

Archi Supports the Government of New Brunswick's EA Program

As a consultant working with the Office of the CIO in the Canadian province of New Brunswick, I introduced ArchiMate as the recommended modeling notation for developing a Business Architecture framework. Since they had no "official" tool in place I also introduced them to Archi (<http://www.archimatetool.com>, an open source implementation of ArchiMate) as a means to learn the language and start on the development of some Business Architecture models. Archi is very easy to install and much quicker to learn than most of the commercial tools (e.g. Sparx EA) I have worked with. It also had "just enough" functionality to support our modelling needs at the time. Archi's CSV import/export functionality allowed us to quickly import model content from external sources as well as utilize an export-update-import approach to manage bulk updates to the model. Its support for the Open Group's ArchiMate Model Exchange File format further guarantees the portability of model files and mitigates the risk of vendor lock-in. Its sole limitation is that it does not support external image files in a diagram.

The key deliverables for the project included a Business Capability Map which was developed as a hierarchical, nested diagram based on a set of ArchiMate "business function" elements. Since ArchiMate 2.1 does not include a "capability" element, we followed the prevailing practise of using the "business function" element for this purpose. We also used the Jasper Reports module included with Archi to generate a supporting Business Capability Reference document which contained the capability descriptions, as well as other supporting information.

New Brunswick is officially bilingual (English/French) so we were required to publish these deliverables in both official languages. Please refer to the following links to view the resulting deliverables – the Business Capability Map and Reference Model are accessible via the "Quick Links" section on each page:

www.gnb.ca/OCIO

- English Capability Map
- English Capability Reference

www.gnb.ca/BCSI

- French Capability Map
- French Capability Reference

Note: The following techniques were used to produce these artifacts.

- Capability Map was created as an ArchiMate view and then the diagram was exported as a PDF file.
- Pages that include graphics were created using blank Business Canvas pages.
- The Provincial logo was added to the PDF using the open-source Inkscape graphics editor (<https://inkscape.org>).
- The Reference document was 100% generated from Archi using a customized set of Jasper control files.
- The Jasper report was generated in MS Word format in order to fine tune page breaks and add headers and footers.
- User-defined properties for "French:name" and "French:documentation".were added to the French versions.
- The model was exported to CSV files, using some Excel tricks to swap the French and English values, and re-imported to Archi before repeating the above steps.