SysFEAT
Systemic Enterprise Architecture
Standard Mapping

SysFEAT & ArchiMate

Foreword

- This presentation is an executive summary on the positioning of ArchiMate ™ in SysFEAT and the ability of ArchiMate to support modern organizations challenges

- Like any standards, ArchiMate has benefits and drawbacks, and experience shows that it is adapted to certain usages and not to others. The authors of ArchiMate state clearly themselves that ArchiMate was designed with a certain objective in mind.

- This presentation is backed up by a 15 pages document providing rational insights on assessments detailing each topics and assessments.

- Our intent with these documents is to inform architects in the most objective manner, for them to avoid traps not always visible at the beginning. Ultimately our goal is to help customers succeed in their EA & digital transformation endeavors

Introduction

- Market expectations regarding EA have gone through a profound revolution in the last years
- Modern organizations now expect tools to support their continuous digital transformation in a **risk free, compliant, lean, and agile manner**
- They also expect solutions adapted to **modern IT architectures paradigms**: service-oriented, data centric, event driven, modular and component based, distributed…etc.
- …as well as today's challenges: agility-at-scale, effective teams' collaboration, platform strategies

Positioning of ArchiMate in the EA landscape

- **The directions we are aiming at is to promote the concept of "federated architecture" where SysFEAT has the federator role**
- **The underlying structural flaws of ArchiMate prevent it from playing the federator role when establishing an enterprise architecture and digital transformation solution**
- ArchiMate becomes just one of the federated contents.
- ArchiMate has a wider EA scope and structure than other federated content. It makes ArchiMate obviously more powerful than Visio or other pure diagramming authoring tools.
- ArchiMate's role is a kind of "Light EA" content authoring tool, based on diagramming. It can be characterized as a *structured Visio eco-system.*

Support level:

**** Good *** Average ** Low – None

Success Criteria	ArchiMate	SysFEAT Federated EA
Notation readability *Ability to enforce readability of diagrams by all stakeholders*	*** Simple at first, diagrams are rapidly cluttered because of ArchiMate's permissiveness Non intuitive for non-specialists, ultimately hinders enterprise-wide communication	**** Diagrams designed for a purpose and optimized to convey information relevant. Drives readability through intuitiveness
Composability *Ability to model complex systems always composed of sub elements*	** Impossible to model with a systemic approach, hindering modular and agile @ scale designs	**** compositionality is fully implemented and defined as a core design principle
Computable models *Ability to run algorithms on models to have actionable models*	– Ambiguity in the underlying syntactic and compossibility of the model prevents from having formal boundaries and prevent computation	** SysFEAT offers 3 examples where computation leverages arch models: process simulation, could migration analysis and transformation risk analysis

Support level:

**** Good *** Average ** Low – None

Success Criteria	ArchiMate	SysFEAT Federated EA
Architecture Description		
Strategy and Strategic planning Software system Physical systems	**** Good support, although the lack on compositionality reduce the ability to reuse artefacts	**** Very good support
People & accountability	*** No ability to differentiate persons from departments or teams nor to describe skills, delegation of duties and responsibilities Difficulty to design agile @ scale organizations	**** Very good support
Data	** Many limitations while "Data is the new gold". Modern EA functions (security, privacy, modern IT, data governance…) can't be handled without proper foundations	**** very good support

Support level:

**** Good *** Average ** Low – None

Success Criteria	ArchiMate	SysFEAT Federated EA
Business Needs	*** ArchiMate fits with the traditional approach of "requirements" but with non negligeable ambiguity. No support for modern business needs analysis (JTBD, Features, ...).	**** Traditional approach + DevOps approach: funct. reqs as features & non-funct. reqs as qualities + customer focus with customer journey & job-to-be-done
Modern IT		
Micro Services	– No support for Micro-Services. Only proposes concept of "Application Component" to handle the entire stack of software systems	**** Native support for micro services defined either as autonomous units or modular part of applications
Cloud native / Deploy templates	– ArchiMate not designed for new IT paradigms, can't be effectively used by solution designers. Relies on UML deployment model from 90s	*** Deployment model best practice C4. Libraries cloud services components (AWS, Azure, GC) & deployments templates

Support level:

**** Good *** Average ** Low – None

Success Criteria	ArchiMate	SysFEAT Federated EA
Risk & Compliance & Controls	– No direct support for risk & compliance. Only via extensions (with semantic errors)	**** Native support for Operational Assurance
Agility & Architecture Management		
Product centric vs Project centric management	– Project centric only while product centric has become mainstream	*** Full project centric support + favors product centric approach for long term investments (SAFe)
Architecture granularity and time horizon	– No support for architecture granularity, beyond using the fragile concept of “grouping”	**** Native architecture granularity
Asset & Tech Portfolio Management	– no support for Asset Portfolio Management. Even worse, ArchiMate explicitly rejects the notion of instance, required for identification of deployed assets	**** fully-fledged for IT Asset Management solution with all concepts involved in portfolio management: portfolio, measures, assessments, responsibilities…