

Abstract

This report is based on a research effort investigating the implementation of Enterprise Architecture (EA) in Malaysia. The rationale for this effort is based on the fact that currently limited studies have been carried out resulting in limited knowledge of EA among Malaysian practitioners. Studies have shown that organizations in Malaysia, both public and private, do practice EA but the EA activities were found to be incomplete or not adequately addressed. The main objective of this research is to discover the trends in EA adoption and implementation in Malaysia. In achieving this, this study embarks on the following sub-objectives: (a) To assess EA activities in Malaysian organizations, both public and private; (b) To investigate the importance of EA in addressing business issues; (c) To investigate the EA environment in terms of location, business area, people, governance, types of architecture, methods, tools and frameworks; and (d) To make recommendation based on trends in the adoption and implementation of EA in Malaysia. A survey study method using questionnaire was used to collect empirical evidences. The questionnaire was adopted from the Institute for Enterprise Architecture Development (IFEAD) country report 2005 that surveyed trends in EA in organizations across the world. A survey research method was employed involving one hundred organizations chosen at random from UUM's University-Industry Link database as well as lists of organizations from the Malaysia Computer Industry Association (PIKOM) directory, and the Malaysia National Computer Confederation (MNCC) directory. Descriptive and exploratory methods were used for data analysis. Understanding Enterprise Architecture activities and importance of EA in Malaysia is observed through the following issues: (1) EA business issues; (2) EA environment; (3) EA governance; and (4) EA methods, tools and frameworks. The findings presented here gave us a general outlook of the EA activities in Malaysian organizations and its future directions. Overall, the study found Business and IT Alignment as the most important business issue in which EA is required. Next important and significant issues are Business Change, followed closely by Application Renewal. The private organizations indicated business and IT alignment as the most important reason for EA. This is consistent with prior studies. The public organizations however, suggested that Better Work Environment is the most important reason for EA. In terms of the EA environment that relates to the EA methods, findings of this study indicate the trend is shifting from traditional or waterfall approach to Rapid Application Development and the Rational Unified Approach. Future studies should also consider devising an instrument to measure the level of EA adoption. This would enable an organization to identify the extent of EA presence and practice in supporting the alignment between business strategy and IT adoption.