

HealthBase Enterprise Architecture – A Nation Wide Approach

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Abstract

HealthBase Enterprise Architecture is a tool developed for the New Zealand Health Sector based on industry best practice. The HealthBase vision is to provide an Enterprise Architecture that is open source for the public health sector community, who can share and contribute to HealthBase, using the agreed governance structure and rules.

HealthBase creates a common vocabulary to support the sharing of knowledge, technology experiences and information in a standardized format between Health Sector ICT teams, and to allow scarce skills and resources to be shared across the Health Sector. HealthBase captures business needs and requirements and aligns with business strategy at an enterprise level, whether that be at a single organisation, regional or national level. Using HealthBase to drive standardized technology a minimal component set is established, reducing complexity and in turn reduces risk and cost. This approach also provides the business with flexibility and faster time to market for new clinical and demands.

Currently HealthBase has been adopted by a number of DHB's and has the strong support of the Ministry of Health, and rollout is continuing to the rest of the health sector. A Governance Group has been formed and is chaired by the Ministry of Health, to own and drive the use of HealthBase in the sector. Regional Review Boards are in place to drive architectural thinking at a regional level.

This presentation provides an insight into HealthBase Enterprise Architecture by showing the framework and methodologies such as transformation plans, standards, and reference architectures, with specific examples of how this has been used in the Health Sector.

1. HealthBase Benefits

Health Sector Organisations need to benefit from getting it right first time and reusing other Health Sector Organisations experiences. For this to be achieved a shared understanding of the desired technology future state and technology transformation plans, that will achieve that are required. By sharing information and doing work only once we can all save time and money. HealthBase is a tool that is achieving these efficiencies in the Health Sector.

2. Enterprise Architecture

Enterprise Architecture offers a model which connects business objectives to information technology strategy, and creates a formal communication structure to support the attainment of a common vision.

Enterprise Architecture is as much about bringing about progressive business change as it is about the development of information technology. The focus is on creating long term, and significant, business benefit through incrementally improving the operations of the enterprise in terms of its people, process and technology. Enterprise Architecture decomposes the enterprise in terms of its business, application, information, technology and security architectures to understand how the business currently operates and mapping out development opportunities.

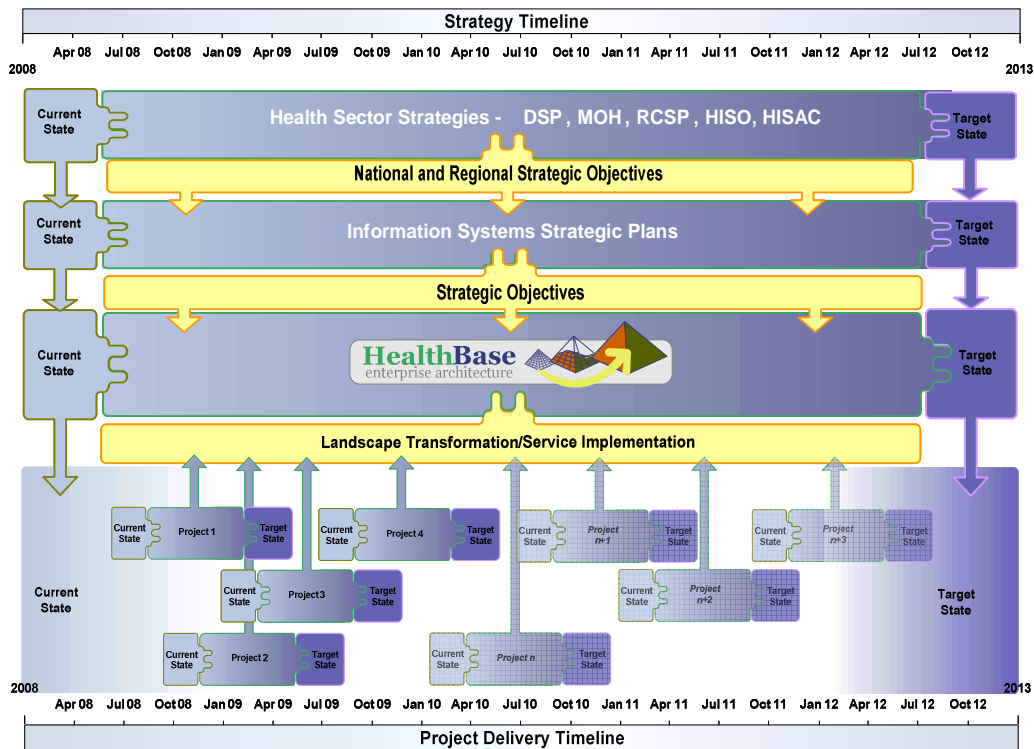


Figure 1 - The role of HealthBase in strategy, planning and implementation

3. HealthBase

HealthBase Enterprise Architecture documents the current state of a technology environment and by understanding business and clinical strategic requirements, defines future technology states. The creation of transformation plans allows projects to deliver ICT solutions that are business aligned, and reduces costs and improves the speed that ICT services are delivered.

Figure 1 shows the relationship between business and information system strategy, Healthbase Enterprise Architecture and ICT project alignment. The diagram also shows that by creating transformation plans that satisfy business strategic objectives, ICT projects are delivering solutions that will allow the business to move smoothly through an aligned change to the target state.

4. Current Status

The HealthBase Governance Group is chaired by the Ministry of Health and has been running since February 2009. Review Boards have been formed providing regional architecture teams that own and drive the use of HealthBase at a regional and local organisational level. As an example of the type of benefits that can be delivered through HealthBase the Midland Region Review Board is currently working on a Regional Data Network based on an agreed HealthBase Regional Network Reference Architecture.