

The IS Rating Tool within the Enterprise Architecture approach

Building Information Systems providing a better data and rules traceability is a significant goal in today's markets. To achieve this objective the Sustainable IT Architecture states that shared data and shared rules across the whole IS should be managed as real IS Assets with help from business repositories brought by MDM and BRMS.

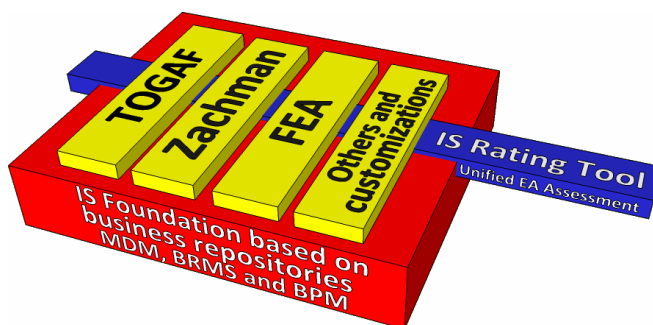
To foster and deliver this IS restructuring, the Enterprise Architecture discipline is a big contributor. This is why we have decided to measure the performance level of EA applied to Data, Rules and Processes with help from the IS Rating Tool (downloadable at: www.sustainableitarchitecture.com).

Even though strong and useful EA Frameworks exist(*), there are two main issues that we must consider and tackle:

- Lack of unified approaches as every EA framework establishes its own classification schemes and vocabularies. This is not a real worry within every company but it prevents from providing meaningful information outside the scope of a company, since external readers and stakeholders are not necessarily proficient in a particular EA framework. Furthermore, most of the time, companies need to customize and adapt existing EA frameworks to meet their real requirements, and then it increases the lack of transparency and readability of EA outside the scope of specialists involved in the EA program,

- To our knowledge, EA frameworks including MDM and BRMS as the IS backbone or IS foundation don't exist. This is a big lack because without those business repositories, shared data and rules are scattered and hard-coded within the whole IS. Therefore, data and rules traceability and governance are impossible to achieve or still remain very rough.

(*) TOGAF, Zachman, Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA), others and all customizations to fit the company's culture and needs.



This is the reason why we deliver the IS Rating Tool. This tool is aimed at:

- Providing a unified assessment tool of EA whatever EA frameworks used. The tool is fully agnostic of particular classification schemes, vocabularies and all customizations done to align a particular EA framework with real business requirements and the culture of a company.

- Taking into consideration MDM and BRMS to restructure existing systems in order to gain in data and rules traceability and governance. It means that if the assessment computed with the IS Rating Tool is bad then the EA approach doesn't sufficiently integrate the MDM and BRMS business repositories and associated governance features.

Two main issues must be considered and tackled: lack of a unified EA approach and lack of consideration about MDM and BRMS solutions as a real IS Foundation

The IS Rating Tool provides companies with a real measurement of their EA approaches and takes into account MDM and BRMS as the IS/IT foundation to leverage data and rules traceability and governance