

# Compliance Review

Compliance reviews establish whether a given architectural description meets such critical elements of business and technology governance as:

- Governance policies and requirements
- Performance metrics
- IT / Technology Policies
- DoD/Service/Component Regulations
- INFOSEC Policies

Obstacles to 100% compliance may include too many regulations at all levels (national, international, DOD, Service/Agency, and Command requirements), increased complexity of the enterprise itself, or partial organizational disruption due to the incomplete adoption of an emerging technology or other ongoing organizational shifts.

The benefits of a compliance review of an architectural description include the sponsoring organization's ability to:

- ...Identify services that are currently application-specific, but might in the future be provided as part of the enterprise infrastructure.
- ...Document strategies for collaboration, resource sharing, and other synergies across multiple architecture teams.
- ...Take advantage of advances in technology.
- ...Help establish the priority according to which the gaps discovered are to be filled.

Compliance with architecture standards is required for the development and implementation of a maximally-useful architectural description. However, the examination of non-compliant architectural descriptions can prove enlightening as well. Such non-compliant architectures often serve to highlight areas that can be realigned, as well as other, heretofore unsuspected areas as candidates for integration into the architectural description.

Architecture compliance reviews should be held at appropriate project milestones or checkpoints in the project lifecycle. The most appropriate times are when business requirements and the enterprise architecture are reasonably firm and the project architecture is taking shape, but when there is still time to correct any major errors or shortcomings in the architecture effort.

Reviews should address: the development status of an architectural description; the status and impacts of any major design changes since the last review, and the status of implementation of the system or business process the architectural description depicts. The final review is the Verification Review, which

confirms that the views, models, architectural data exchange files, and other artifacts which have been produced meet all the requirements set for them.

Standard evaluation criteria are normally the centerpiece of the compliance review process. These criteria are documented in the form of Review Checklists that provide a wide range of questions for use in conducting architecture compliance reviews. The questions should be organized around the basic disciplines of systems engineering, information management, security, and systems management.