ArchiMate® Forum

THE *Open* GROUP

Making standards work®

Who we are

The ArchiMate Forum of The Open Group is the platform and community for everyone involved in the use and evolution of the ArchiMate graphical modeling language.

What we do

Members of the ArchiMate Forum share knowledge and best practices, have direct access to a community of peers, and help to develop ArchiMate. Members want to actively support the use, dissemination, and further development of the ArchiMate language.

Why participate?

Benefits to end-user organizations:
- Direct access to a community of peers, best practices, events, and updates on ArchiMate
- Ready access to methods, tools, and training on EA with ArchiMate
- Employees can join the Forum's working groups on the use, evolution, and standardization of ArchiMate
- Voting membership of the Forum who advise on direction and strategy
- Opportunity to contribute to the further development of the standard
- Employees are eligible for member rates at Open Group conferences and events

Benefits to vendors of tools, consultancy, and training:
- A license for the commercial use of the ArchiMate trademark and promotional material
- Opportunity to have ArchiMate tools and/or training courses certified
- Opportunity to obtain individual certification of consultants in the usage of ArchiMate
- Being mentioned as a participant on the ArchiMate page of The Open Group web site, with the possibility to showcase your products and services at conferences

Benefits to non-profit institutes in science and education:
- Access to a community of EA users for validation and guidance of new research initiatives and validation of newly developed concepts and methods
- Easy access to academic licenses for educational purposes

What is Archimate®?

ArchiMate is an open and independent graphical modeling language for EA, in use at many end-user organizations and supported by different tool vendors and consulting firms. ArchiMate provides instruments to support enterprise architects in describing, analyzing, visualizing, and communicating architectural concepts, relationships, and impact consequences within and among business domains in an unambiguous and standardized way.

ArchiMate and TOGAF™ work well togerher. TOGAF is the delivery method for EA artifacts. ArchiMate can be used as a modeling language to deliver TOGAF EA models. The ArchiMate 1.0 specification has been published by The Open Group in 2009. The modeling language covers all core aspects of TOGAF. Future developments will focus on adding modeling concepts for other parts of the TOGAF ADM, such as migration planning and business requirements management.

With ArchiMate you can also create an effective starting position for MDA because it incorporates the service paradigm and is supported by consistent semantics. Also, it has clear implementation relationships to detailed domain-specific process modeling languages (BPMN and BPEL) and detailed software engineering design languages (UML).
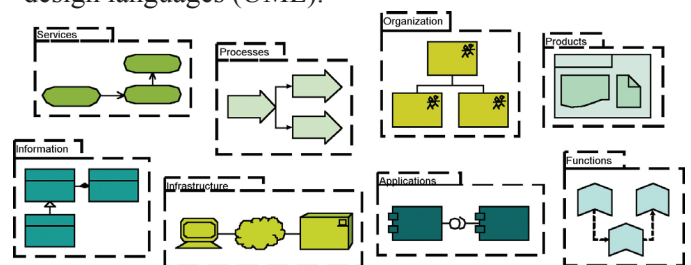
Current business practice is characterized by the dominant role of information, high IT investment, and continuous change in business processes. An integrated approach to designing and building business and IT systems is indispensable. Just like an architectural drawing in classical building architecture describes aspects of construction and use, ArchiMate offers a common language for describing and analyzing the construction and operation of business processes, organizational structures, information flows, IT systems, and technical infrastructure and their inter-dependence. This insight helps stakeholders to design, assess, and communicate the consequences of decisions and (impact of) changes within and between these business domains enterprise-wide.

www.opengroup.org/archimate

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EA Modeling with ArchiMate

Enterprise Architecture (EA) is an important tool to address organization-wide integration. EA is a coherent whole of principles, methods, and models that are used in the design, analysis, and realization of the enterprise's organizational structure, business processes, information systems, and IT infrastructure.
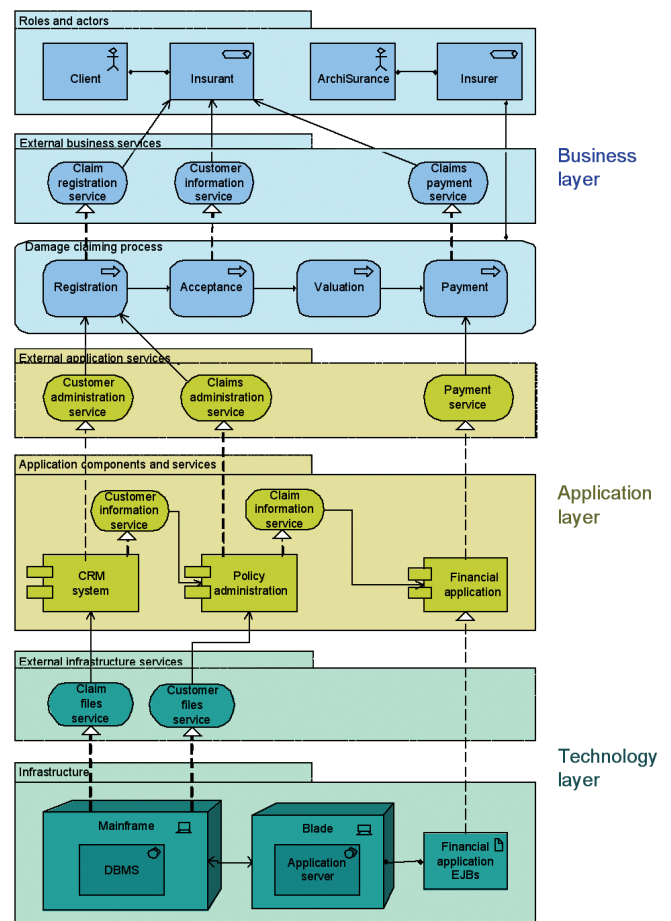
Within companies, various domain architectures exist, such as organization, business process, application, information, and technical architectures. Each architecture domain has its own concepts for the modeling and visualization of its internal coherence. These specific models and visualizations simplify communication, discussion, and analysis within the domain. However, the relationships between the concepts in these different domains are in many cases unclear. Moreover, these domains often partially overlap but use different notions to express the same ideas, sometimes even without the people involved realizing this. The resulting ambiguities and confusion stand in the way of the flexibly and efficiently operating organizations we envisage.

ArchiMate avoids these ambiguities and confusion by presenting a clear delineation of and relationship between domains, and by offering a simple and uniform structure for describing the contents of these domains. This uniform approach describes each domain in terms of its structure elements (e.g., business actors, application components), their behavior (e.g., business processes, application functions), and the (information) objects they use and produce.

Services play a central role in the relationship between domains. Services can be provided by organizations to their customers, by applications to business processes, or by technological facilities to applications. A layered view is used to look at service-oriented models. The higher layers use services that are provided by the lower layers. ArchiMate distinguishes three main layers:

1. The Business layer offers products and services to external customers, which are realized in the organization by business processes performed by business actors and roles.
2. The Application layer supports the business layer with application services which are realized by (software) application components.
3. The Technology layer offers infrastructural services (e.g., processing, storage, and communication) needed to run applications, realised by computer and communication hardware and system software.

The example model demonstrates the integration from the technology layer with, for example, the mainframe on which some applications run, all the way up to the client that wants to register an insurance claim.

About The Open Group