep
CFS11	Architecture	Use of Techniques	Given an architectural question, use and apply various techniques, such as data collection, data analysis, hypothesis, and solution formulation, to produce a supportable answer to the question.	Deep
CFS12	Architecture	Apply Methods	Given a work effort select method, adapt, apply, and enforce the use of that method to successfully guide the creation of work products that meet the requirements of the work effort.	Deep
CFS13	Architecture	Define Solution to Functional and Non-Functional Requirements	Given the functional and non-functional requirements, define a solution that meets the stated requirements using the Organization's and industry standard procedures and tools.	Deep
CFS14	Architecture	Elicit Stakeholder Requirements	Given approved business goals, objectives, and constraints, document, clarify, refine, detail, and prioritize functional and non-functional requirements.	Applied
CFS15	Architecture	Establish Architectural Decisions	Determine, document, and communicate architectural decisions to support and rationalize the design of the solution.	Deep
CFS16	Architecture	Validate Conformance of Solution to the Architecture	Given a set of requirements, define and execute strategies and plans for ensuring and demonstrating that the solution satisfies the documented architecture.	Deep
CFS17	Architecture	Perform as Technology Advisor	Maintain IT industry knowledge to advise on technical trends and techniques and apply them to the development of solution designs.	Deep

3.3   Discipline Skills

No Discipline skills are defined in this version of the Program.

3.4   Experience Criteria

Certified IT Architects must be able to demonstrate that they have at least the following experience:

Table 3: Experience Criteria

	Requirement	Justification	How Documented by the Candidate
EC01	At least three (3) years of experience producing IT architectures.	The Program is intended to recognize those individuals that possess both the required skills and a level of experience that suggests that they have mastered the ability to successfully perform in the role of an IT Architect over time	Application Package must contain a list of their experiences with start and end dates of involvement Applicants should endeavor to provide references (managers, customers or colleagues who are Certified IT Architects) who can validate their participation in listed experiences. Reference may be made to the projects in the Experience Profiles (described below)
EC02	Experience architecting IT solutions which: • Involve the application and integration of a broad variety of products, technologies, and services • Encompass both functional and non-functional components from core infrastructure through to the business aspects • Involve, from either the enterprise or solution perspective, all of the disciplines of IT architecture (Business, Application, Infrastructure, Information)	A Certified IT Architect recognizes design patterns and mitigates risk to projects because they have experience with current technologies. A Certified IT Architect will understand application-level design principles as well as systems and infrastructure design patterns. A Certified IT Architect has experience across all of the disciplines of IT architecture to enable the development of correct and complete solutions to business problems.	Application Package must include a set of Experience Profiles, each of which demonstrates that the Candidate satisfies the stated criteria. The experiences should be documented in such a way as to show that the architecture decisions were made taking into consideration the implications of or for other IT architecture disciplines. Reference may be made to the projects in the Experience Profiles, sections within them, or the Candidate may extract sections from within them.

	Requirement	Justification	How Documented by the Candidate
EC03	Experience with multiple types of systems and applications architectures, and multiple hardware and software platforms.	A Certified IT Architect has had exposure working with different application architectures and hardware platforms. Through this experience, a Certified IT Architect can apply best practices and effectively make the decisions that most appropriately satisfy requirements and mitigate risk to the project.	Application Package must contain a list of the types of systems, applications, hardware, and software platforms that the Candidate has worked with. Reference may be made to the projects in the Experience Profiles, sections within them, or the Candidate may extract sections from within them.
EC04	Repeated and successful experience applying a method that meets the Recognition Requirements in Section 7.	The Program is intended to recognize those candidates who have successfully designed and deployed applications/systems and have followed a method that meets the criteria defined by The Open Group.	Application Package must contain a list of experiences in each of which the Candidate has successfully applied a recognized method. Reference may be made to the projects in the Experience Profiles, sections within them, or the Candidate may extract sections from within them.

	Requirement	Justification	How Documented by the Candidate
EC05	Three architectural project experiences within which: • The Candidate was involved in the production of an architecture, and the solution that was developed from it involved some significance, challenge, and complexity. • The Candidate was the lead IT Architect on the project – or in charge of a major sub-work effort within the project – and was accountable for the architecture he/she produced. • The architectural work was performed under the guidance of a formal design method that meets the Recognition Requirements in Section 7. • The solution developed from the architecture was successfully deployed or, in the case of an architectural framework, successfully adopted.	A Certified IT Architect has a proven track record of successfully designing and deploying IT applications or systems.	Candidate must supply three detailed Experience Profiles in which all of the attributes described in Section 3.5 are documented.

	Requirement	Justification	How Documented by the Candidate
EC06	Participation as an IT Architect across the full lifecycle of at least one project or work effort within which they performed architectural work. Participation in each phase of the lifecycle need not be as lead IT Architect. Must have been responsible for the architecture definition activity of the project, and involved as an IT Architect, or in some other capacity working with others, to ensure the architecture has been realized.	A Certified IT Architect must have experience performing in the role of the IT Architect for at last one project or work effort from inception through deployment.	Application Package must identify one project or work effort in which the Candidate has performed architectural work across the full lifecycle from inception through to deployment. Reference may be made to the projects in the Experience Profiles, sections within them, or the Candidate may extract sections from within them.
EC07	Demonstrate and maintain expertise in one or more industry sectors.	Certified IT Architects need to have up-to-date and relevant expertise in the industry sectors in which they work.	Candidates must provide a written description of the activities through which they acquire and maintain their industry sector knowledge. Experience Profiles should describe how industry sector knowledge has been deployed.
EC08	Demonstrate and maintain knowledge of the significant trends in the IT domain.	Certified IT Architects need to be aware of current significant market and technology trends.	Candidates must provide a written description of the activities through which they acquire and maintain their knowledge of market and technology trends. Experience Profiles should describe how industry sector knowledge has been deployed.
EC09	Business Knowledge.	Certified IT Architects need to be aware of and maintain an understanding of the business, legal, and regulatory context of the industry or industries in which they work.	Application Package must identify examples of where the Candidate has demonstrated knowledge of the business aspects (e.g., commercial, government, financial, legal, and regulatory issues) applicable to the industry or industries in which they work.

Experience is documented in the certification application by Experience Profiles. Table 4 defines specific attributes that the Applicant must also demonstrate in the Experience Profiles. Certification Boards will assess applications to ensure that all attributes are demonstrated.

Each Experience Profile must substantiate the Candidate's role as the IT Architect on a project that met its acceptance criteria. The Experience Profiles must provide the specifics about each project on which the Candidate performed the role of the IT Architect.

3.5 Experience Profiles

An Experience Profile is a written description of a project. Candidates must provide three Experience Profiles describing projects undertaken within the eight (8) years preceding an application, at least one of which must have been undertaken in the last three (3) years. Projects over two (2) years long may be used for multiple Experience Profiles under either of the following conditions:

- The project had clearly-defined work efforts which took place in parallel, each with their own solution development and design activities and their own deliverables.

- The project had clearly-defined phases that were executed in succession, each with its own solution development and design activities and deliverables. Note that a second project phase that constructs and implements the solution developed by the first phase does not meet this requirement.

In either case, each profiled project entity must meet all of the Experience Profile criteria defined in Table 4.

Participation is required as an IT Architect across the full lifecycle of at least one work effort within which the Candidate performed architectural work.

Each Experience Profile must include:

- A description of the business purpose of the project

- A concise description of the project

- The Candidate's role

- The Candidate's period of involvement

Table 4 defines the attributes that must be present within Experience Profiles and against which they will be evaluated.

Table 4: Required Attributes for Experience Profiles

Ref	Experience Profile Attribute	Description
EXP01	Experience with Strategy/Design/ Implementation aspects of Solution	Experience must include the understanding and appreciation of aspects of a solution lifecycle from strategy, design, and implementation through to production, enabling the IT Architect to produce solution designs that are successful
EXP02	Key Decisions Made	Experience Profiles must contain a summary of the key architectural decisions made by the Candidate, the reasons for the decisions, and the alternatives that were considered.

Ref	Experience Profile Attribute	Description
EXP03	Demonstrated Architectural Capability	Design sufficiently complex, challenging, and relevant architectures.
EXP04	Broad Technical Experience	Candidates must have a broad set of technical and architectural experiences obtained during the design, development, and deployment of applications or systems on different platforms (software or hardware).
EXP05	Application of Tools and Methods	Demonstrated use of design methods and tools.
EXP06	Demonstrated Success	Candidates must have acted in the role of IT Architect of at least three successful architectural engagements. At least two of the three engagements must have been in connection with projects that met their acceptance criteria.
EXP07	Perform as a Lead IT Architect	Performed as a lead IT Architect in the development of a major project or subsystem.

4.   PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PD01   Candidates must have completed training in the design and engineering of IT architectures either through attendance at a taught course, or through self-study.

PD02   Candidates are required to maintain their knowledge of the technology, trends, and techniques in the IT industry.

PD03   Candidates are required to maintain their vertical industry knowledge (e.g., telecoms, financial, etc.).

PD04   Candidates must also continually develop their skills and knowledge in IT architecture.

5.   CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IT ARCHITECT COMMUNITY

CC01   Candidates must make contributions to the IT architecture profession; for example, mentoring, publications, teaching, research collaboration, or participation in professional organizations.

CC02   As part of their contribution to the community, Certified IT Architects are expected to be available to serve from time to time on Direct Certification Boards at the request of the Certification Authority (CA). Such participation will be evaluated positively at re-certification.

Evidence of contribution to the community will be required to be documented in the Certification Package.

6.   EVALUATION

The Evaluation shall be conducted through a combination of audit of written documentation and a Certification Board interview. All applications must be readable, complete, and consistent.

For *direct* certification applications must be made using The Open Group Certification Package template and web site.

For *indirect* certification applications must be made using the templates and forms provided by the Accredited Certification Program (ACP). The information required by an ACP may be a superset of The Open Group Certification Package template in order to support the extended requirements of an ACP.

6.1   Evaluation of Core Foundation Skills

The Candidate must supply a written self-assessment of the level of their Core Foundation skills as listed in Section 3.2.

Candidates must be able to substantiate their self-assessment at a Certification Board interview.

A claim of "Expert" skill level must be accompanied with written justification and the Candidate must substantiate the claim at a Certification Board interview.

6.2   Evaluation of Discipline Skills

Disciplines are not addressed in this version of the Conformance Requirements document, but disciplines will be introduced in a subsequent version.

6.3   Evaluation of Experience Profiles

Candidates must provide evidence supporting their claim of meeting Experience Conformance Requirements.

Candidates must submit three (3) Experience Profiles that document the Candidate's role in the development of an IT architecture that addresses the stated business problem. Each of the submitted Experience Profiles must include specific reference to the Experience Conformance Requirements listed in Section 3.4 and must meet the attributes defined in Section 3.5.

Candidates must be able to describe their roles and substantiate their claims at a Certification Board interview.

6.4   Evaluation of Professional Development

Candidates must provide a written description of their training or self-study in the design and engineering of IT architectures.

To demonstrate maintenance of their IT and vertical industry knowledge and to demonstrate their development of skills and knowledge in IT architecture, Candidates are required to provide a written description of the activities they undertake to these ends.

Examples of qualifying activities are conference attendance, personal reading, formal education, being mentored, attending training courses, and/or related professional memberships.

6.5　Evaluation of Contributions to the IT Architect Community

Candidates must provide a written description of their contributions to the IT architecture community.

7.　RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS FOR METHODS

Methods are evaluated and accepted as part of the accreditation process. The Certification Authority (CA) will maintain and make available a list of recognized methods that may be cited by Candidates.

Candidates may also cite methods that are not listed, in which case the method will be evaluated for recognition and inclusion in the list of recognized methods.

Methods may be submitted for recognition with an application for direct certification, or by an Accredited Certification Program (ACP) either at the time of accreditation or subsequently.

ACPs are also able to evaluate methods against the Recognition Requirements and submit them to the CA for inclusion in the Accreditation Register.

Characteristic	Explanation	How Demonstrated
Relevance	The method must be meaningfully applicable to the domain of IT Architecture.	Value proposition of the method and summary of approach.
Efficacy	The method must be demonstrably successful in practice. Successful means two things: 1. When used correctly, the method routinely has the effects it claims to provide. 2. The results satisfy the needs of the method's constituencies.	End user/customer testimonials or fully worked (possibly anonymous) examples.
Active User Community	The method must have a current active community of users; historically significant but disused methods are not of interest.	User rosters and community statistics, random surveys of users, or proof of community events.
Well-Formed	The method must have explicitly defined inputs, participants, roles, process steps, outputs, results, and deliverables.	Documentation example.
Documented	The method must be well-documented and subject to consistent interpretation. This documentation comprises at least a specification of the method's deliverables or results, and the process by which they are created. These specifications should be expressed with some rigor and detail.	Copy of documentation.

Characteristic	Explanation	How Demonstrated
Training Available	The method must be supported by self-paced or instructor-led training to a published, common curriculum.	Examples of training materials or random surveys of instructors and students.
Supporting Collateral	The method must be supported by collateral materials for use by practitioners. These materials might include, for example, templates, tools, examples, and best practice recommendations.	Examples of supporting collateral.
Managed	The method must have a defined process for feedback from practitioners and the maintenance and revision of the above materials (community, documentation, training, collateral).	Process definition. Identification of responsible parties.