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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting on the management of statistical information systems
(Geneva, 17-19 February 2003)

Topic III: Efficient management of increasing technical complexity

**USE OF ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE TO MANAGE TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY
AT THE U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS**

Invited paper

Submitted by the Bureau of the Census, United States¹

Summary

1. The Bureau of the Census continues to develop and implement an Enterprise Architecture (EA) process to guide its information technology modernization and investments. The Bureau of the Census has undertaken this effort to improve its ability to satisfy its mission, meet its objectives, and respond to the significant challenges and drivers that it faces in the twenty-first century.
2. The nature of Enterprise Architecture is one of iteration. New business needs and technical advances drive change in the fabric of the enterprise. The enterprise responds to these by adapting its processes, information, and technologies to meet the new demands. An Enterprise Architecture is the tool the enterprise uses to facilitate a rapid response to these needs by providing assets to reuse, standards to follow, and an understanding of the interdependencies among business systems. These changes are then woven into the fabric of the EA.
3. The Census Enterprise Architecture is a strategic resource that aligns business and technology, leverages shared assets, builds internal and external partnerships, and optimizes the value of information technology services. It includes and defines relationships between the Census Bureau's Strategic and Operational Plans, standards and uniform products, Business Plans, IT Services, Architecture Principles and provides a migration path for moving from a baseline architecture to a target architecture.
4. Our enterprise architecture serves the function of providing a holistic guide and resource for strategic and tactical planning, and offers planners and designers access to business and technical models, standards, and direction.

¹ Prepared by John C. Leidich (john.c.leidich@census.gov).

5. EA Governance is a critical component of enterprise architecture and provides for continuous improvement, migration, and measurement of business systems so that business and technology coalesce to meet the mission of the enterprise. EA governance places the political processes for making and enforcing IT-related business policies into the business realm of the enterprise. With EA governance, a structure and process are defined to ensure:

- The architecture reflects the current state of business and technology,
- Common and consistent approaches are used to plan and develop IT systems,
- IT investments are consistent with the enterprise architecture,
- Exceptions to the architecture can be assessed, controlled and managed,
- IT initiatives will be identified, tracked and managed through their lifecycle and
- The architecture brings value to the enterprise.

6. Enterprise Architecture processes are under way at the Bureau and implemented through groups such as our Information Technology Governing Board, our Standards Management Program, our Information Systems Support and Review Office and many groups throughout our organization. These groups, architects, technology managers, and EA stakeholders access our EA tool, which allows access to enterprise architecture related information. Using our EA tool, personnel can run dynamic queries, produce reports and perform what-if analysis to answer critical information technology and business questions.

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