Enterprise Architecture: Business Focused, Strategically Engaged

According to past SIM IT Trend Reports, one of the largest pain points for IT departments has been alignment with the business. In 2012, CIOs spent much of their time on managing the relationship between IT and business.

Our reality is a world full of rapid change and organizations need clear visibility across operations in order to react quickly. Due to this, IT departments are tasked with defining an IT strategic plan that is relevant for IT and able to meet the stakeholders’ requirements for visibility and agility. Often, however, IT plans appear abstract and disconnected from business needs. Many of today’s enterprise architecture teams strive to be more business-focused and strategically engaged. Through the SIM Enterprise Architecture Working Group (EAWG) members can identify and share their challenges and how they have been able apply enterprise architecture principles to help solve them. This includes sharing of experiences and best practices in both creating an enterprise architecture practice, and their application of processes, methods, tools, and other concepts to support their ongoing efforts. The working group makes it possible for members to understand, create, and manage enterprise architecture in partnership with the business. Through participation in the working group member organizations substantially enhance the way they manage change, reduce complexity, re-engineer processes, plan, strategize, govern, manage projects, and deliver value.

Enterprise architecture is often perceived as a costly and complex discipline, which does not always fit into day-to-day business management or annual budgets. The SIM Advanced Practices Council provides an excellent example of the benefits of investing in enterprise architecture, especially in a federated organization with multiple lines of business accustomed to operating independently. This case study describes Chubb Insurance Company’s 10-year journey towards comprehensive enterprise architecture that enabled the firm to move confidently into a world of rapidly changing markets and technologies.

Through your SIM membership you can experience the EAWG and bring actionable takeaways to your organization. In addition to better aligning your organization with the business you will learn about case studies and have the opportunity to discuss the findings with enterprise architecture thought leaders. Any employee of a SIM member company is eligible to participate in the working group.

The next EAWG meeting is in Washington, D.C. on September 16-17, 2013. Contact Veronica Sullivan at vsullivan@simnet.org for general questions or to get started.