

# Starting Enterprise Architecture: A Quick-Start Guide

This poster breaks down the key steps to go from having a team of enterprise architects, to having a fully-fledged enterprise architecture practice.



## Build the Team and Determine your Objective

Organizations need to know what they're trying to achieve, and have architects capable of implementing their plans.

We have gone in depth on [putting together an EA team here](#).

Deciding on broad objectives is relatively simple, and CIOs or other IT professionals should be capable. [Orbus list 28 possible use cases for EA if you need inspiration](#).



## Decide which Enterprise Level to operate in...

Enterprise level refers to the strategic, tactical and operational layers of the business; where will the team sit?

EA tends to be lumped with IT, but this makes it difficult to enact companywide change.

For successful change initiatives, EA teams need a direct line to C-level executives, such as the CEO or CIO.

## Decide on the Enterprise Scope

EA must have a defined scope – referring to the departments, locations, business lines, etc. that it covers.

This will depend a lot on the previous 2 steps, particularly if change is to be enterprise-wide

No right answer to scope questions, while EA tends to focus on big change, there's nothing wrong with smaller, targeted initiatives



## TRIAL PERIOD

## Have a Trial Period

A number of aspects of EA can be trialed before starting a project, but it will depend a lot on individual organizations.

The aspects to trial would include things like different enterprise levels or scopes, the amount of change the EA team is entrusted to carry out, or the structure of the team.





## Determine relationships with other business practices

How will EA work with other practices such as project management and IT service management?

Take into consideration EA team needs to understand impact of change across the different technologies and different Business, Data, Application and Technology domains, while PM has to implement approved change with limited resources and ITSM manages service on the operation level.

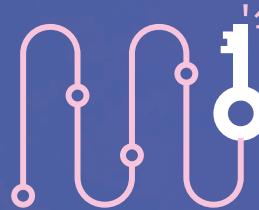
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## Establish Authority Level given to the EA Team

How will change be implemented? And by whom? These questions need to be answered before initiatives start.

This will also depend on the level of centralization of the EA team. Architects embedded in different parts of the organization will be able to take the lead on change initiatives.

Solution architects can help to deliver change in different areas of the business centralized.



## Create Key Processes

There are 2 types of processes that need to be created:

- The first are the internal EA processes necessary to create effective architectures*
- The second group cover integration or interfacing with other teams and departments.*

Internal processes will depend a lot on your architecture framework, whether you choose TOGAF, ArchiMate, Zachman or something else.

How EA interacts with other parts of the business will be determined by its structure. Some organizations use a Matrix structure for EA initiatives, with architects working alongside multi-function teams, while others keep EA centralized.

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## Use an EA Tool

Managing an EA practice without a dedicated tool is theoretically possible, but it would be extremely inefficient

- Establishing EA means not just creating a central repository, but also integrating tools with other systems and applications used by the organization*

- EA tools should not just be usable by architects, but by the wider organization as well. Many stakeholders will be needed to contribute to EA projects.*

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