

Introduction: Third Workshop on Trends in Enterprise Architecture Research (TEAR 2008)

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1 Introduction

The field of enterprise architecture attracted the attention of the research community for the first time when Zachman introduced the Framework for Information Systems Architecture in 1987. However, it was not until 1996 that enterprise architecture emerged as an active field of business activity and research.

Enterprise architecture (EA) is important because organizations need to adapt with increasing speed to changing customer requirements and business goals. This need influences the entire chain of activities of an enterprise, from business processes to IT support. To keep the enterprise architecture coherent and aligned with business goals, the relations between the different architectures must be clearly defined and consistent.

In previous years, the emergence of service oriented design paradigms (e.g. Service Oriented Architecture, SOA) contributed to the relevance of enterprise architectures. The need to design services along business processes forced companies to pay more attention to business architectures. At the same time, the growing complexity of existing application landscapes lead to increased attention to application architectures.

To better align business and IS architectures a number of major companies started to establish EA efforts after introducing service oriented architectures. Until recently, practitioners, consulting firms and tool vendors have been leading in the development of the EA discipline.

Research on enterprise architecture has been taking place in relatively isolated communities. The main objective of this workshop is to bring these different communities of EA researchers together and to identify future directions for EA research with special focus on service oriented paradigms. An important question in that respect is what EA researchers should do, as opposed to EA practitioners.

2 Contributions

Building on its great success in previous years, the Third Workshop on Trends in Enterprise Architecture Research (TEAR2008) was held in conjunction with the

ICSOC conference in Sydney on December 1st 2008. The TEAR 2008 call for paper attracted 16 submissions. A total of eight papers passed the review process successfully, resulting in a 50% acceptance rate.

The accepted papers reflect the developments in the field of Enterprise Architecture as sketched in the introduction.

Two papers focused on the relationship to Service-Oriented Architectures. The paper “Towards a Sophisticated Understanding of Service Design for Enterprise Architecture” by Stephan Aier and Bettina Gleichauf discusses different service categories, which can be identified in an Enterprise Architecture. Governance aspects with special attention to Service-Oriented Architectures are highlighted by Jan Bernhardt and Detlef Seese in their contribution “A Conceptual Framework for the Governance of Service-Oriented Architectures”.

Two submissions reflected usage potentials and implications of Enterprise Architecture in general. Oliver Holschke, Per Närman, Waldo Rocha Flores, Evelina Eriksson, and Marten Schönherr are “Using Enterprise Architecture Models and Bayesian Belief Networks for Failure Impact Analysis”. Another usage is shown by Jakob Raderius, Per Närman, and Mathias Ekstedt in their paper “Assessing System Availability Using an Enterprise Architecture Analysis Approach”.

Extensions to the understanding of Enterprise Architecture are given in three other contributions. Sabine Buckl, Alexander Ernst, Florian Matthes, and Christian M. Schweda extend the current understanding of Enterprise Architecture with aspects of time in their paper “An Information Model for Landscape Management Discussing Temporality Aspects”. The model perspective of managing an Enterprise Architecture is highlighted by Henk Koning, Rik Bos, and Sjaak Brinkkemper in their paper “A Lightweight Method for the Modelling of Enterprise Architectures Introduction and Usage Feedback”. The authors pay special attention to keep Enterprise Architecture models as simple as possible in order to increase their net benefit. Christian Riege and Stephan Aier extended the understanding of Enterprise Architectures with situational aspects in their paper “A Contingency Approach to Enterprise Architecture Method Engineering”. Finally Marten Schönherr sums up latest developments between individual research groups and practitioners with his paper “Towards a Common Terminology in the Discipline of Enterprise Architecture”.

3 Results of the Workshop

The discussion at the workshop resulted in the following questions for further research:

- To what extent is there consensus among enterprise architecture researchers? What are the paradigmatic assumptions on which we all agree?
- Trend 1 in EA research: Decision making and prediction. There seems to be a general consensus that the increased use of EA models for prediction and decision making is a trend for the future.
- Trend 2 in EA research: Complexity of EA models and methods and effort of modelling. It is believed that the problems of keeping the EA program on an acceptable effort and complexity level are becoming increasingly noticed. Research on means for reducing this complexity is therefore considered as a future trend.

There was also a discussion on the future of TEAR. It was agreed that a fourth TEAR workshop should be held. Stephan Aier accepted on behalf of St. Gallen to remain as co-organizer for 2009. A second organizing institution solicited. Marten Schönherr at TU Berlin/T-Labs indicated preliminary interest.

4 Programme Committee

The Programme Committee members and reviewers each deserve credit for forming the excellent final programme that resulted from the diligent review of the submissions. The organizing members of the programme committee would like to thank all of them and especially all authors submitting contributions to the TEAR workshop series.

Members of the Programme Committee

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