

Digital Enterprise Architecture Policy			
Policy Sponsor	Vice President Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (VPIT & CIO)	Category	Administrative
Policy Contact	Director, Digital Transformation	Effective Date	December 12, 2019
Approved By	Executive Team	Review Date	December 12, 2024
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1. Purpose

Athabasca University will establish and maintain a digital enterprise architecture that enables its secure, cloud-first strategy and ensures the University can scale and grow to meet the needs of its growing online learner populations. The digital enterprise architecture will be maintained so that it complies with legislation and oversight requirements, as well as aligns with provincial initiatives and the University's strategies and mandates.

2. Scope

This policy encompasses the individual specifications that form Athabasca University's Digital Enterprise Architecture: Business Architecture, Data Architecture, Information Architecture, Software Architecture, Infrastructure Architecture, and Solution Architecture. Functions associated with Digital Enterprise Architecture are the primary responsibility of Information Technology and will be based on the business requirements of stakeholders within and external to the University Community.

3. Definitions

Agile Methodology (IT)	Enterprise Architecture development that is achieved by supporting practices that are business-outcome-driven, customer-centric, collaborative and cooperative, as well as with continual stakeholder feedback.
Business Architecture	Focuses on a common, enterprise-level business language and framework for documenting how the business is structured to support a technology strategy within a business strategy.
Data Architecture	Overall structure of data and data-related resources as an integral part of the enterprise architecture.

Information Architecture	Focuses on the management of information resources including storage, retrieval, delivery, classification and utilization of information to best deliver shareholder values as well as to support technology strategy.
Infrastructure Architecture	Focuses on the hybrid cloud and on-premise operations, network engineering, server sizing, storage management, backup & restore technologies, disaster recovery and cloud architecture design.
Software Architecture	Focuses on delivering and developing technology strategy related to software and solution implementation.
Solution Architecture	Focuses on delivering full architectural solution based on the inputs from Business/Information/Software/Infrastructure Architecture and is realized through implementation by Project Portfolio Management of one-time projects or ongoing, continuous improvement initiatives.
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	A standard operating procedure addresses process-related information that is below the level of policies and procedures. Their content often informs the Policy Framework. A SOP is highly detailed, regularly revised and is deemed internal to the University, although a SOP may be shared on a need-to-know basis.
University Community	All faculty and staff, students, Board Members, contractors, postdoctoral fellows, volunteers, visitors and other individuals who work, study, conduct research or otherwise carry on business of the University.

4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1. The VPIT& CIO builds a shared vision for the University Community's information and related technology needs.
- 4.2. The University's Digital Enterprise Architecture encompasses several technology-related architectures to be governed and managed including Business Architecture, Data Architecture, Information Architecture, Infrastructure Architecture, Software Architecture and Solution Architecture.
- 4.3. An Enterprise Architecture approach aligns information and related technology with the University's goals, bridges the gaps with online service delivery and other technology-related institutional processes.

- 4.4. The needs of the University Community drive information and related technology plans.
- 4.5. Whenever possible there will be an Agile Methodology response to business requirements.
- 4.6. Digital Enterprise Architecture components will work together efficiently and effectively to securely provide consistent services, accessible information, scalable infrastructure and flexible technology.
- 4.7. Seamless integration of applications with business processes will be a priority.
- 4.8. Regular monitoring of current digital enterprise architecture resources and their uses will be undertaken to identify opportunities for cost savings and continuous improvement.
- 4.9. Annual planning and budget processes for the maintenance and renewal of the University's Digital Enterprise Architecture will be directly linked to the University's strategies and mandates.
- 4.10. All planned projects and initiatives must go through a Digital Enterprise Architecture review as part of the AU Digital Governance Framework and AU Project Management Framework processes and documentation.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

[*Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*](#)

[*Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation \(CASL\)*](#)

[*European Union General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)*](#)

6. Related Procedures/Documents

[Technology Management Policy](#)

[Disposal of IT Assets Procedure](#)

[Evergreening Procedure](#)

[Digital Governance Control Framework - Governing Policy](#)

AU Project Management Framework

[Alberta Association in Higher Education for Information Technology's ITM Control Framework](#)

NOTE: The subject matter and scope of this policy and its related procedures are also supported by internal-use only Standard Operating Procedures.

History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
December 12, 2019	Executive Team (Policy Approved)