

# THE *Open* GROUP

**Making standards work<sup>®</sup>**



## Who we are

The Open Group is a vendor- and technology-neutral consortium, whose vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability.

The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standards bodies to:

- Capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, and establish policies and share best practices
- Facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and open source technologies
- Offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia
- Operate the industry's premier certification service

The Open Group is a consortium with a foundation in its members: a diverse group that spans all sectors of the IT community – IT customers, systems and solutions suppliers, tool vendors, integrators and consultants, as well as academia and researchers.

Our members come from all over the world – 50% from North America, 25% from Europe, and 25% from Asia-Pacific. We are proud to have some of the largest IT buyers and vendors as active members, representing both government and commercial enterprises: Capgemini, Fujitsu, Hewlett-Packard, Hitachi, IBM, NEC, Sun Microsystems, US Department of Defense, NASA, and many others. Our buy-side members alone have combined annual IT budgets of over \$50 billion or 25% of the entire IT procurement budget worldwide each year.

Why do all these organizations value membership in The Open Group? The Open Group provides an opportunity to exchange information and shape the future of IT; members gain access to information and ideas on a level that they otherwise could not attain – from industry shaping events to academic research breakthroughs. And the flexible structure of The Open Group membership allows for almost any organization, no matter what its size, to join and have a voice in shaping the future.

### **The Open Group Assures Interoperability**

In the global e-commerce world of today, no single economic entity can achieve independence while still ensuring interoperability. The assurance that products will interoperate with each other across different platforms and systems is essential to the success of e-commerce and business workflow. The Open Group, with its proven certification and test development program, is the international guarantor of interoperability in the third millennium.

## What we do

The Open Group has developed a range of services that it provides to its membership and also offers to third parties. These services include strategy, management, innovation, standards, certification, and test development.

Our approach is “Making Standards Work™”. We have extensive experience and a long track record in facilitating consensus to develop standards, including defining new standards, evolving existing ones, building consensus and providing support services, and developing best practices.

We recognize the importance of assuring conformance through certification and operate a number of programs, including certification for Common Operating Environment (COE) Platform, CORBA<sup>®</sup>, Directory, IT Architect, LSB<sup>®</sup>, POSIX<sup>®</sup>, Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF), TOGAF, UNIX<sup>®</sup>, and Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). To learn more, go to [www.opengroup.org/certification](http://www.opengroup.org/certification).

The key catalyst that organizations can use to make progress towards the vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ is enterprise architecture. Until recently, the concept of an IT architecture was a vision shared by very few organizations. Today, many organizations have achieved a degree of boundarylessness between their people, only to find that the stovepipes are even stronger in the IT systems. This is not surprising, given that those designing these systems built them for the sole purpose of supporting the needs of a single department, and did not foresee situations where they would need to integrate information and share with the systems of other departments, or with strategic partners in the extended enterprise.

As enterprises look to develop a flexible overall enterprise architecture where IT principles are fully aligned with business principles and support a company's vision, and where IT evolves in response to constantly changing business needs, they need to take an urban planner approach, which enables the creation of IT “cities” of the future. This approach is based on an architectural framework and a set of standards and regulations that all new implementations need to comply with and which provide guidance for integration with the legacy. In order to do that, we need experienced IT Architects.

Recognizing the industry demand, The Open Group, which also certifies professionals in the use of the TOGAF Architecture Development Method (ADM) for producing open architectures, launched the first independent, comprehensive IT Architect Certification program. The program defines global standards for measuring the skills and experience of IT Architects and for the operation of IT architecture practices within enterprises. To learn more about the program, go to [www.opengroup.org/itac](http://www.opengroup.org/itac).



## Services to the Commercial Market

In the commercial and enterprise arena, we focus on providing services to our members, which span a range of organizations from Fortune 500 companies to small boutique and academic organizations.

With CIOs being pressed to do more for less, The Open Group provides a platform for its members to discuss their requirements, work jointly on guiding the development and adoption of industry standards, and confront major barriers to enterprise integration. Based on their areas of interest, members can join one or more of our semi-autonomous Forums.

Both customers and suppliers benefit from the cooperation: product suppliers from the accelerated market up-take of products based on open systems standards; their customers from the reduced cost of integration, increased flexibility in their infrastructure, and greater interoperability with their partners, customers, and suppliers.

The Open Group Forums include:

- Architecture
- Enterprise Management
- Grid Enterprise Services
- Identity Management
- Messaging
- Platform
- Real Time & Embedded Systems
- Security
- UDEF

The Open Group members can also join our Customer Council or the Supplier Council, as appropriate. The Customer Council provides members who are primarily buyers and users of information systems with a cross-Forum platform to represent the customer perspective; while the Supplier Council provides members who are primarily suppliers of IT products and solutions with an opportunity to work with other supplier members.

IT customers and suppliers come together to discuss their corporate and industry needs at The Open Group's quarterly conferences and member meetings.

## Services to the Government Market

The Open Group provides services to a broad range of government agencies, government suppliers, and companies or organizations set up by governments to advance government goals.

In its Forums, The Open Group provides a platform for government agencies to discuss their requirements with potential vendors in a neutral, non-procurement setting, and serves as a knowledgeable broker between government and commercial needs.

To address the government agencies' need to ensure their systems can interwork, we operate a range of certification programs. As the premier certification service provider that is vendor- and technology-neutral, we can provide government agencies with confidence that the products they procure are conformant and interoperable.

## Services to Other Consortia

The Open Group provides a range of services to a number of IT industry and other consortia and organizations, from initial organization set-up and ongoing operational support to collaboration, standards and best practices development, and assistance with technology transfer. We assist organizations with setting up business objectives, strategy, and procurement, and also provide certification and test development services.

### Fast Facts

- Vendor- and technology-neutral consortium with over 20 years' experience
- Over 200 member organizations, with over 6,000 participants in The Open Group activities from 19 countries
- 50% of members from North America, 25% from Europe, and 25% from Asia-Pacific; all constituents brought together in an open process
- Services provided to the members and third parties include strategy, management, innovation and research, standards, certification, and test development
- Vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™ – with enterprise architecture as a critical element for making the vision a reality, the TOGAF Architecture Development Method (ADM) provides an important toolset
- "Making Standards Work™" – extensive experience and track record in facilitating consensus to develop standards and operating a premier certification service