ENTARCO® USA Inc.
The Enterprise Architecture Company

Professional Services
For
Enterprise Architecture and Effective Information Management

The traditional approach to information systems acquisition, whether it is by development or purchase, is a project-by-project implementation. The routine goes like this. Starting years ago, the approach was to develop and implement an application and a supporting application database.

Then a second application and application database was built/bought and implemented. Then, because data in the first application database was needed by the second application database, an interface was developed. Then a third application was built/bought and implemented. Then another data conversion and/or interface or two had to be developed. Oh, by the way, sometimes, all the data needed by the second application database was not converted or implemented by an interface; it was just collected and stored again (as represented by the dash lines). Then a fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh application, and application database was developed and implemented; each typically involving one or more data conversions and multiple data interfaces.

Along the way we started developing Web applications which often resulted in developing more application databases, data conversions, and interfaces.

This project-by-project implementation has continued across the IT industry until the present day.

Each of these application and application database implementations occurred at different times, using different methodologies, by different people, with different skills, using different tools, often in different computing environments - all without the structure and guidance of an objective enterprise architecture. This is the process that has produced the silos of misaligned, fragmented, disintegrated, inconsistent, redundant, and costly applications and application database portfolio.

Additionally, this environment has resulted in significant data problems such as quality, availability, and access that continue to add cost and time to develop and maintain the enterprise's data. Existing efforts to neutralize the negative consequences of this approach such as Data Warehouses and SOA are also costly and time consuming; and result in their own maintenance issues, and don't necessarily solve the persistent data problems.