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- Information Architecture
- System Architecture

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- Web services
- Database services

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### IT Architecture and Planning

#### THE PROBLEM

Given the magnitude and importance of information systems to businesses today, leaders are demanding - more than ever - significant returns on their IT investment. A sound IT architecture is a key element in achieving this goal. Among other concerns, poor IT architecture leads to:

- **Chaotic development activities**
- **Significant increases in the total cost of development and ownership in technology**
- **A decrease in productivity throughout the enterprise**
- **A significant decrease in the ability to adapt to new technologies, thus leaving the corporation at a competitive disadvantage**

*IT architecture is the link between an organization's IT strategy and technology implementation.*

#### THE SOLUTION

Architecture design is a technically complex process and the design of heterogeneous, multi-vendor architectures is particularly complex. SCA will help your organization "demystify" the architecture planning process and enable your IT organization to build solutions that will fit your business needs. SCA's **Foundation Architecture Framework (FAF)** process describes the generic services and functions upon which specific architectural building blocks are built. SCA then utilizes its **Architectural Planning Method (APM)** to develop planning details that address the three key elements of an Architecture Plan: 1) Applications, 2) Information, and 3) Systems. In short, SCA provides a common sense, practical, prudent and effective method for developing your organizations IT architecture

#### THE BENEFIT

From all points of view an architecture plan provides a decision-making framework for managers and developers and establishes guidelines for IT resource owners and users. A sound IT architecture enables the business to achieve the right balance between IT competency and contribution, managed innovation and an integrated technology strategy. A holistic view of benefits includes the following:

##### From a business leader's point of view:

A sound IT architecture plan will provide the technical foundation for effective management and exploitation of information, adaptability to the rapid pace of technology change and efficient use of scarce IT resources. An architecture plan provides better returns on existing technology investments and reduces future investment risks.

##### From a CIO's point of view:

A sound IT architecture is the *technical foundation* of an effective IT strategy and is the master technology plan that enables IT to support business requirements and successfully leverage new technologies. It provides guidance to the people involved in the development of technology and helps ensure that the diverse needs of the organization are met while optimizing limited resources.

##### From a technologist's point of view:

IT architecture provides consistent interfaces and defines shared components that allow system interaction while taking advantage of shared infrastructure and common services.

SCA provides best practice services in helping clients create the connection between strategy and implementation – a sound IT architecture.

#### ABOUT STRATEGIC CONSULTING ASSOCIATES

Strategic Consulting Associates is a regional provider of integrated business and technology consulting services in the areas of corporate strategy, Balanced Scorecard, operations strategy, and IT professional services. SCA is committed to providing a seamless approach to these services by combining excellence in execution with continuous innovation to help its clients effectively compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. SCA is in the business of helping clients develop breakthrough performance in their organizations. We do this through innovative problem solving and by implementing technology-enabled solutions to deliver new sources of revenue, streamline business processes, and develop mission-critical applications. SCA has access to best-in-class management and technology professionals to help achieve your organization's goals.