

Chapter II

What is SAP Business Blueprint?

Hossana H. Aberra
Enterprise Integration, Inc., USA

ABSTRACT

SAP Business Blueprint is a vital part of SAP implementation exercise. A well-defined business blueprint may set the foundation for successful implementation of the subsequent SAP implementation phases; provided that the necessary project success factors are in position. This chapter clarifies some of the concepts behind SAP Business Blueprint. It explains and views the ERP solution as an integral component of the design process. It outlines different aspects of SAP business blueprinting from technical infrastructure enablement, while setting the solution landscape, to the details of business process definition. It points out how the SAP Solution Manager facilitates (business process) architecture-driven implementation through tight integration with ARIS Business Architect for NetWeaver. It details ways of moving toward Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) utilizing Enterprise Services, and an approach for generating Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) models using Web Services Description Language (WSDL) imported objects for analysis.

INTRODUCTION

In the past, it was implied that the task of SAP Business Blueprinting may be conducted independently of the solution landscape. The solution landscape was set and configured after the Business Blueprinting phase of the SAP implementation lifecycle, that is, during the Realization

(Configuration & Testing) phase. In a sense, the design was independent of the solution landscape. This approach may also be considered as the pre-SAP Solution Manager practice.

After the introduction of SAP Solution Manager in January 2002 (Oswald, 2002), the solution landscape became an integral component of the Project Prep and Business Blueprint phases.

The SAP Solution Manager is a complete solution lifecycle management tool that facilitates SAP implementation, as well (Prior, Hommel & Vonkarey, n.d.). Assessment and design of the enterprise is one of the major activities accomplished during the Business Blueprinting phase. While some still favor using the tools and methodologies prior to Solution Manager, such approach may also force reassessment of the enterprise during the Realization Phase.

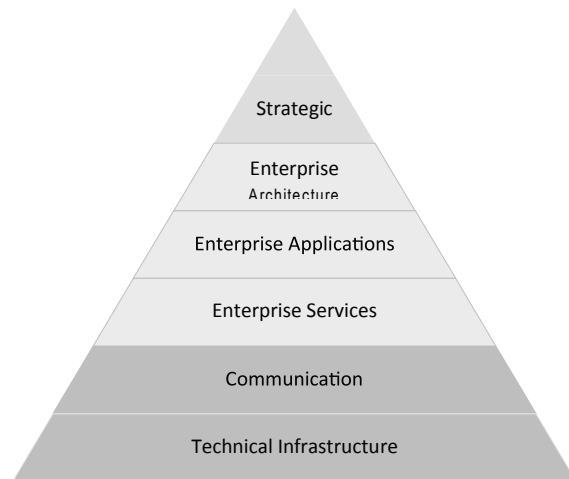
The following discussion focuses on three areas on the enterprise pyramid (see Figure 1): enterprise architecture, applications and services. Strategic, Communication and Technical Infrastructure levels are outside of the scope of this discussion.

This chapter discusses that the modernized approach for SAP Business Blueprint may be driven by the technical configuration of the solution landscape, hence the layout and foundation for the organizational design are set from the start. The discussion also covers the challenge of pre-developed enterprise architectures that reflect semi-system enabled enterprises as enterprises move toward a fully modernized environment. It points out how the SAP Solution Manager facilitates (business process) architecture-driven implementation through the tight integration with ARIS Business Architect for NetWeaver, as well as describes how to move toward Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) utilizing Enterprise Services, and how to develop complete and consistent architecture traceability up to the strategic level.

BACKGROUND

The SAP Business Blueprint phase includes a number of activities, events, milestones, and deliverables as described in the Accelerated SAP (ASAP) Roadmap (2005), generally classified as having overall project management significance. The Business Blueprint is the output (or product) of the project design tasks as they are managed in

Figure 1. Enterprise pyramid (Source: Adopted from mySAP Business Suite: Service Provisioning, Enterprise Service-Oriented Architecture, 2006, p. 7)



the appropriate tools – the SAP Solution Manager and ARIS Business Architect for SAP NetWeaver. These tools support architecture-driven implementation through a tight integration of the solution (SAP) and the enterprise architecture (ARIS).

While enterprise services design is not part of the SAP Business Blueprinting phase, the phase may be a viable starting point. With that in mind, the topic is addressed in the following section.

SAP BUSINESS BLUEPRINT

A comprehensive approach to the SAP Business Blueprinting is necessary to design a solution that accurately reflects the enterprise landscape. This implies that the Business Blueprint to include the solution landscape configuration and to support Enterprise Services development. Such an approach makes the design of the enterprise operation and the solution landscape fully complementary.

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