

Open Architectures Readiness Assessment

Overview



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Aims & Objectives	5
How it works	6
Methodology	6
Current State	7
Future State	7
Transformation	7
Targets	7
Degree of Readiness	8
Report	9
Chapter 1 - Introduction	9
Chapter 2 - Current State	9
Chapter 3- Future State	10
Chapter 4- Transformation State	10
Chapter 5- Targets	10
Why LinuxIT's Open Architecture Readiness Assessment?	11
People	11
Knowledge	11
Methodologies	11
Customers	12

Executive Summary

The current government ICT strategy was developed in recognition of the fact that ICT is fundamental to the delivery of **cost-effective public services**. And in order to be responsive to the needs of all citizens and businesses in the UK they must be **open and accessible to all**. To meet this specific challenge, the Cabinet Office has taken steps to impose compulsory open standards, starting with interoperability and security, and works to create a level playing field for all software.

“Where there is no significant overall cost difference between open and non-open source products, open source will be selected on the basis of its inherent flexibility”

- Cabinet Office

This is not in any sense endorsing open source over proprietary software. It is focussed on increasing standardisation of business processes and associated technologies to create **Open Architectures** from which government can deliver new models of open and innovative public services. It equally depends on the established benefits of proprietary software.

As an independent advisor to the Cabinet Office, LinuxIT was keen to evaluate how well understood these initiatives were within central and local government. Our survey revealed that whilst there was good awareness of **what** the government ICT strategy espoused and in some cases **why**, there was significantly less confidence in **how**, **when** or with **whom** to enact the policies.

In response to this knowledge gap, LinuxIT has developed an assessment service designed to help these organisations investigate the feasibility and impact of moving towards more **Open Architectures**. It is independent, objective, credible and extensive in its investigation into the feasibility and viability of Open Architectures and does so with a keen understanding of both the **commonality and nuances** of government organisations.

Developed in consultation with local authorities and central government departments, LinuxIT offers an industry leading **Open Architectures Readiness Assessment**. Conforming to best practice standards including ITIL, PRINCE and ISO, the assessment consist of a series of discovery workshops using clearly defined methodologies and the presentation of findings and recommendations in a formal report.

Introduction

It is a commonly held view that the implementation of Open Architectures through the adoption of open standards and selective integration of Open Source Software (OSS) can deliver significant cost reduction. Whilst this is well founded and achievable in many cases, it must first be clear that the solution fulfils minimum and essential capability, security, scalability, transferability, support and manageability requirements. Only then can the inherent flexibility, innovation and cost optimization features synonymous with OSS be leveraged to establish short-term TCA, medium-term ROI and long-term TCO benefits. But even then, it is not always clear how to do so. In the wrong environment, with flawed selection criteria, poor implementation and management, OSS technologies can cause losses in efficiency, productivity, functionality and security. The key is to be objective in the selection of technology whether OSS or proprietary, and aware of the pitfalls so as to be ready and able to exploit the potential of OSS in helping to develop Open Architectures.

The LinuxIT Open Architectures Readiness Assessment is targeted at CIO's and IS/IT Directors and Managers who wish to know definitively whether their business is ready to capitalise on the value that Open Architectures promise. Over the course of 5-10 days through a series of expert-lead workshops, this assessment will establish whether the necessary criteria are in place to support the profitable adoption of Open Architectures, where specifically the organisation could benefit and with which technologies.

Aims & Objectives

Aim

To establish whether your organisation meets the necessary criteria to support the profitable adoption of open architectures, what must be done to achieve readiness and where subsequently your organisation could benefit.

Objectives

This service is aimed at generating and sharing knowledge through consultation that enables your organisation to:

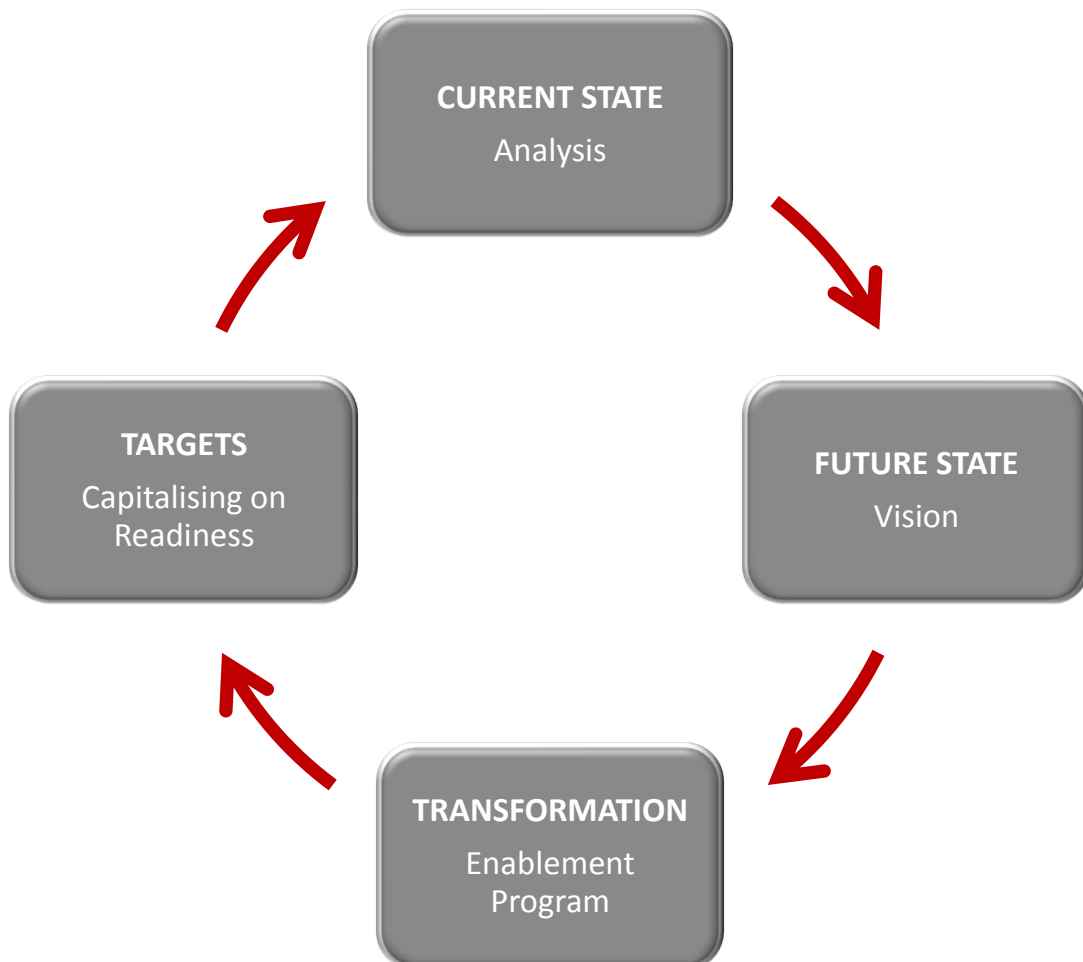
- Operate in compliance with Government Open Standards Principles
- Reduce capital and operating expenditure
- Gain business agility
- Improve service quality
- Remove complexity
- Mitigate risk

How it works

Methodology

The Open Architectures Readiness Assessment is designed to deliver knowledge and advice which will elucidate the current state of an organisations readiness and show what it needs to do to capitalise on open architectures. It is a continual improvement process that enables leaders and managers to understand and measure the impact of proposed changes thereby learning from the data and outcomes to drive ever greater efficiencies and success. It allows the organisation to incorporate the improvements in standard operating procedures which can then proliferate throughout the organisation. It defines a viable roadmap to increasing levels of readiness, giving incremental value to your organisation while making technology and service improvements. That will ensure a consistent and incremental approach towards the ideal future state, while delivering what your organisation needs in a reasonable timeframe.

There are four key elements to the assessment-



Current State

The current state analysis element of this assessment involves gaining a “business truth” of where your organisation is today in relation to Open Architectures Readiness so that it is possible to plan effectively for moving from the current reality to the desired state. It is measured holistically against key metrics in the following categories-

1. Strategy
2. Architectures
3. Systems Management
4. Service Management

LinuxIT uses both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques to provide a standardised, empirical and repeatable method to capture, analyse and assess your organisation against Open Architectures Readiness benchmarks. The 80 question Open Architecture Readiness survey provides quantitative analysis of readiness using a Likert-scale with results plotted against a scale of readiness (see Degrees of Readiness below). The consultancy workshops enable qualitative data collection and analysis through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from the ICT teams.

Future State

The future state is a vision of Open Architectures Readiness for Your organisation. Although it pertains to an ideal, it is developed pragmatically, taking into account the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats at your organisation. It is a description of what each of the key categories will look like once a state of readiness has been achieved. Once this state has been achieved, your organisation can start to benefit from open architectures through the identified Targets. Your organisation will be capable and cognisant of how to act in accordance with Government Open Standards Principles and able to demonstrate that it does so consistently.

Transformation

Here, LinuxIT provides recommendations to be undertaken as a priority to advance your organisation towards Open Architectures Readiness. They are high-level, discrete transformation elements formulated against a best practice approach that are key steps to reaching a state of readiness. Next steps are clearly articulated in how to get detailed, fully costed plans for the implementation of these recommendations.

Targets

Once Open Architectures Readiness has been achieved through the transformation phase, there will be certain targets identified that deliver quantifiable benefits to your organisation, including cost reduction, quality enhancement, improved performance and agility. This report will outline the business case and anticipated benefits of each. Next steps are clearly articulated in how to get fully costed proposals, detailed cost-benefit analysis and ROI/TCO calculations.

Degree of Readiness

The degree of Open Architectures Readiness is a measure used to assess the maturity of the organisation in its ability to consider, evaluate, select and adopt and manage open architecture software as it evolves. To be in a position to comply with Government policy and benefit from the advantages of an open architectures approach, organisations need to reach a 'Ready' level as soon as possible.

Raring

· In this stage companies are strong proponents of open architectures both internally and externally. They prefer open architectures all other things being equal and they actively collaborate with the community to develop and share open architectures.

Ready

· In this stage companies have a clearly articulated open architectures policy. They are comfortable evaluating, designing, transitioning and operating open architectures. Open architectures are subject to the same processes as proprietary software.

Reserved

· In this stage companies realise they already have some open architecture, recognise the benefits and want it to proliferate. They are actively trying to understand how to remove the barriers to adoption and biases towards proprietary solutions.

Resistant

· In this stage organisations resist the adoption of open architectures. Occasionally that resistance is manifest as overt policies preventing their use but more often than not they simply lack the awareness, policy and processes needed to facilitate the use of open architectures.

Report

The report is designed to inform and advise with degrees of granularity appropriate to different readers.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The introduction consists of an executive summary which condenses the rationale, methodology, findings conclusions, recommendations and next steps to make any calls to action very clear. It introduces the topic, provides background information and details of how this service works.

Chapter 2 – Current State

Chapter 2 provides the assessment results and findings in diagrammatic and text format respectively. The results are colour coded to provide a clear understanding of the current state. Open Architectures Readiness is divided into 4 categories which are then each divided into 5 sub-categories. Each of these is assessed individually and their scores are collated to provide the overall score.



Chapter 3- Future State

Chapter 3 is a description of what your organisation will look like once a state of readiness has been achieved.

Chapter 4- Transformation State

Chapter 4 lays out a roadmap for progressing towards a state of Open Architectures Readiness.

Chapter 5- Targets

Chapter 5 identifies potential targets from which your organisation may benefit once in a state of Open Architectures Readiness.

Chapter 1		Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 5
Introduction		Current State Readiness Assessment	Future State Vision of Readiness	Transformation Enablement Program	Targets Capitalising on Readiness
Executive Summary	Introduction	What is Open Architectures Readiness?	What is a vision of Open Architectures Readiness?	What is a transformation enablement program?	Where can you capitalise on the benefits of open architectures readiness?
Introduction	Strategy	To what extent does your strategy allow for open architectures?	What does your strategy look like when it is ready for open architectures?	How do you make your strategy ready for open architectures?	Targets
Background	Architectures	To what extent does your current architecture allow for open architectures?	What do your architectures look like when they are ready for open architectures?	How do you make your architectures ready for open architectures?	
How it works	Systems Management	To what extent does the way in which you manage your systems allow for open architectures?	What does your systems management look like when ready for open architectures?	How do you make your systems management ready for open architectures?	
	Service Management	To what extent does the way in which you manage your service allow for open architectures?	What does your service management look like when it is ready for open architectures?	How do you make your service management ready for open architectures?	
	Conclusions	How ready is your organisation to take advantage of open architectures?	What will your organisation look like when you are ready for open architectures?	How do you make your organisation ready for open architectures?	How can your organisation benefit from open architectures readiness?

Why LinuxIT's Open Architecture Readiness Assessment?

The quality of LinuxIT's Open Architectures Readiness Assessment is contingent on three factors; people, knowledge and methodology.

People

LinuxIT has more OSS certifications than any other UK based organisation. We have gained some of the industry's highest partner accreditations, including Red Hat's first UK Premier Partner. The assessment team includes business consultants, senior technical architects and solutions architects from blue-chip company background.



Knowledge

LinuxIT's organisational knowledge is its source of sustainable competitive advantage. This tacit knowledge comprises technological knowledge and market knowledge that when put to work for our clients delivers tangible value in identifying and exploiting opportunities whilst averting threats. With 14 years of success in providing impartial advice, proven software and award winning service solutions we have worked both with organisations with established Open Architectures, and those interested in embracing the unique benefits that flow from their adoption.



Methodologies

LinuxIT has developed unique methodologies designed to guide organisations to the point of objectively and clearly understanding where you are with their current readiness for Open Architectures adoption. These enable LinuxIT to deliver consistent quality, streamlined engagements and objective recommendations. This objectivity is central to LinuxIT's value proposition. LinuxIT is entirely independent and recommend the appropriate solution whether OSS or COTS (commercial off-the-shelf software).



Customers

Just some of our happy customers

