

Do you think that your IS/IT Governance pains are due to organizational weakness?

Are you really sure? If not, find out the Governance Driven Architecture (GDA)

All veteran IT specialists know the approach of Model Driven Architecture (MDA) established by the OMG. Rather than implemented complex systems from an informal specification only, the MDA enforces a model to model transformation approach and a model to software generation.

But the MDA still remains a pure IT concern streamlining software production without any direct added-values to IS stakeholders outside IT departments.

For many years now, my company Orchestra Networks has introduced the concept of Model-driven MDM which is a higher level of abstraction than the MDA. You could say that Model-driven MDM relies on MDA. This higher level allows for automatically generating business governance functions in the field of ref/master data management such as: version management (compare and merge), data lineage management, permission management, data approval workflow, etc. These business functions are automatically aligned with data models without any bespoke software development. When data models are updated, then all business data governance functions are easily aligned which improve responsiveness of the MDM system, mitigate risks of errors and reduce costs.

This approach is dominant as the technology is mature enough and responsiveness of the MDM system is a key requirement to achieve and support the competitiveness of a company.

A breakthrough is emerging when the concept of Model-driven is applied to the whole IS Assets of a company, it means its shared data (ref/master) but also its business rules and processes. This is the governance of what we call the Agility Chain Management System (ACMS). To secure this ACMS governance, its business functions, which are opened to all IS stakeholders, must be automatically aligned with data models, rules sets and processes.

Empowering IS stakeholders to really govern their IS Assets in a secure and responsive way implies a full understanding of the ACMS approach and its associated governance must be automatically aligned with models. This opens a new level of abstraction and we call it "Governance Driven Architecture".

When a company applies the Governance Driven Architecture, it means that its IS/IT foundation is based on a real Model-driven approach established to the three types of IS Assets relying on ref/master data (shared data), business rules and processes. Without a sufficient enforcement of the Governance Driven Architecture, a company can no longer face the complexity of fast-growing digital markets: Internet of Objects, Global Positioning System, social marketing, etc.

As already said at Sustainable IT Architecture, today's business models rely a on huge volume of data scattered in many databases and channels inside and outside a company, which modification rates are very high. This data velocity is a fantastic opportunity when a company is able to govern it but becomes a nightmare when its governance fails. Obviously, business rules applied to these data and processes establish to enforce the organization are also put under a serious stress. This is the reason why without a Governance Driven Architecture, a company loses in competitiveness.

All Enterprise Architects, whatever the EA frameworks used (Togaf, Zachman, FEA, etc.) should be aware of the Governance Driven Architecture.

Without such an approach, it becomes really difficult to face new business challenges.