

SURVEY OF GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS SHOWS THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF IT ARCHITECTS IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF BPM INITIATIVES

The report further reveals that success is specifically driven by the degree to which architects are actively involved in BPM initiatives, as well as to what degree other BPM stakeholders understand what those architects are doing and why.

Cambridge, UK – 24 JUNE 2009 – IT-Business alignment experts Macehiter Ward-Dutton (MWD) have released the findings of a new survey of global IT architects which set out to explore the impact of IT architecture involvement on business process management (BPM) initiatives.

The survey was designed and conducted in partnership with the International Association of Software Architects (IASA), the international non-profit business association dedicated to the advancement and sharing of issues related to software architecture in the enterprise, product, education and government sectors. The web-based survey took place during May 2009, resulting in 135 responses from organisations around the world.

Overall the survey revealed current levels of maturity and success of BPM initiatives:

- 11% of respondents have already implemented BPM enterprise-wide; 38% of respondents indicated that they have already carried out two or more BPM projects and are now driving BPM enterprise-wide; 16% have just completed their first project while a further 29% of respondents are in the middle of their first projects.
- 29% of respondents are seeing significant benefits and definite ROI from their BPM initiatives; a further 26% are seeing some benefits. Only 7% indicated that their BPM initiative had so far proved disappointing.

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By segmenting the survey respondents according to the level of benefits achieved, the survey indicates that there are significant differences between groups the report labels Leaders and Followers. Leaders are more likely to share the following characteristics:

- Leaders are around twice as likely as Followers to have their BPM initiative driven by the CIO or IT Director (48% vs. 25%).
- Leaders are significantly more likely than Followers (86% vs. 63%) to work in organisations where each key business process has an assigned process owner within the business.
- Leaders are significantly more likely than Followers (52% vs. 31%) to report that their organisation has an Enterprise or Business Architecture team, and that they are involved in business architecture work associated with BPM.
- Leaders are significantly more likely than Followers (57% vs. 48%) to state that non-architect BPM stakeholders understand the value of IT architect involvement, and understand why IT architects add value. Leaders are more likely to place IT architects in procurement oversight roles.

The results deliver a strong message to IT and business leaders. “If you want to deliver business value from your BPM investments beyond the first project, our research strongly suggests that you need to ensure that your IT architects are involved,” said Neil Ward-Dutton, report author and Research Director at MWD.

“Moreover, it’s critical that other stakeholders in your initiative (both from business and IT teams) understand the role that IT architects are playing and the rationale for their involvement. The Leaders group in our survey demonstrated significantly more “architecture awareness” in their BPM activities than other survey respondents.”

“This type of grass roots research is key to raising the profile and quality of the IT architecture profession as well as advancing best practices in business,” said Paul Preiss, CEO and co-founder of the IASA. “It’s clear that IT architects can make a significant contribution to the success of BPM initiatives.”

The full findings of the survey are available in a report prepared by MWD exclusively for members of the IASA and subscribers to MWD’s BPM continuous advisory service. A full copy of the report is available to accredited members of press on application.

For further information please visit <http://www.iasahome.org> and <http://www.mwdadvisors.com>

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About MWD

MWD Advisors is a specialist IT advisory firm which focuses exclusively on issues surrounding IT-business alignment. The company was formed in 2005 by two highly regarded and influential industry analysts. MWD's analysts bring over 40 years' experience working with senior IT decision makers worldwide from a range of industries including retail, financial services, oil and gas, travel and leisure, utilities, manufacturing, public sector, healthcare and telecoms. Over 2000 subscribers currently benefit from MWD's research.

About IASA

The International Association of Software Architects is the premier association focused on the IT architecture profession through the advancement of best practices and education. Established in 2002, IASA delivers programs and services to IT architects of all levels around the world. A non-profit business association, IASA is dedicated to the advancement and sharing of issues related to software, infrastructure, and business architecture in the enterprise, product, education and government sectors.

The association is committed to improving the quality of the IT architecture industry by developing and delivering standards, education programs and developing accreditation programs and services that optimize the development of the architecture profession. IASA membership consists of approximately 6,000 members located in more than 40 countries.

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