Martin Ehrlich • Rolf Knoll

ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE TOOL SURVEY 2015

EXTRACT

1 Summary

Enterprise Architecture Management (EAM) is a well-established discipline in many enterprises and is no longer restricted to the boundaries of the IT department. It covers the enterprise as it is meant to do. Also, it is integrated with other disciplines like strategic IT planning, portfolio management, or IT budgeting. A huge part of EAM's success in the last two decades is due to the increasingly powerful Enterprise Architecture Management Tools that make EAM more efficient and effective. But as multifaceted the EAM functions in different companies are, as multifaceted are the tools in the EAM tool market. There are many tools following different approaches and different philosophies. Combined with different levels of EAM maturity, this makes the EAM tool market confusing for the uninitiated.

This survey serves as an entry point for those wanting to find an EAM meeting their requirements. It also provides an overview over the tool market and tool strategies for tool providers.

2 About the survey and this extract

We invited more than fifty tool providers to participate in this survey, 19 of which agreed to take part. The following diagram is a result of our survey and charts the participating tools in the totality of implemented EAM functionality versus the establishment of the providing company and their tool in the market. There is no "king of EAM tools". The best tool is the tool that fits one's requirements.
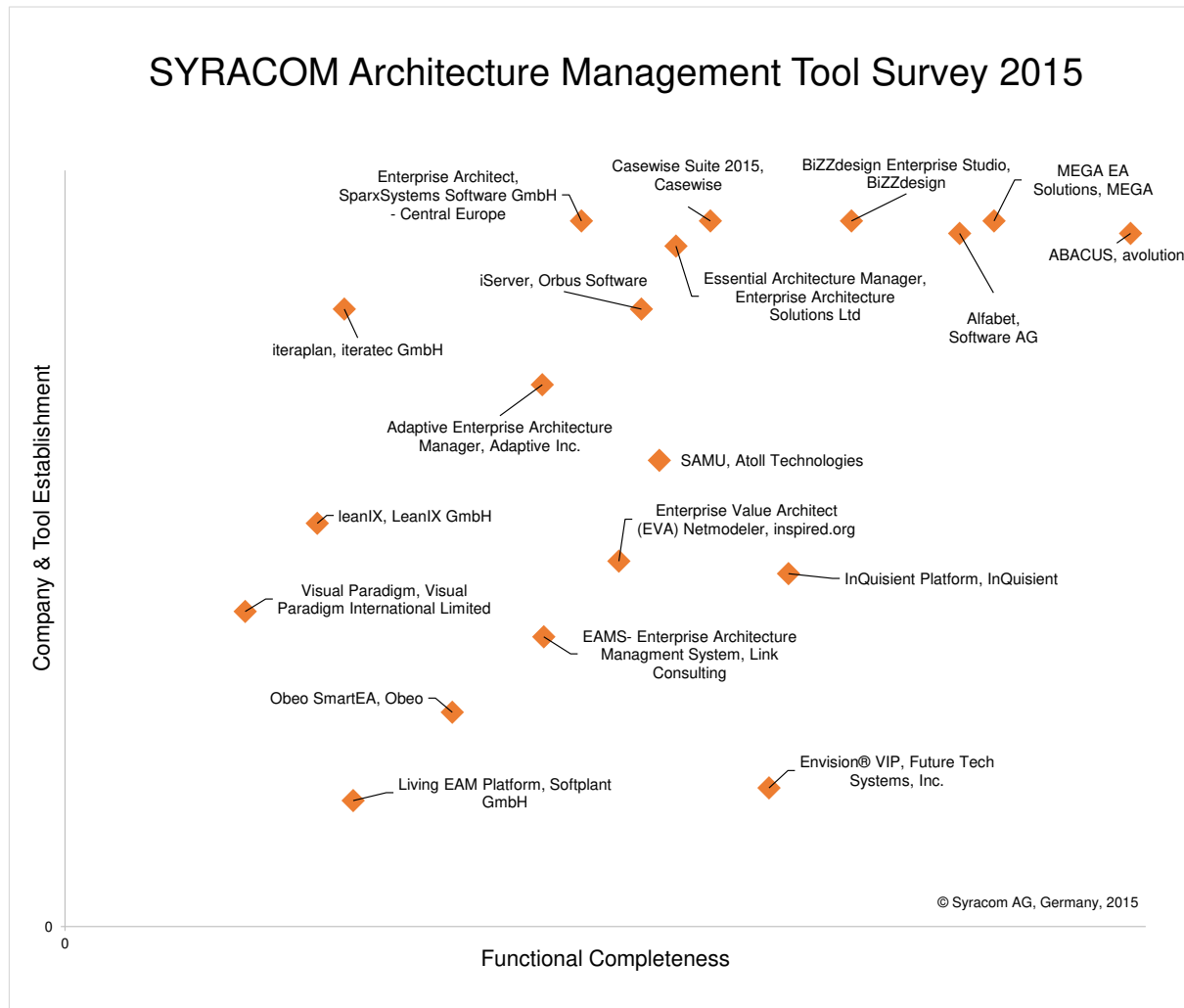

Figure 1: SEATS2015 – Result

The complete survey covers three lines of information
1. The tool-providing companies and their market
2. Aggregated results that focus on the support for EAM features without tool specifics
3. Detailed tool analysis in the SEAM categories (see chapter 4 SYRACOM Enterprise Architecture Method – SEAM)

This extract of the survey contains some of our findings and analysis. In the complete survey you will find:
1. Deeper analysis of the facts found in this extract
2. More information about the tool market and providers
3. The detailed scores of all the participating tools in all categories

The complete survey can be purchased at www.syracom.de.

3 Acknowledgements

We thank all participating tool providers for their support and open information policy.

4 SYRACOM Enterprise Architecture Method – SEAM

The tool survey was conducted using the SYRACOM Enterprise Architecture Management Method SEAM. SEAM comprises five conception areas *Strategy*, *Method*, *Organization*, *Deliverable*, and *Tool*. The SEAM framework is intended as a structure for the EAM capability of a company. In this survey it is used as a framework for a tool evaluation with a focus on how the EAM tool supports the different Conception Areas. The content of the Conception Areas was adapted to put a focus on the aspects that can be supported by a tool.

The SEAM Conception Areas were broken down into 16 categories that contained about 130 detailed questions. (Thanks to all participants for going through that heap of questions!)
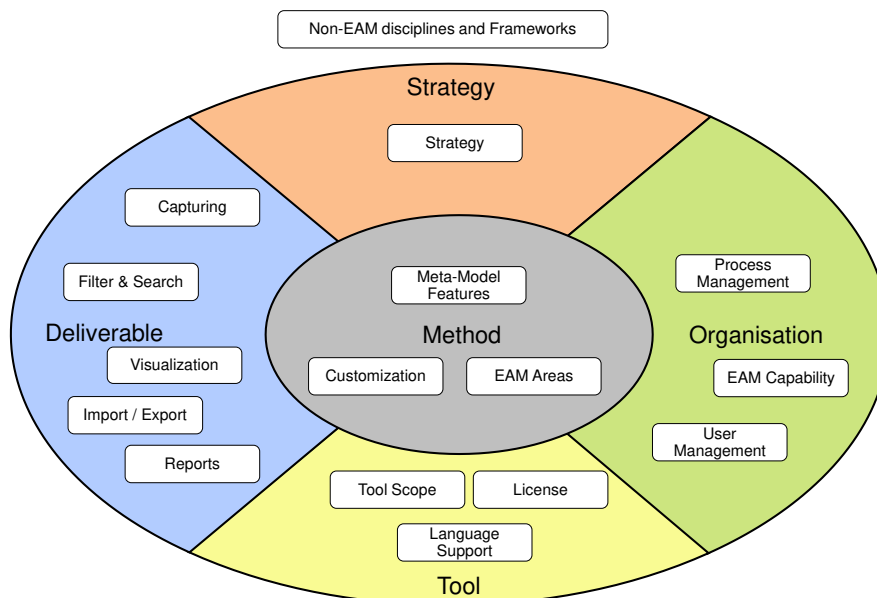

Figure 2: Adapted SEAM-Overview for this survey

All external influence factors are combined into one category *Non-EAM Disciplines and Frameworks*.

5 EAM Tool Market

Before we head into the tools' details we look into the information we received about the tool providers, their customers, markets, and tool philosophies.

5.1 The Participants

These companies participated in the survey.

Tool Developer	Country	Tool Name	In develop-ment since	Current Version	Next major release	Planned for
avolution	Australia	ABACUS	2001	4.4	4.5	12/2015
Adaptive Inc.	United States	Adaptive Enterprise Architecture Manager	2002	7	8	03/2016
Software AG	Germany	Alfabet	2005	9.8	9.9	10/2015
BiZZdesign	Netherlands	BiZZdesign Enterprise Studio	2000	4.7	5	12/2015
Casewise	United Kingdom	Casewise Suite 2015	1990	2015.2	2016	10/2015
Link Consulting	Portugal	EAMS- Enterprise Architecture Managment System	2010	14.2.1	15.1.0	11/2015
SparxSystems Software GmbH - Central Europe	Austria	Enterprise Architect	1995	12	13	02/2016
inspired.org	South Africa	Enterprise Value Architect (EVA) Netmodeler	2000	2.8	2.9	02/2016
Future Tech Systems, Inc.	United States	Envision® VIP	1987	10.8	11.0	09/2015
Enterprise Architecture Solutions Ltd	United Kingdom	Essential Architecture Manager	2006	4.3.1	5	11/2015
InQuisient	United States	InQuisient Platform	2005	7.1.9.4	10.0	11/2015
Orbus Software	United Kingdom	iServer	2004	2015	2016	03/2016
iteratec GmbH	Germany	iteraplan	2005	5.0.5	5.1	10/2015
LeanIX GmbH	Germany	leanIX	2012	1.18.1	1.19.0	11/2015
Softplant GmbH	Germany	Living EAM Platform	2014	1.0	1.1	01/2016
MEGA	France	MEGA EA Solutions	1991	V1R3	V2	06/2016
Obeo	France	Obeo SmartEA	2011	5.1.4	2.0	11/2015
Atoll Technologies	Hungary	SAMU	2003	5.46	5.5	11/2015
Visual Paradigm International Limited	Hong Kong	Visual Paradigm	2002	12.1	12.2	08/2015

Table 3: Table of participants

5.2 License & Costs

There are quite a few different license models. Most are based on user counts or tool (usage) features but some open source or free to use models are available, too.

We asked the tool providers for the costs of three different installation types ("Minimal Installation", "Typical Installation" and "Maximal Installation") for three different usage scenarios. Of course, these costs only include the costs paid to the tool provider. Internal project costs and external consulting costs for the implementation of the tool are not included here.

We found that it is possible to get an EAM tool running even for large user bases without any license costs. Open Source tools are available and provide high quality EAM support. However, open source tools are the minority and the most powerful tools are not open source.

The license costs for the three scenarios range from 0 to almost 1.5 million€

5.3 Company Type

What is the main source of income for the tool providers? Does the tool provider have some EAM consulting capability? Does the consulting company have a tool?
We asked the participants about the relevance of their different sources of revenue generated with the EAM tool. Most importantly we wanted to learn how important revenue from License & Support and EAM-Consulting is. To put this in context, we also asked about the relevance of revenue from the EAM tool in relation to the overall revenue of the company.
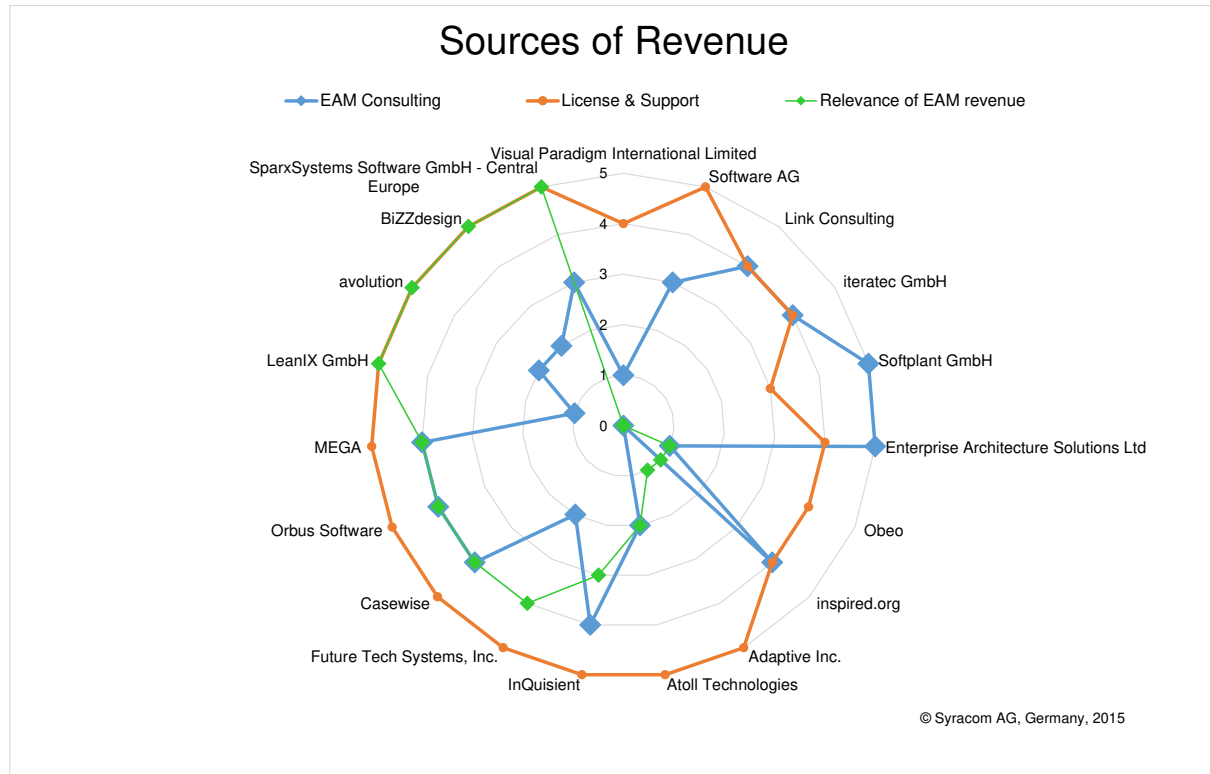

Figure 4: Sources of Revenue

We found that EAM tools are provided by very different kinds of companies. First there are the EAM-tool only companies. Second, there are companies that generate EAM revenue not only with the tool but also with EAM consulting. The third group of companies offers an EAM tool but EAM consulting is much less important.

5.4 Tool Philosophy

We asked one question about the tool's philosophy. The participants were asked to evaluate their tool strategy between two statements.

We already knew from experience that there are providers with a strict vision of what is basically required for an effective EAM. They usually put a lot of effort in implementing the perfect user experience in the uses cases they deem most important. This does not mean that these tools are not configurable. In fact, they can be very configurable within the use cases they provide and can be the perfect match for user requirements.
On the other hand, there are tools that cover every conceivable use case within reach of EAM. Often these tools include functionalities that do not directly belong to EAM like project management or process management. This sometimes, but not necessarily, leads to a less streamlined user experience because it is difficult to optimize every use case. The configurability of these tools is usually high.
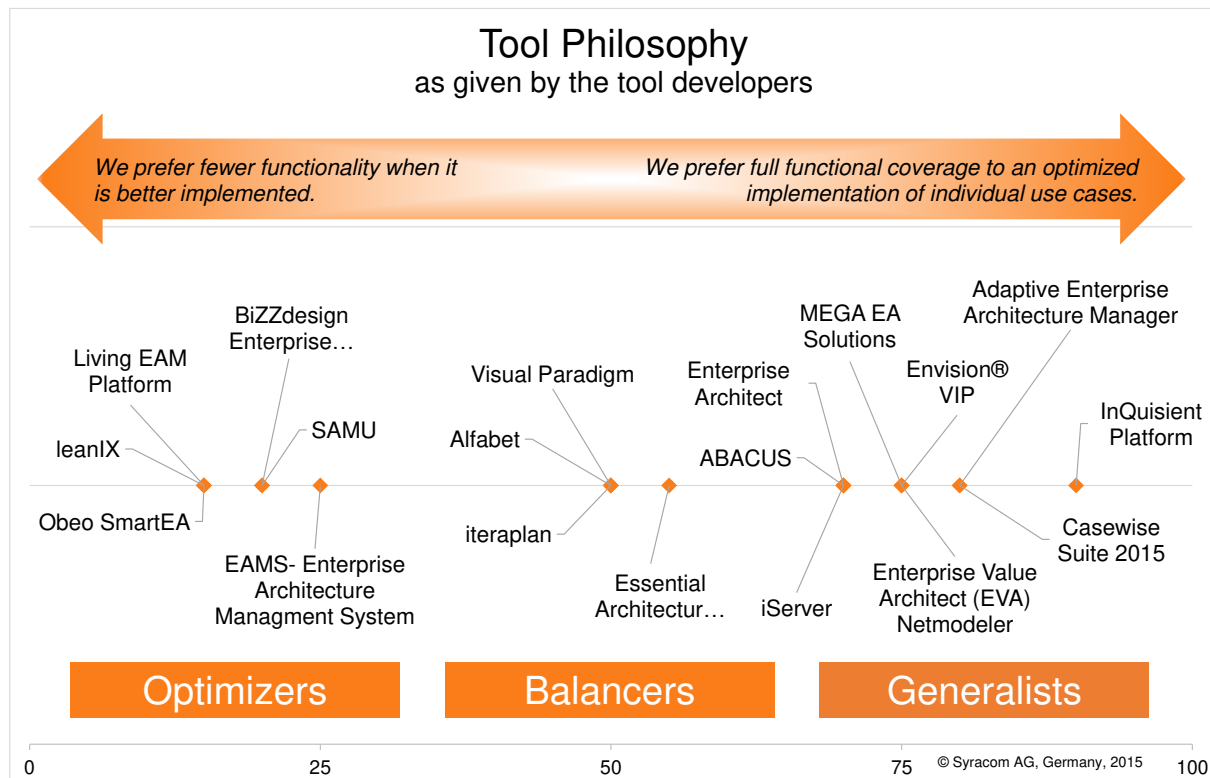
Figure 5: Tool Philosophy

We wanted to know whether these tool philosophy decisions have an impact on market penetration. Also we wanted to know whether the tool philosophy is an attribute of a certain generation of tools. The results are shown in the complete survey.

6 Results of the Tool Evaluation

Out of the about 130 questions we asked we generated about 90 different scores. These were weighted and aggregated into categories above. The scores in the categories were weighted and aggregated again into the SEAM Conception Areas.

We found the strongest support in the categories *Meta Model Features*, *Customization*, *EAM Areas,* and *Filter & Search*. This shows that the tool providers know what is needed for EAM and recognize that the requirements on Enterprise Architecture Management are different in different companies and that a tool needs to be customizable.
A little surprisingly we also found strong support in the category *EAM Capability* where many providers claim to have achieved high maturity. Here we suggest having a close look into the features if a company wants to use an EAM tool to support the development of an EAM function or the support for EAM standards.
We asked quite a lot about *visualizations*, *reports,* and *data capturing*. Since no tool can do everything, every tool lost some points somewhere. In general the support for these features is good.
Tool scope is a rather synthetic score that includes some aspects of the tools that cannot be grouped into another category.
Process Management support is a feature about half of the participants have mastered. Since you cannot do process management without some kind of user management, the scores in these categories match.
The low values in *License* are a result of our decision only to give "free to use" or open source license models a higher score. Since only a few tools provided these models, most tools got a low score.

The about 90 detailed scores of all 19 tools were aggregated into the next two tables. Remember: The best tool is the tool that is the best fit to one's requirements.
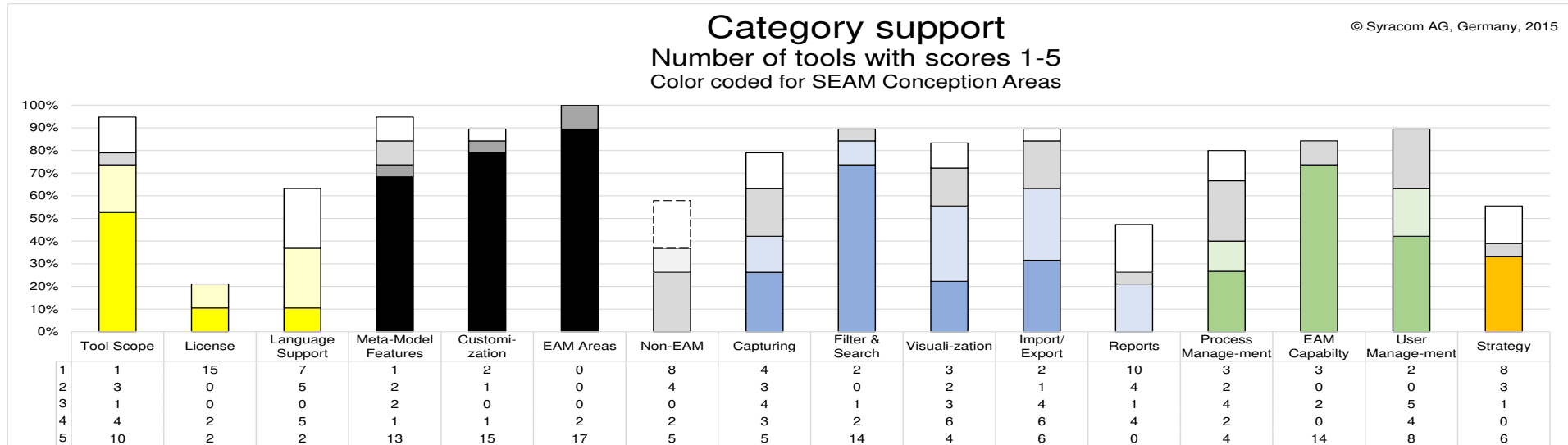
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6.1 Tool Scores

Category support
Number of tools with scores 1-5
Color coded for SEAM Conception Areas

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	Tool Scope	License	Language Support	Meta-Model Features	Customi-zation	EAM Areas	Non-EAM	Capturing	Filter & Search	Visuali-zation	Import/Export	Reports	Process Manage-ment	EAM Capabilty	User Manage-ment	Strategy
1	1	15	7	1	2	0	8	4	2	3	2	10	3	3	2	8
2	3	0	5	2	1	0	4	3	0	2	1	4	2	0	0	3
3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	3	4	1	4	2	5	1
4	4	2	5	1	1	2	2	3	2	6	6	4	2	0	4	0
5	10	2	2	13	15	17	5	5	14	4	6	0	4	14	8	6

Figure 6: Aggregation by Category

Scores by category — SYRACOM Enterprise Architecture Method Conception Areas

Tool Name	Tool Developer	Tool Scope	License	Language Support	Meta-Model Features	Customi-zation	EAM Areas	Non-EAM	Capturing	Filter & Search	Visuali-zation	Import/Export	Reports	Process Management	EAM Capabilty	User Management	Strategy
		Tool			**Method**			**Non-EAM**	**Deliverable**					**Organsiation**			**Strategy**
ABACUS	avolution																
Adaptive Enterprise Architecture Manage	Adaptive Inc.																
Alfabet	Software AG																
BiZZdesign Enterprise Studio	BiZZdesign																
Casewise Suite 2015	Casewise																
EAMS- Enterprise Architecture Managm	Link Consulting																
Enterprise Architect	SparxSystems Software GmbH - Central																
Enterprise Value Architect (EVA) Netmo	inspired.org																
Envision® VIP	Future Tech Systems, Inc.																
Essential Architecture Manager	Enterprise Architecture Solutions Ltd																
InQuisient Platform	InQuisient																
iServer	Orbus Software																
iteraplan	iteratec GmbH																
leanIX	LeanIX GmbH																
Living EAM Platform	Softplant GmbH																
MEGA EA Solutions	MEGA																
Obeo SmartEA	Obeo																
SAMU	Atoll Technologies																
Visual Paradigm	Visual Paradigm International Limited																

Figure 7: Aggregation by Category

7 About the Authors

7.1 Martin Ehrlich

Martin Ehrlich was the Head of Enterprise Architecture Management at a financial services enterprise for many years and was responsible for defining and establishing EAM. For the last two years he has been working as consultant for Enterprise Architecture Management, IT-Governance, and IT-Strategy. He focuses on the effective implementation and alignment of the IT function in the enterprise. Many of his projects are based on recognized frameworks like TOGAF 9.1 or COBIT 5. Additionally, he works as trainer for IT risk management with ISACA, Germany Chapter.

Currently he is Leading Consultant with SYRACOM Consulting AG.

7.2 Rolf Knoll

Rolf Knoll has been a consultant since 2006 with focus on EAM and was responsible for many successful EAM projects in different industries. He is a lecturer at multiple universities and a coach for EAM. He is actively working with Open Group on the advancement of the TOGAF standard. With more than 20 years of professional experience in IT architecture and development projects he is an expert in many IT areas.

Currently he is Managing Director with SYRACOM Consulting AG.

8 About SYRACOM AG

Founded in 1998, the SYRACOM group is an independent business and IT consultancy which focuses on the design and implementation of efficient and sustainable business processes. Based on their profound industry knowledge, besides Enterprise Architecture Management (EAM), further fields of competences of SYRACOM are: business engineering, enterprise performance management, project management, as well as application management, development, and integration.

9 Copyright

10 Disclaimer

All information about the companies and tools is taken directly from the answers of the participants. Only obvious misspellings and incorrect data formats have been corrected tacitly. Every effort has been made by the authors to avoid incorrect usage of information. Where we analyzed the results and drew conclusions, the used method and reasoning is described.
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