



An Dragon1 White Paper in Enterprise Architecture

November 2017

The Business Case for Dragon1

Version 1.0.2

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Introduction

The Need to Move Forward With Your Business

In the near future, all companies have to be equipped with adaptable business models, strategy maps, process and application landscapes in order to stay competitive, innovate, and be future-proof. Today, startups and fast-moving competitors are rising and you have to make sure that you will not be outclassed, outperformed or put out of business.

With interactive digital overviews of the current and future state of your adaptable business, you will be able to always respond quickly to changes in and outside your company. This is exactly what Dragon1 provides you with.

In this whitepaper, we first discuss how visualizing your business helps to control change and transformation. We then show how the Dragon1 Enterprise Architecture Method provides an approach for the waterfall and the agile world. Finally, we show how Dragon1, the SaaS platform for visual enterprise architecture, provides an integrated solution that supports you in all the strategy, architecture and transformation work that needs to be done. And it pays off.

Do you want to move forward with your company? Then read this white paper.

Why Visualize Your Business using Enterprise Architecture?

DEAL WITH CHANGE

Every company in the world is confronted with changes and transformations. They are happening and taking place every day. New technology, new customer demands, enforced rules and regulations all require companies to respond rapidly with innovation. Business Processes and Information Systems need to be replaced, updated and integrated. To make sure that the companies' processes and systems do not form one big knot and they do not come to a standstill, companies make use of Enterprise Architecture.

CONTROL COMPLEXITY

Complexity is also rapidly increasing: every company stores more and more data and wants to be smarter learning from that data and use it. Also, the company is becoming more and more digital and virtual. Everything has to be very flexible. For instance, yesterday's mass products are today's unique products driven by customer demand. To be able to deal with the complexity, to control it and maybe even reduce it, companies make use of Enterprise Architecture.

ENABLE ENTERPRISE TRANSFORMATION

Enterprise Architecture is the area that strives to support and enable strategic planning of business systems and enterprise transformation. With Enterprise Architecture, the transformation in the company takes place in a controlled manner. This because enterprise-wide solutions need to be aligned with the strategy and important standards, policies and dependencies of other systems and processes.

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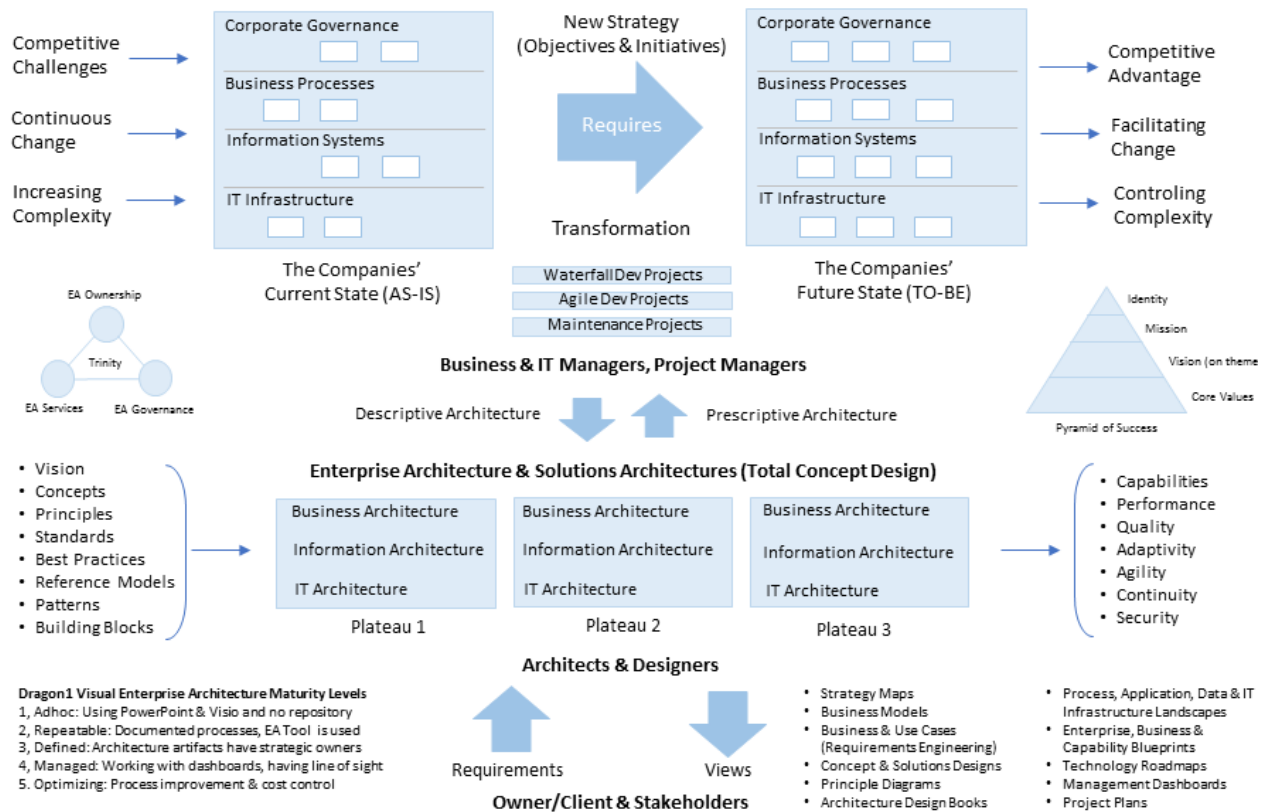


STEER WITH DASHBOARDS

With Enterprise Architecture, every stakeholder of a transformation gets visualizations about his or her concerns, with views of the transformation. He or she can make the necessary meaningful decisions on time and give directions to the projects executing this transformation. The participants of the projects get specific visualizations they use to design, build and implement enterprise-wide solutions to overcome their concerns.

Dragon1 Enterprise Architecture Framework - The Big Picture

How Enterprise Architecture enables Digital Transformation
v0.3d, 2017



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Figure 1, Using Enterprise Architecture to Support and Enable Transformation.

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Why use the Dragon1 Enterprise Architecture Method?

STRATEGIC LEVEL ARCHITECTING & COMMUNICATION

Dragon1 is both an open Enterprise Architecture Method and a SaaS platform for Visual Enterprise Architecture.

If a company decides to work with Enterprise Architecture, Dragon1 supports and enables working with Enterprise Architecture at a strategic level and in a visual manner.

Dragon1 makes sure that architects use the strategies and business models of a company as the context for their architectural design (concepts, principles, standards, building blocks and patterns they choose). And that architects communicate frequently with owners/clients and stakeholders using visualizations to make decisions. Every architecture and enterprise-wide solution that is designed, build and implemented in this way, will always be aligned with all the entities in the organization.

CONTINUOUS STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Dragon1 also makes sure that every stakeholder is always involved at the right time for an initiative, transformation, program or project. At every stage for different types of stakeholder Dragon1 defines what types of views on matters and visualizations (diagrams) for stakeholders have to be produced. Stakeholders understand the visualization they are looking at and use it to support their decision-making process.

NEW INSIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE VISUAL APPROACH

Dragon1 as a method describes a new, more visual approach to look at enterprises. It makes use of the newest insights and theory on architecture principles and visualizations. Where the current mainstream frameworks and modeling languages for enterprise architecture focus on the logical and physical level of abstraction, Dragon1 also focuses on the conceptual level of architecture. Dragon1 is the only architecture method to define all of its core terms in a consistent way: clear distinctions, no circular reasoning, used terms in definitions are also defined and no gaps between terms. For instance: Architecture is defined as a total concept for a system or a structure. Architecture principle is defined as the enforced way concepts (made part of an architecture) work and produces results. A concept is defined as an abstract system consisting of collaborating elements.

PRACTICAL HANDS ON-APPROACH

Dragon1 as an open EA Method, with its visual approach, checklists, templates, reference models, glossary and processes ensures that you can work with Enterprise Architecture in a successful and practical way. Without any overhead and focused on what is necessary to enable and support enterprise transformation, every project in your company will be a success.

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Why use Dragon1, The Business Visualizer?

HIGHLY INTEGRATED SET OF WEB APPLICATIONS

Dragon1 as a SaaS platform is the best-integrated set of web applications to support and enable working with enterprise architecture. As a SaaS platform, it offers many benefits such as continuity, scalability, reducing the fossil footprint and increasing collaboration between parties.

Dragon1 is a repository-based online software system that supports modeling and visualizing any type of knowledge, concept, solution, strategy, architecture, transformation or project. Dragon1 in fact is a method building toolbox. You can decide whatever framework or method you want to configure in Dragon1 and have people using it.

The seven core web applications are:

1. **Digital Workplace** – This web application mainly supports organizing your workplace, managing your clients, contacts, projects and To-Do list. It is where your collaboration starts.
2. **Resource Center** – This web application supports publishing, sharing and monitoring projects, the input and output documents. It is like a share point, intranet or knowledge system.
3. **Architecture Repository** – This web application supports organizing, importing, entering and enriching data manually. It provides ultimate control and versioning of all of your data, products and information, realizing a used enterprise data repository.
4. **Visual Designer** – This web application supports adopting and create and publish frameworks, models, views and visualizations. It is the modeling tool that provides a lot of freedom but also can guide how at best to create complex models, powerful views and effective diagrams.
5. **Viewer** – This web application supports viewing and commenting on the published visualizations. The viewer is a web application making it possible for stakeholders to have access to and control the strategy, architecture and projects anywhere, anytime, on any online device.
6. **Business Analyzer** – This web application supports the ability to create and generate reports and graphs and create and export documents. There are many build-in reports for user activity, compliance reports, missing data reports and analytics reports.
7. **Enterprise Search** – This web application supports finding the content you are looking for. It is a great tool as a manager to make sure that the content is updated regularly and fully and can be reused, preventing people to reinvent the wheel.

There are additional web applications and specific modules on Dragon1, but the core set supports you in being productive and effective as an architect, manager and C-level director with strategy, architecture and transformation.

OUT OF THE BOX STANDARDS

Out of the box, Dragon1 supports working with the Dragon1 open EA Method, UML, BPMN, TOGAF and ArchiMate. The foundation under this all is the ISO 42010 / IEEE 1471 standard for architecture.

Dragon1 supports creating models, viewpoints, views and visualizations for any type of stakeholder.

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Every company that uses Dragon1 will see appear strategy maps, business models, business cases, requirements, process-, application- and infrastructure landscapes, enterprise architecture blueprints, project maps and roadmaps. Not only appear, but you will also see they are used to support decision making and that they are used in projects to guide the design, building and implementation of enterprise-wide solutions.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE DIGITAL DIAGRAMS

Dragon1 provides interactive online diagrams. You can build any content framework and publish your architecture products to the stakeholders online, in an access-controlled, way.

Dragon1 supports drilling down in digital diagrams in any browser from overview to detail. To switch from one diagram to another. Visualizing business processes and applications in many different ways with many different real-time views is supported. Performing impact analyses and doing tracking tracing is supported. Viewing the current and future state of an architecture or model in one go is supported. Running business process scenarios and generating interactive compliance views of reference models is supported.

BUSINESS BLUEPRINTING

Because of the way Dragon1 is developed, it supports business blueprinting, application landscaping and road mapping in any company, in a short period of time. Dragon1 provides a mechanism and framework for collecting data very efficiently and allows to import, generate and publish products that are fit for decision making.

CONCEPT DESIGN AND PRINCIPLE DIAGRAMS

Dragon1 supports designing concepts. Not only common concepts like self-service, process orientation and the customer-centric approach. Also, new and innovative concepts can be designed, like green energy, irrigation systems, robotics, blockchain, nanotechnology. Dragon1 enables you to innovate without limitations. You can do an assessment to check and report to see if your innovative design is compliant with legislation or policies.

Dragon1 promotes to model and visualize the principles of concepts, in terms of the enforced way a concept works, producing results. So, you can assess the maturity of the implementation of a concept and implement the missing elements for the next level. As a metaphor, with Dragon1 you see the bicycle and its missing chain. By implementing the chain, the bike as a whole will bring more added value.

EFFECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

Another aspect of Dragon1 is, that in much detail problems can be visualized. Dragon1 provides over 350 default entity classes in its own modeling language to model with. The world is complex and so are our companies, but also the issues in companies. Dragon1 supports modeling and documenting issues in business processes and information systems in high detail. Therefore the solutions can be designed in detail and be made effective to solve the issues, impacting only the problem area and leaving the rest untouched.

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MAINTAIN A LINE OF SIGHT

Architects are occupied with creating architectures, bridging strategic directions and innovative solutions. But people responsible for strategy, solutions and projects not always directly see the link between the management products (such as strategy maps and roadmaps) from their world and the management products (such as blueprints) from the world of architecture. Dragon1 has solved this by connecting these worlds: strategy, architecture and transformation are interlinked via models and products on the Dragon1 platform. Dragon1 supports creating strategy maps, business models, IT landscapes, architecture models, project landscapes and roadmaps that are all linked together. C-level, managers, analysts, architects, designers, project workers, literally everyone, continuously have to go up and down the stream and keep everything aligned.

Dragon1 enables Agile and Waterfall with Enterprise Architecture

There are two main approaches to executing projects: Waterfall and Agile. Dragon1 supports working with both. There are different frameworks and methods like SDM, RAD, Scrum and Kanban that all can be used on Dragon1.

WATERFALL

Waterfall is a linear approach where first all requirements are collected, a design is made and next a solution is built, tested and implemented. This provides the benefits of a rock-solid solution that is a sound foundation for many years and during the project, everyone knows exactly what has to be done. Any major infrastructure project, like a bridge or a tower, is done this way.

But its strength is also its weakness: the solution is often not flexible enough, though modular. In some cases, the waterfall approach takes too long. During the stages in a waterfall project the world around, concerns, needs and requirements have changed that much, that actually parts of the design and building have to be altered right away, for the result to be of added value.

AGILE

Agile is an iterative team-based approach focused on delivering complete working functional components. Agile is a lot like timeboxing or rapid application development. In the agile world people do not work in stages but in sprints with each a defined time period. During a sprint, all the deliverables are continuously prioritized. This ensures that the customer has full control over what the project is realizing.

Working with standards and complying with policies is a hard thing in agile projects. They need the freedom to excel and deliver fast. Dragon1 as an online collaboration platform enables the use of standards and policies in an agile environment, as all the models, knowledge and information are available anytime and anywhere.

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Dragon1 as a repository-based platform supports working in projects and teams. On Dragon1, people can define and prioritize deliverables and reuse all the work that has been created before. Also, people can learn what waterfall and agile frameworks and methods are like because that adds significantly to the success of the people collaborating. With all this Dragon1 is a fine solution for enabling enterprise architecture in both the waterfall and agile world.

The Return on Investment of Dragon1

Dragon1 as a method and SaaS platform make architects, managers, stakeholders and directors much more effective in the alignment of strategy, architecture and transformation, enabling enterprise transformation and controlling risks in enterprise transformation. This saves time, money and resources.

INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

Because Dragon1 provides editable examples, templates, reference models, checklists and no limitations on what you can model, the productivity of enterprise architects is increased significantly. In situations where it would take too long to create a strategy map, business model, enterprise architecture blueprint, process landscape or roadmap, Dragon1 is much more flexible and efficient.

NOT WASTING TIME

Dragon1 provides a mechanism to generate views and publish interactive architecture diagrams online, therefore architects, managers, stakeholders or directors spent less time traveling, searching for the correct version or commenting on the visualization. As everyone is working collaboratively, the whole process is speeding up significantly.

INCREASING CONTINUITY

Dragon1 provides a repository in which all work is done, the continuity of the work is increased significantly. Other users can see exactly where someone stopped in the workflow and what he or she has done up until now. And in a short period of time, they can proceed with the work in that workflow.

DATA CONSISTENCY

Dragon1 provides a modeling language and modeling tool, it is very easy to keep a large number of models and diagrams consistent with a small group of people in a limited period of time. If one would create models and diagrams in presentation software and using different, not integrated tools, your stakeholder will be presented out of date and inconsistent models and diagrams. This can result in wrong decisions by using unclear data. The use of Dragon1 will prevent this at all times.

DATA SECURITY

Because all data in Dragon1 is stored encrypted in a secure database it is impossible that someone without the correct privilege accidentally has access to data which he or she shouldn't have. If you have models and diagrams in separate files, like presentations, documents or email, it is almost impossible to know who has or can have access to certain classified information.

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All the above shows that implementing Dragon1 as a solution for enterprise architecture, will show a quick and significant return on investment and reduce risk while adhering to rules and regulations.

LEAVING MATURITY LEVEL 1: ARCHITECTURE BY POWERPOINT AND VISIO, WITHOUT REPOSITORY

Architects want to have freedom of modeling and to communicate only understandable views and visualizations to stakeholders. That is why they often use PowerPoint and Visio. The downside for this is that the models, views and visualizations they produce cannot be checked for reference model compliance or meta-model consistency, furthermore, versions and access cannot be controlled. No repository is used, no reuse is accomplished, no glossary check can be done or naming conventions can be enforced.

If there is no architecture process in place or enforced, every time an architecture product is created, it can be done completely differently. Members of a team in this case are likely to produce output that does not fit together and underneath it contains showstoppers or errors. If an architecture program or process is at maturity level 1 (Ad Hoc) a lot of time, resources and budget is lost and wasted.

Using Dragon1 prevents all of this from happening as the work architects have created, can be exported to PowerPoint or Visio. Also, you can publish the content interactively in HTML online so that all stakeholders at all times have updated and controlled information. Dragon1 supports moving towards a much higher maturity level.

Experience the Benefits of Dragon1 Yourself

Of any decision, transformation and change that takes place within an organization, the impact (i.e. change in cost and service level) can be weighed by the different stakeholders. They may or may not choose to proceed, well informed, with this decision, transformation or change. If your evaluation of this Business Case for Dragon1 is positive, then make the decision and let us start to work together with Dragon1. It will make your business move forward.

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About Dragon1 Inc.

Dragon1 Inc. is the software company for Visual Enterprise Architecture in the Netherlands. The Dragon1 software and method are applicable at Fortune 500 or Forbes 2000 companies and governmental organizations.

For more information visit: <https://www.dragon1.com>

Dragon1 Products and Services

Dragon1 is a SaaS platform for co-creating and managing lean strategic data architecture visualizations. For each target audience, there is a specific edition: Dragon1 CONNECT, Dragon1 PRO, Dragon1 BUSINESS, Dragon1 ENTERPRISE, Dragon1 EDUCATION.

For more information visit: <https://www.dragon1.com/pricing>

About Dragon1 Academy

Dragon1 Academy develops and markets tailor-made courseware for elearning and class-based training courses. Popular training courses are: Dragon1 User Tool Training, Masterclass Visual Enterprise Architecture, Dragon1 Bridge Training for IT Infrastructure Architecture.

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