

## Is Enterprise Architecture still relevant in the Digital Age?

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For this year's workshop on *Enterprise Architecture (EA) in Research and Practice* we have received nine submissions of which five have passed the rigorous peer-review. The acceptance quote of 56% assures that only advancements in the field are included in our workshop.

Contributions cover multiple areas of expertise. The first paper describes the usage of machine learning capabilities to visualize data center architectures. The second paper discusses a case study about architecture content management in a large enterprise. The third paper proposes a technique for an architectural-wide optimization of departmental budgets. The fourth paper discusses implications of software robots on EA. The fifth paper describes how a Digital Workplace can be rolled out.

New approaches, such as software robots, propose further automation without changes of existing systems and architectures. In this context, a conceptual design of the major elements of an enterprise (e.g., strategy, processes, applications) might be seen as a bureaucratic obstacle. This impression might be underlined by some EA approaches that propose heavyweight methods following the waterfall model. Is EA still relevant in the digital age?

Throughout the contributions we observe the impact of new technologies on methods, structures, and architectures. Technologies, such as machine learning, require a continuous adjustment of an enterprise to changed conditions. The complexity of its structures and architectures increase, and change cycles shorten. The alignment between strategic and operational as well as business and technical aspects becomes a vital challenge for today's enterprises. The so-called *Digital Transformation* requires methods and structures that allow an agile development and a continuous adjustment of EA. Heavyweight methods are replaced by agile approaches. Furthermore, we observe an increased automation of the EA management itself. For example, machine learning capabilities support the management of complex and fast-changing architectures, and linear programming is used to automate budget decisions.

Overall, the workshop presents practical cases and research papers indicating the relevance of EA for today's enterprises. In this context, EA should be rather understood as an agile method supporting an enterprise-wide alignment between strategy, structure, and technology, which is a vital challenge in the digital age.

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