

Procurement Resource Abstract



Title	Enterprise Architecture for Improved IT Procurement
Sponsoring Organization(s)	National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) in collaboration with the National Association of State Procurement Officials
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Synopsis	<p>This paper makes the case that because of increasingly tight state budgets, it is imperative that state chief information officers (CIOs), state procurement officials, and other state leaders find the best values and are accountable for IT investments. One approach is to consider the benefits of aligning IT procurement and enterprise architecture not only as a way to deliver IT services more effectively, but also as a way to finding savings through streamlined investments.</p> <p>A case is presented that Enterprise Architecture can provide the framework and governance for establishing standards for IT. Standards are important in providing the rules by which IT solutions and products perform and interact with each other. They are vital in ensuring integration today and migration for the future, which is essential in achieving an enterprise vision. In today's complex government environment, standards provide a basis for addressing business requirements, such as interoperability, info. sharing, security, reuse and portability.</p> <p>The paper presents the case that standards are the most important component of governance at this layer, and an architecture review board should be established at the state level to set these standards and develop a technical reference model mapping the legacy, core, and leading technologies a state is adopting to meet the agency needs at the infrastructure layer. The premise is advanced that this will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decreasing Costs by Reducing Diversity and Complexity through Standardization:• Simplifying IT Investments• Streamlining Negotiations and Contract Management:• Providing a Blueprint for Vendors <p>The drafting, review, and approval of IT standards must be a balanced process that is based on existing national and industry standards. Including IT procurement officials, who should have both an IT and procurement background, in the EA governance process will likely increase the odds of streamlined and more effective proposal evaluation and contract negotiation.</p> <p>The paper makes a case for the use of Enterprise Architecture to improve the procurement of IT services. It also makes numerous specific recommendations as to how an EA can be developed and implemented at the state level.</p>
Topic Areas	Reference Architecture
Web Reference	http://www.nascio.org/publications/documents/NASCIO_LeveragingEA_July2012.pdf