

# Your road map to a successful enterprise architecture practice

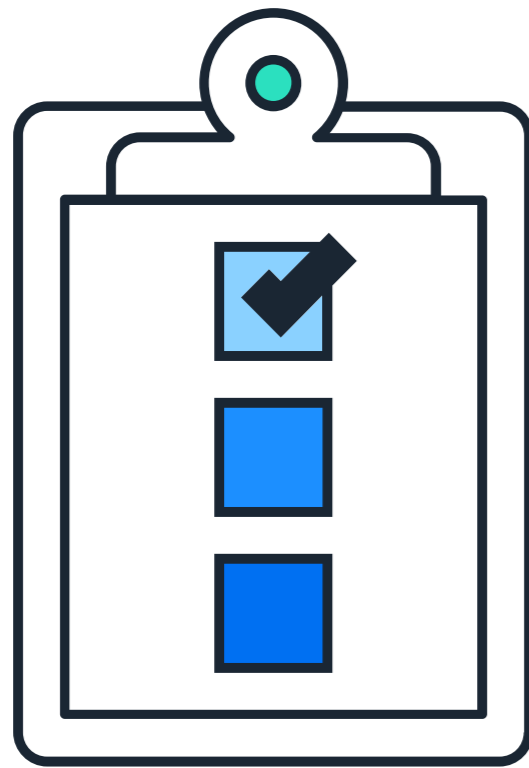
A strong enterprise architecture (EA) practice is foundational to many IT optimization and transformation initiatives, including application rationalization, technology obsolescence risk management, ERP transformation, and application modernization. But building a successful EA practice has to be done the right way, with the right tool. Here's a simple overview of the critical steps in the process.

## STEP 1

### Set clear goals for your program

Setting clear goals for an enterprise architecture (EA) practice is fundamental to ensuring its effectiveness and alignment with broader business objectives. Make sure you:

- **Understand your strategic business objectives.** EA goals should directly support these objectives, improving performance, agility, security, and innovation.
- **Prioritize goals based on business impact.** Focus on areas that offer the most benefits in terms of cost savings, efficiency improvements, risk mitigation, or revenue growth.
- **Involve key stakeholders from across the organization in setting EA goals.** This includes business leaders, IT staff, and end-users. Stakeholder engagement ensures that goals are aligned with the whole organization.

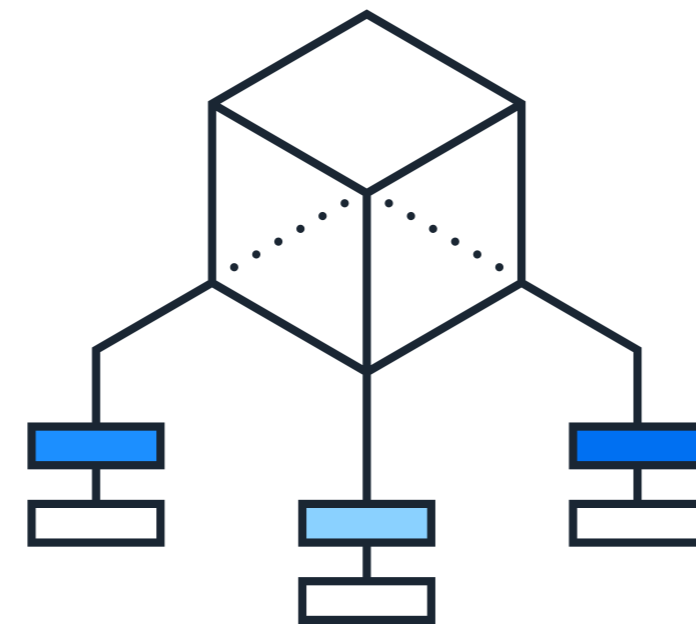


## STEP 2

### Create a business capability map

Business capability maps show the capabilities that are essential for your business to operate and are critical to identify gaps, inefficiencies, and redundancies in your application portfolio.

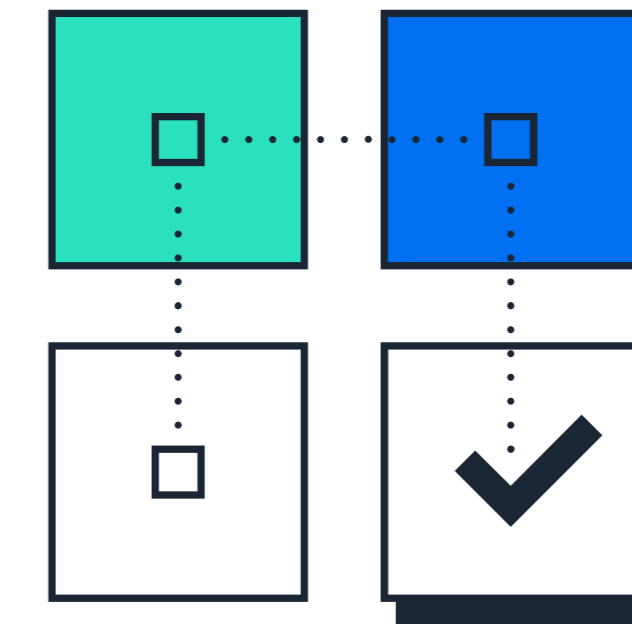
- **Align IT and business teams.** Business capability mapping begins with meaningful conversations between IT and business teams. Both sides must agree on what the map will look like.
- **Begin with 7 - 10 core capabilities.** These are your highest-level baseline capabilities. For example, HR would be a core capability, but capabilities that support HR, such as recruitment, would be level-2 capabilities.
- **Connect your applications to business capabilities with an EA tool such as SAP LeanIX.** The right EA tool can play an essential role in defining and mapping your business capabilities and how they connect to your applications.



## STEP 3

### Build your application inventory

Any path to the future begins with your current, "as-is" architecture. Getting a comprehensive handle on that alone will deliver measurable results.



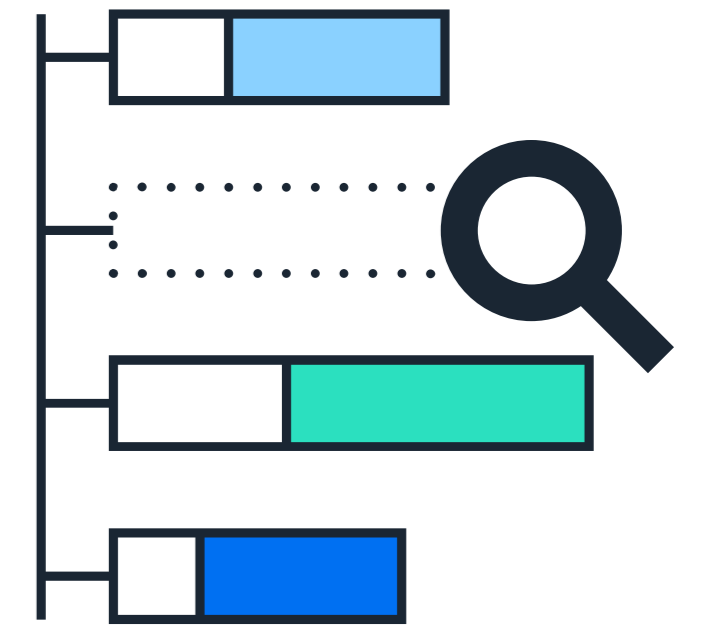
- **Use a ready-made meta model.** Meta models allow you to name and categorize the components and relationships that make up your enterprise architecture. Many pre-existing models can get you started as quickly as possible.
- **Import existing inventory data into your EA solution.** You likely have some existing inventory of applications – possibly in spreadsheets or in a CMDB. It is important to get this data out of silos and into your EA tool.
- **Identify the owners of each application.** This clarifies responsibility for managing the application, and facilitates efficient communication for any necessary changes, updates, or issues that arise.

## STEP 4

### Ensure completeness and quality of your data with SAP LeanIX

Accurate, up-to-date data is crucial for transforming data into business insights.

- **Built-in surveys in SAP LeanIX** collect data efficiently from a wide range of stakeholders without resorting to individual emails or manual data entry.
- **EAs can mine detailed survey information in an automated manner,** with findings directly integrated into fact sheets.
- **Out-of-the-box integrations** enable you to import critical data from other enterprise tools (CMDB, BPM, etc.), avoiding significant manual labor and custom coding.



SAP LeanIX is your single source of truth for all application data – where they are, who owns them, who uses them, and which business capabilities they support. A predefined meta model provides clear guidance on documenting all elements of your enterprise architecture. You will have all the data you need to perform a wide range of analyses, such as, identifying potential areas for investment, improvement, transformation, and risk mitigation.

These initial steps serve as the basis for future EA initiatives. To further explore the process and how SAP LeanIX can get your EA practice up and running, check out our [Enterprise architecture success kit](#).

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