



Welcome

Introduction to the Information Architect

- What is an Information Architect (IA)?
- Classes of Information architects
- Responsibilities of the IA

Hello and welcome to this You Tube presentation on the Introduction to the Information Architect. My name is Charles Richter and I am the principal consultant for Ripose Pty Limited.

In my first You Tube presentation, in which I introduced the Ripose Technique, I mentioned that I would be delivering a number presentations on responsibilities of the various classes of IAs.

In this presentation I will describe, what in my opinion, an information architect is. I will then identify the 4 classes of IAs and then proceed to define the responsibilities of the information architect.



What is an Information Architect?

An information architect is a person who is capable of expressing “a model or concept of diverse (things)” subjects and objects “used in activities that require explicit details of complex systems”.

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So what exactly is an Information Architect? I Googled the word and the closest reference I could find was Wikipedia’s definition of information architecture.

So I added the words “An information architect is a person who is capable of”, I also replaced the word ‘things’ with ‘subjects and objects’ and hence arrived at the definition that states an information architect is a person who is capable of expressing a model or concept of diverse subjects and objects used in activities that require explicit details of complex systems”. It would appear from this definition that the information architect is a complex individual, analysing and describing complex organisms.

However by using a well known technique of analysing a complex object, ‘divide & conquer’ it may be plausible to describe an Information Architect in terms of their sub categories or classes.



Classes of Information architects

Classes: Google or Bing the words *industry standards*

[See:](#)

1. Business architect - BizA
2. Business Information Technology architect - BITA
3. Technology architect - TA
4. Test architect

My first task was to identify what I understood an information architect ought to be in context with the roles that industry standards appeared to define.

So Googling the word industry standards I found a Wikipedia reference which stated “*using industry standards (A technical standard which may be developed privately or unilaterally, for example by a corporation, regulatory body, military, etc. Standards can also be developed by groups such as trade unions, and trade associations. Standards organizations often have more diverse input and usually develop voluntary standards: these might become mandatory if adopted by a government, business contract, etc)*”

This gave little solace, but perseverance on my part led me conclude that the 4 classes of Information Architects were:

- The business architect – who is business centric;
- The business information technology architect, who is both business and technology centric
- the Technical architect – who is technology centric
- and
- The Test architect – who examines the results of technology to ensure that the outcomes meet the conceptual business requirements. Test architects are mainly business centric, but need some technological know how



Responsibilities of an Information Architect

Responsibilities:

- Develop the conceptual business requirements (corporate plan aka strategic plan – proof of concept)
- Develop the logical business requirements (proof of logic)
- Develop and test the physical business requirements (proof of physical)

Skills: Business architect; Business Information Technology architect; Technical architect; Test architect

Ripose architect grade 0

The responsibilities of the information architect are as broad and deep as the definition – namely those of a person capable of expressing a model or concept of diverse subjects and objects used in activities that require explicit details of complex systems. So what are some of the ‘diverse subjects and objects of a concept or model? To begin with, in my previous presentation, I mentioned the three phases any idea needs to traverse in order to prove or disprove its veracity – namely concept, logical and physical. Therefore an IA needs all the skills to develop all the ipos in order to deliver a favourable outcome. The responsibilities of the IA are

1) Develop the conceptual business requirements (corporate plan aka strategic plan – proof of concept); 2) Develop the logical business requirements (proof of logic) and 3) Develop and test the physical business requirements (proof of physical).

This means that the IA needs the skills of all its classes namely:

The business architect; the business information technology architect; the technical architect as well as; The test architect.

Hence to become an IA takes time and experience, however with the right training a dedicated person could become a good IA (or Ripose architect grade 0) in one or two years. As far as I am aware there are no university courses that cover the breadth and depth of this ‘mythical’ person, however Ripose has the courses and the abilities to train the first 3 classes of the IA. These courses can be delivered over the internet using the features of Skype (one of which enables the participants view the screen of the lecturer). The next series of presentations will cover the responsibilities of each of the IA classes.



Close

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The next lecture will address the responsibilities of the Business architect, followed by the responsibilities of the BITA and the TA.

Thank you for viewing this presentation

In closing I would like to thank you for viewing this presentation. The pdf of this presentation is available (at a small fee) should you want to assist us further the aims of Ripose.com and especially Ripose.org. You can find the aims of [ripose.org](#). You can reach me by sending [me an e mail](#).

The next lecture/presentation will cover the topic of the responsibilities of the Business architect. Once again, thank you for your attention.