The Systems Architecture Toolkit

WHAT IS IT?

- A unique approach to Architecture tools
- A tool for the individual enterprise and solution architect who often uses Visio, Excel and Word in his projects
- Built entirely in Microsoft Office + Visio, i.e. many architects already use the platform
- Fully customisable for method, language and corporate "look and feel"
- Uses only "out of the box" macros and the base product's customising facilities. There is no secret "black box" under the covers.
- Code level maintenance is not needed, although there are sometimes functional requirements that require "workarounds".
- A small team version is available that uses a shared repository – which could be located in the cloud.

METHODS SUPPORTED

- The toolkit comes with Structured Architecture Method, but can easily be customised to accommodate other methods.
- Customisation for other methods subject to quotation
- New diagram types can be created and standard ones modified using Visio
- The repository meta-model is accessible for the addition of new attributes
- New and modified queries and reports can be created using Access

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- We believe that Systems Architecture is essentially a database application rather than a graphical one.
- Every operation references the repository (Access or SQL Server RDBMS).
- Data entry is via Excel with comprehensive integrity checking and import capability
- Diagrams are drawn in Visio either in free hand draft form or (best) by linking the drawing shape to a repository object.
- A full set of Visio and Excel templates is provided.
- The "controller" is an Access application available on three levels - runtime or complied or source.

TOOLKIT EDITIONS

EXPLORER EDITION - for the business user

- Read-only versions of models and definitions.
- Uses the Access runtime application and a competent browser. Does not need Office or Visio.
- Needs a Windows platform, ideally Windows 7 or 8 but XP SP3 works.
- Content generated by Enterprise and Solution editions

SOLUTION EDITION - For the Solution Architect

- All system designs are based on the "official" EA models and definitions.
- Context and capabilities are created by the Enterprise edition
- Solution Edition uses:
  - Windows 7 and Office 10 Pro
  - the compiled Access application (so no local customisation capability)
  - a local or remote repository and
  - pre-built Visio and Excel templates for each object and diagram type and routine data entry.

ENTERPRISE EDITION - for the Enterprise Architect

- The "full monty" with the full Access Source
- Everything is customisable – Method, objects, diagrams, forms, queries, reports, "look and feel", language and terminology
- Manages the master repository

LATEST

We are pleased to announce availability of our Windows 8, Office 2013 version that runs on the Microsoft Surface Pro or equivalent tablet devices. It is fully touch screen enabled and offers a fully portable Architect's Workbench with touch capability and an optional cloud repository.