



F E D E R A L
S T U D E N T A I D

We Help Put America Through School

Business-Technology Alignment (BTA)
Monthly Status Report

August 1, 2002
through
September 9, 2002



Support and Efforts

- The FSA Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) initiative provides for the following efforts:
 - Identify and research disruptive technologies, FSA enterprise project topics, and projects that have non-standard technical needs for the AWG agenda
 - Select, build and populate an FSA enterprise architecture support tool, to follow the modified Zachman framework
 - Maintain the Technology Policies, Standards and Products Guide, the Technology Infrastructure Blueprint document and TIB web site.



Between August 1, 2002 and September 9, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) has made significant progress collecting the information to populate the EA tool.

Activities: August 1, 2002 – September 9, 2002

Architecture Working Group (AWG) Activities

- Prepared for the AWG meetings scheduled for August 7 and 21. The August 21 meeting was held, while the August 7 meeting was postponed due to limited member availability.
 - Presentations included a project update of the planned future updates of the EAI environment and options for solving an application performance issues with Akamai product.
 - Presented the consolidated feedback to the AWG members for a verification and vote to adopt the new foci.
-

Architecture Support Group (ASG) Activities

- The Electronic Mass Mailing recommendations will be voted on at the next AWG meeting scheduled for September 11.
 - A core ASG group was identified to conduct technical reviews of new business cases to ensure the projects utilize FSA standards. Projects not using FSA standards will be, directed to the AWG for discussion.
-

Technology Infrastructure Blueprint

- The Technology Infrastructure Blueprint was updated and published on the FSA Net.
- Significant changes include the addition of systems to align with Target Architecture, validation of systems with project teams, reorganized the document to align with the break out in the Target Architecture and updated the logical models to include host names.



Between August 1, 2002 and September 9, 2002 the Business-Technology Alignment (BTA) remained operational.

Activities: August 1, 2002 – September 9, 2002 (continued)

Enterprise Architecture Tool

- Verified the tool was fully operational.
 - Continued working with Popkin on collecting the framework requirements.
 - Defined a reporting template to publish HTML reports.
 - Interviewed key FSA personnel to identify necessary artifacts to be populated into the tool.
 - Completed the Popkin training materials, coordinated training location and conducted the support tool training.
 - Received the ED LAN and VDC host accounts.
-

BTA General Improvements

- Continued to follow up with Shirley Singleton to replace Paul Stonner's seat on the AWG.
-

Other Areas

- Began developing the GUI template/Web Style Guide and procedures for web enabling documents.
- Submitted the FY'03 business case.



Issues and Risks.

August 1, 2002 – September 9, 2002

Enterprise Architecture level of effort is still unknown

- It is not known, at this point, the level of effort required to collect and categorize the artefacts, however, it is expected that the first two rows of the modified Zachman Framework will be populated by the end of the fiscal year. The first two rows are : Scope (contextual) and Enterprise Model (conceptual).
- A request for an updated copy of the Department of Education's modified Zachman framework went to Barry Stone on July 31. Updates to the framework were received August 8. No other updates for the framework have been received to date and the framework is frozen until October.



Planned activities for next month

September 10, 2002 – September 30, 2002

AWG Support - need to update

- Coordinate and conduct the next meeting (scheduled for September 11)
- Topics planned to be addressed during subsequent meetings:
 - Adoption of the Electronic Mass Mailing Recommendation
 - Updates to the FSA Security Policy
 - Content Delivery Network (CDN)
 - Software upgrades to the EAI environment
- Additional topics of enterprise interest could include an overview of wireless technology use as a selected disruptive technology topics

ASG Activities Support

- Ongoing coordination and support activities

GUI Guidelines/Web Style Guide for making documents accessible through a browser

- Communicate the GUI Guidelines/Web Style Guide with the Content Manage area.
- Complete and deliver the GUI Guidelines/Web Style Guide.

Enterprise Architecture Tool

- Continue collecting artefacts and populating the EA tool by meeting with key FSA personnel and reviewing project deliverables.
- Complete populating the first two rows of the framework with baseline information.
- Schedule the validation of the information with key FSA personnel.



Appendices

Appendix I:

- **Updated Project Plan for BTA Phase III**
- **AWG Meeting Materials for August**
- **Training Materials for the EA Tool**
- **EA Tool Report Template** (*see the readme.doc file for instructions*)