IT Architecture Management

Defining, planning and controlling the IT architecture

PostFinance

Company Profile

PostFinance, financial service provider of the Swiss Post, has been providing comprehensive cross-border payment systems since 1906. They offer professional and personal financial products in the fields of payments, investments, financing and retirement planning.

The information technology department of PostFinance deals with the development and operation of more than 100 applications. Together the applications handle up to 19 million transactions per day amounting to approximately 907 million transactions a year.

PostFinance manages the IT Architecture based on well-established processes, bridging the gap between strategy and operation. With their IT Architecture programme, PostFinance pursues sustainable development of information technology well-aligned to the business and strategy as well as the control of complexity of the IT landscape.

Facts and figures:

Company name
PostFinance
Headquarters
Berne, Switzerland
Employees
approx. 3900
Industry
Financial Services
Website
www.postfinance.ch
Managed accounts
approx. 4 m.

« Our requirements for ADOIT regarding adaptive metamodeling and decentralized role-based user access were challenging. »

(Reto Peter, PhD, Head IT Architecture management office)

Main requirements within the IT Architecture Management at PostFinance

Through years of experience in applying IT Architecture management at PostFinance, specific needs and issues that could not be solved adequately by the previous solution were addressed.

Adaptive Metamodeling

An important requirement for PostFinance was the ability to adapt the metamodel in such a way that established terms can be reused, leading to a better acceptance among the users. ADOIT's comprehensive metamodeling capability supports PostFinance to fully integrate their information model into the IT Architecture approach.

Single source of truth

Keeping architecture information up to date is imperative to PostFinance. ADOIT's manifold functions makes it the single source of truth for architecture information. ADOIT constantly provides various types of exports that other applications can use for further data processing. In cases, where ADOIT is not the leading system, data is imported from other applications and updated daily in ADOIT. For example: information concerning infrastructure elements or project information.

Easy to use for stakeholders

The stakeholders involved in the IT Architecture programme were identified early in the process. This being the case, it was easy to adapt all the different roles, access rights, views and reports in ADOIT. This procedure was essential to the stakeholders of the IT Architecture programme, because it improved the way they manage users and user groups, and increased usability.

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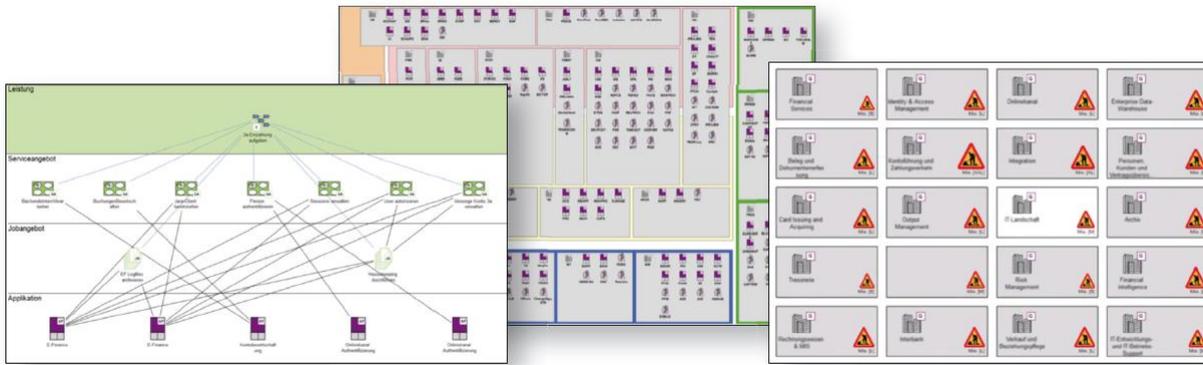
Life cycle Management

In order to realize a '4 eye principle' and therefore to ensure a sufficient data quality, PostFinance needed to be able to control every change made to the architecture content. The customized ADOIT version of PostFinance provides two different life cycle models - one for application and service architectures and one for planning architecture. These models provide different life cycle states for architecture elements and procedures for the management of objects.

Release-based Deployment

Release management at PostFinance is based on "logical launch times". For example, an architecture element will be released in RE13A, which means the first release in 2013. The logical launch times are integrated both in the mentioned life cycle management as well as other ADOIT scenarios where the time filter is used.

Web-based access to the IT Architecture repository

The ADOIT content is visible to all PostFinance employees. Easy access is granted through the ADOIT web client, which is integrated into the identity management system of PostFinance. The so-called author and examiner work areas are also available in the ADOIT web client.

Reporting

In addition to ADOIT standard views such as matrix, portfolio, or business impact analysis, there are also additional PostFinance-specific reports available, such as automated generation of "district maps" or special views showing the dependency between applications. These types of reports are completed with various tabular reports.

« With ADOIT we are able to improve the planning, the operation and the financial contracting of our IT landscape. »

(Reto Peter, PhD, Head IT Architecture management office)

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