Architecture Value Scorecard

Background:

Initiatives that have high architectural value build upon and help extend the foundation of the enterprise. These initiatives leverage the good things that already exist. They help build maturity in governance, clarify business processes, leverage and extend the reusable infrastructure, are easy to operate and maintain, and provide and consume well-defined data. They help us eliminate redundant systems while extending the capabilities of the enterprise appropriately. They are clearly focused on driving our strategies forward while making it easier to meet the next strategic goal.

Initiatives that have low architectural value either add little value to the foundation of the enterprise (e.g. don't provide data and services that can be leveraged, require redundant services to support them, etc.) or they build up technical and organizational deficit (add to redundancy, compromise data quality and usability, confuse or make more complex the business processes, etc.)

The goal of this scorecard is to help initiatives and decision makers review and evaluate possible solutions to find those solutions that provide the highest architectural value where possible.

Note: the term initiative is used very broadly in the descriptions below. The value matrix could be applied to a project, a service, an architectural engagement or an investment area.   The term "initiative" is used below to represent all of those different efforts.

Change Log:
v2.0 - New layout to allow for focused scoring
v.1.3 - clarified strategy statement in item 1 to be UW strategy
v 1.2 - added item #7 - Platform Independent which was missed in the previous update.
v 1.1 - formalized the document from Strawman. Added requested evaluations items. Edits and wordsmithing for clarity.

Jim Phelps, v2.0 Feb 21, 2014

#	Category	Title	Description	Related Principles
1	Business Arch.	Clear Link to Enterprise Strategy	The initiative has a very well defined link to the overall UW strategy and strategic goals.	Strategic
2		Clear & Consistent Governance	The governance for the initiative is clearly defined and consistent across the service or governance area in which it fits. (e.g. service governance, data governance, project governance, etc.)	(Strategic)
3		Optimized business processes	The business processes that support / surround the initiative are clearly defined, transparent and optimized to be as efficient and effective as possible.	(Sustainable)
4	Usability	Designed for the User	Good user experience/user design reduces the need for support and training and makes the initiative valuable and easy to use.	Simple
5		Platform Independent	The initiative is designed for the multitude of ever-changing platforms that users use.	Standards-based
6		Driven by clear metrics	The initiative is grounded in clear metrics about user needs, workflows, goals and improvements. The impact and outcomes are measured and measurable.	Sustainable
7	Information	Well defined data	The initiative provides well defined, or improved management of, Institutional data. The initiative, if it is a source of Institutional data, has well defined schemas and management processes that align to UW standards for maximizing the value of data assets.	Data Driven
8		Appropriately sourced data	The initiative takes advantage of Institutional data that is well defined and sourced from authoritative and reliable sources. It controls the flow and use of data to minimize unnecessary modifications and redundancies.	Data Driven, Secure
9	Technical	Designed for our modern environment	Designed for our vision or strategy of a modern environment. A well designed initiative will be meet the current environment design goals (e.g. Green Initiatives, Cloud capable, Failover/Failsafe, etc.)	Strategic
10		Designed for manageability	Designed to be easily managed for the appropriate scalability, availability, sustainability, extensibility, etc.	Scalable, Reliable, Sustainable

11		Vanilla over customized	The initiative is leveraging delivered capabilities to the highest extent possible and making few customizations that will need to be maintained over time.	Sustainable
12		Configuration over code	The initiative creates and maintains the needed customizations in configuration settings rather than code that needs to be updated and maintained over time.	(Sustainable)
13		Minimum Needed Redundancy	The initiative does not add unnecessarily to redundancy and, where possible, eliminates redundancy as is appropriate while meeting business continuity goals.	Standards Based, Simple, Service Oriented
14		Leverage Appropriately	The initiative provides opportunity for its services/capabilities to be leveraged easily and appropriately by other initiatives.	Service Oriented
15		Reusable infrastructure	The initiative takes advantage of existing reusable infrastructure well and appropriately. (e.g. Leverages current storage and platform services, plugs into current strategic identity and access management services, etc.)	Standards Based, Simple, Service Oriented
16		Reduces Operational Overhead	Drives down the operational costs.	Sustainable, Reliable, Scalable
17	Risk	Has well-managed risk	Understands the risk profile for the initiative and has a plan for managing risk that fits into the university's risk management framework. Builds on o extends our risk management capabilities.	(Strategic), Sustainable, Secure