State Government Council

Update on Developing an Enterprise Architecture For State Government

Thursday, February 12, 2004

A. BACKGROUND

Members of the State Government Council (SGC) adopted a strategy for Enterprise Architecture, Shared Services and Standardization on December 11, 2003. As part of this strategy, the State Government Council will serve as a "committee-of-the-whole" to develop the enterprise architecture. The enterprise architecture will focus on those areas that provide opportunities for cost sharing, data sharing and enhancements that affect multiple agencies rather than a single entity. It is not feasible for the enterprise architecture to address every technical detail for every agency. All agencies should have an opportunity to review and comment on the enterprise architecture as it evolves.

At the work session in January, the State Government Council looked at several enterprise architecture methodologies. There was consensus to investigate the methodology developed by the National Association of State CIOs (NASCIO), because it was designed for state government and reflects the need for a high level perspective, rather than one that is too detailed. There is also the advantage of getting assistance from staff at NASCIO and working with other states that are using the NASCIO methodology.

This document provides an overview of the process and support that is available from NASCIO.

B. DEFINITION

Enterprise Architecture Framework can be described as a methodology for developing an organization's IT support functions. Ideally, when governments establish their infrastructures using common enterprise architecture, making systems work together will be simpler because each would have addressed the items that are crucial to interoperability of systems developed for specific business needs.

Enterprise Architecture supports the business of government, enables information sharing across traditional barriers, enhances government's ability to deliver effective and timely services, and supports agencies in their efforts to improve government functions and thereby services.

(From NASCIO Enterprise Architecture Development Tool-Kit v. 2.0, p.8, and NASCIO Enterprise Architecture brochure.)

C. NASCIO METHODOLOGY

1. Readiness Assessment
   a. NASCIO *EA Maturity Model v1.3*
      The *EA Maturity Model* is a series of benchmarks for evaluating a state's current capabilities in 8 areas:
      (1) Administration (governance roles and responsibilities)
      (2) Planning (EA program road map and implementation plan)
      (3) Framework (processes and templates used for Enterprise Architecture)
      (4) Blueprint (collection of the actual standards and specifications)
      (5) Communication (education and distribution of EA and Blueprint detail)
      (6) Compliance (adherence to published standards, processes and other EA elements, and the processes to document and track variances from those standards)
      (7) Integration (touch-points of management processes to the EA)
      (8) Involvement (support of the EA Program through the organization)
   b. NASCIO *EA Assessment Preview*
      The *EA Assessment Preview* provides an introduction to the EA Readiness Assessment, as well as a listing of each question that will be included in the on-line assessment. The EA Readiness Assessment Preview is to be used during the preparation phase by site Assessment Team members.
   c. NASCIO On-Site Visit
      A three- or four-person team will make an on-site visit to explain the assessment process and the NASCIO EA methodology. The team will include NASCIO staff and representatives of two states that have been using the NASCIO methodology.
   d. EA Assessment Summary Report
      The NASCIO team will review and analyze the results of the EA Assessment Preview and onsite visit. The NASCIO team will also prepare an EA Readiness Assessment Summary Report for Nebraska. The summary report will identify potential next steps for further development of the EA Program.

2. NASCIO *Enterprise Architecture Development Tool-Kit v2.0*
   The Tool-Kit provides a comprehensive set of materials for developing the Enterprise Architecture. It includes a framework consisting of governance, business architecture, technology architecture, and standards and guidelines. These four areas provide the foundation for the Enterprise Architecture by identifying business needs, technological direction, and processes.

   The Tool-Kit introduces an approach for developing each part of the framework. The Governance approach includes strategic, procedural, and tactical elements. The Business Architecture Framework offers an outline for identifying "business drivers" and processes. (The Business Architecture section of the NASCIO methodology is not yet fully developed.) The Technology Architecture Framework includes "technology drivers" and establishes processes for aligning technology decisions with the rest of the enterprise. The "architecture blueprint" is the collection of the actual standards and specifications that define how the Business and IT portfolios will be built.

   A copy of the tool-kit is available at the NASCIO website: www.nascio.org.

D. PROPOSED TIMELINE

This timeline assumes that the State Government Council decides to use the NASCIO Methodology. A choice of a different methodology would require some additional research and revision to the timeline.

1. Confirm decision to use the NASCIO Methodology – February 12, 2004
2. Review EA Maturity Model and Complete Readiness Assessment Preview – March 11, 2004 SGC work session (extended, ¾ day meeting)
3. Onsite Visit by NASCIO EA team – additional SGC work session in April.
4. Review EA Assessment Summary Report – SGC work session on May 13, 2004
5. Develop first draft of Governance Architecture Framework – August 2004
6. Discover and document elements of the Business Architecture – November 2004
7. Begin work on Technology Architecture Framework – August 2004

E. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

Many efforts are underway that contribute to the concept of enterprise architecture. In 1998, the Legislature directed the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) to "adopt minimum technical standards, guidelines, and architectures upon recommendation by the technical panel" (Section 86-516), and the NITC has responded by creating a process for developing, reviewing, and adopting technical standards and guidelines. Standards and guidelines that have gone through this process are posted on the NITC website: http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/index.html.

In addition, the NITC has adopted planning and project management procedures for state agencies. This includes the agency comprehensive information technology plan, project proposal forms, project status reporting, and the Project Management Institute's Project Management Body of Knowledge.

Several work efforts are presently underway that will bring better coordination and collaboration in specific areas of technology. These include:

- Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) advisory committee
- Directory Services policies
- E-mail standards
- Enterprise licensing options
- GIS Steering Committee
- Juvenile data sharing study
- Security Work Group
- Video standards

These activities will continue. Eventually they will be incorporated into the overall Enterprise Architecture initiative.