

SOA in the BA (Federal Employment Office)



Holistic Strategy

The BA's IT strategy is driven by the aim of being a powerful and profitable IT provider in the public sector. This aim was channeled into four areas using strategic initiatives: "IT landscape and operations", "infrastructure and technology", "organization and personnel" and "controlling and processes".

The BA's business processes are mapped on an extremely complex IT landscape which is characterized by a multitude of technical requirements. The present application landscape is characterized by few very large monoliths redundantly implementing basic functions and is of-

ten based on technologies which are no longer up-to-date. Existing point-to-point relationships between applications need to be arranged individually, modifications to an application involve extensive consultations with other business units. This is why the aim of the "IT landscape and operations" area is for an IT landscape that is focused on technical needs.

SOA in the BA

The ultimate aim of a strategy focused on service-oriented architecture is to increase the flexibility of the IT application landscape and, in doing so, the flexibility of how business processes are structured,

which comes hand in hand with this. Time-consuming maintenance can also be decreased by reducing complexity. Organization of the application landscape needs to emanate from the structuring of business processes so that the necessary flexibility and uniform business process support can be achieved.

The extensive restructuring of the application landscape towards a service-oriented architecture (SOA) characterizes what the BA has been undertaking in the area of IT. A complete description of the architecture, from technical tasks right the way through to individual system component was carried out to achieve this.

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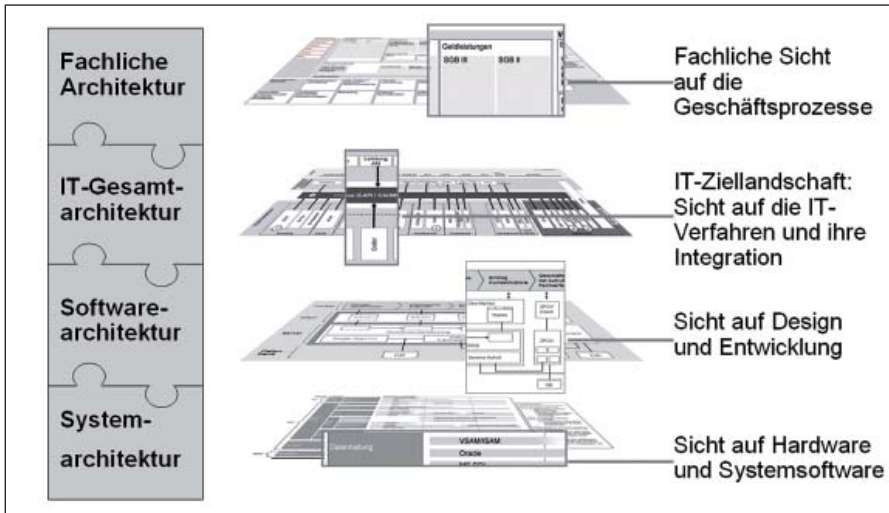


Fig. 1: Uniform Structuring of the IT Landscape and Operations

TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE describes the structure of the technology infrastructure using clearly-defined rules. It can be used as a common communication platform between the operation and IT sides and helps to recognize operational and technical redundancies. Mapping IT operations onto the technical architecture identifies deficits in the IT landscape.

The **ENTIRE IT ARCHITECTURE** describes the IT target landscape with the essential IT operations and their integration. IT operations are developed further and re-structured based on the target landscape. Reducing IT operations to their core function is an essential component for an IT landscape free of redundancies.

SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE determines reference architectures for the IT operations and identifies standards for software development.

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE determines architecture operations for components, infrastructure and system safety. Standards are identified for system software and hardware.

Objective of SOA Transformation:

- Simplify the IT landscape.
- Orchestration not implementation – SOA organizes connections and enables communication between applications to be controlled systematically.
- A more modular application landscape which leads to greater flexibility when reacting to new technical requirements.
- Avoid redundancies by using a greater number of recognizable components, e.g. assigning appointments or creating comments.
- Optimum support of new roles which have come about after the reforming

of the BA. So far, support is offered to all essential applications at the same time without interfaces supporting their specific workflows.

• Decoupling technical services means that technical migration is possible at a technical level. A high level of initial investment is required, which contains both technical and organizational components.

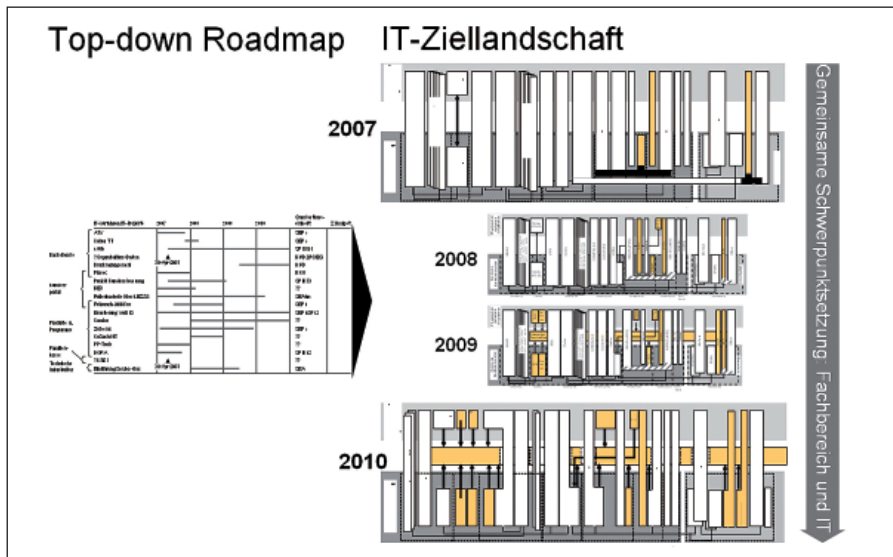


Fig. 2: Roadmap for Implementing the IT Target Landscape

Transformation Roadmap

The BA began implementing an SOA for essential business processes in 2006 and aims to complete the first phase with essential target architecture elements in 2010.

A target landscape was developed for all BA operations. This describes which services are provided in which IT operation and in which technology. A way of getting from the current actual state to the de-



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