

Data Management for Modern EAs

How to reduce manual data work and get
time back to focus on business needs



EA is :

Painstaking



Time-consuming



Unappreciated



But...

It Shouldn't Be.



EA Data Management Doesn't Have to Be Painful



This guide outlines how modern Enterprise Architects should be spending less time manually wrangling data and more time delivering value to the business.

The data EAs need to drive initiatives is often spread out across disparate sources. Manually capturing, updating, and sharing this data steals valuable time, time that EAs could invest in strategic deliverables that aid the business.

But EAs now have the opportunity to **make manual data management a thing of the past** by following the approach outlined in this guide.

Top Challenges EAs Face in Managing Data

Without modern data management practices and tools, you may be experiencing problems like these.

Information is trapped in people's heads, not systems

Knowledge about the organization's processes and practices is not written down anywhere. Not only does this make it difficult to gather, but it can also be lost entirely when key staff members leave.

Data is hard to source, update, and verify

Inaccurate or incomplete data can't be trusted, and without the insights you need, it's hard to drive transformation.

Your EA tool is complex and unwieldy

Not all EA platforms are equal. Some of the big players can be highly technical for non-EA users, making it hard to share data and get stakeholders involved and interested.

Data is difficult to visualize and share

Even when you've gathered the right data, spreadsheets don't tell a story. The business wants easy-to-consume visuals, but creating these for different stakeholders takes time.



Approach

Start by Focusing on What the Business Cares About

The mission of EA isn't to be a massive data center or documentation hub. **This leads to unclear value and burnt-out architects stuck in brutal cycles of data collection and governance.** Instead, refocus on the problems stakeholders face and what the business needs. Some problems can be solved through “quick wins” achieved in the early stages of an EA programme. Others will take more time and effort to address.

Remember that **your goals will determine the data that is truly needed**, and your main constraint on delivering value is the data available to you.



Start by asking, ***“What are the outcomes the business wants?”*** That’s how you get alignment and sponsorship.

Mark Holt

Leader of Enterprise Architecture
and System Integration
Slalom Consulting



slalom

Getting Business Stakeholder Buy-In

A key challenge EAs face is getting the right data from the right people. Follow these steps to ensure you're able to get the data you need from stakeholders to address the business's needs.

Find out more about this framework, along with tips for engaging stakeholders in our **Building Better Business Stakeholder Relationships** guide.

Building Better Business Stakeholder Relationships

An Enterprise Architect's cheat sheet for knowing who your customers are and what they care about

[DOWNLOAD EBOOK NOW](#)



1 

Agree Business Priorities and the EA Value Narrative With Sponsors

2 

Understand the Needs and Priorities of Consumers

3 

Engage With Suppliers to Collect Data

4 

Use Wins to Show EA's Value to More Consumers

Auditing Your Data: 4 Questions to Answer

After determining what problems the business would like you to address, it's time to consider what data you have. You should have these questions in mind.

1 What data does the organization capture in existing tools?

2 Is this data relevant to addressing immediate business needs?

3 Can it all be maintained?

4 What are the organization's key gaps in data?

“

We are officially done with Excel and PowerPoint. **Ardoq is now the master.**

Johan Blom
Director & Local Partner
at Accenture



A Better Approach to Sourcing EA Data



Prioritize Quick Wins

Focus on the data that will help you quickly help you answer business questions.

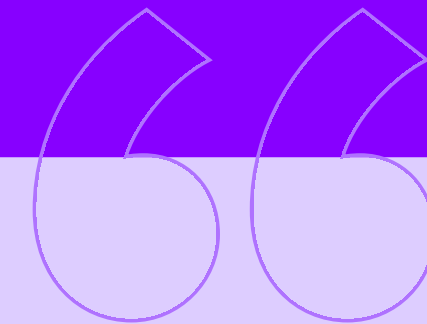
Partner With Your Boss to Communicate Data Needs

Ask your sponsors to formally request data from line of business owners, emphasizing its importance.



Crowdsource Data Collection

Use automated surveys to gather stakeholder-managed data and keep it fresh.



(Data Owners) aren't motivated to solve EA problems. But if it's the CTO's problem, they will.

James Tomkins

Senior Enterprise Architect
Ardoq



4 Ways Ardoq Can Help

Modern EA platforms, such as Ardoq, are designed to help business stakeholders make informed decisions while reducing the Enterprise Architect's manual workload. Less time spent creating and maintaining architecture means more time to align with the business and deliver meaningful change.

1 Real-time Integration & Insights

1

Goodbye to static spreadsheets. Integrating your data sources with a single source of truth means that updates occur in real-time, as they happen.

2 Automated Data Visualizations

2

No more time-intensive manual diagramming. Visualizations are generated and updated automatically based on the data.

3 Easy Data Sharing

3

Easily share these data-driven visualizations with stakeholders and cut out the risk of static, outdated charts.

4 Data Capture According To End Goals

4

Premade solutions guide what data to capture, enabling quick wins and business-transforming initiatives.

Moving to Ardoq Is Easy

Whether you're moving from an existing EA tool or starting from scratch with spreadsheets, our experienced Professional Services team will walk you through the process to get you up and running smoothly.

With hundreds of migrations under our belt, we can advise you how to get the most out of Ardoq and start providing value to your business.

“

Ardoq's onboarding approach and guidance made it **smoother and easier to integrate with their existing tools** than our previous EA solution.

Walter Hannemann
Head of Architecture, Data & AI
FLSmith



“

The onboarding in terms of training has been really good. We've had a lot of hands-on sessions aligned to the type of outcomes we're being asked for by the business.

Henrik Magnusson
Head of Architecture
Smartest Energy





See the **data-driven EA platform** that will help you make EA work for your business.

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