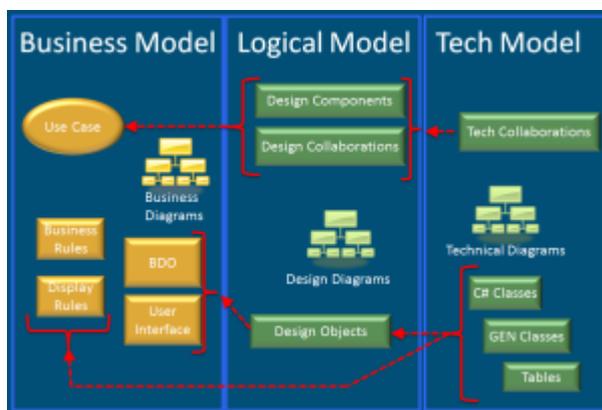


Catch has been running Enterprise Architect User Groups down here in APAC for a few years and I have been to almost every one. And yet... I never fail to be amazed by the awesome things that Enterprise Architect users are doing with the software. For those of you outside of the region (or those of you in New Zealand and Australia who haven't come along to a group yet), I thought I would give you a quick run down of some of the presentations we have seen in the past few months.

## USING EA FOR PRODUCING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

Without a doubt this has to be the best Enterprise Architect presentation I have ever been to. And the fact that our ninety minute user group ran over by nearly two hours must mean that those who were there agree.



The team at [DEEWR](#) in Canberra (John Paul de Sousa and [Aggie Zubowicz](#)) has done some amazing things with Enterprise Architect. They have added a lot of custom-developed plugins to extend the core functionality of the software and are using it, in perhaps the broadest way I have ever seen, across their Employment Systems Group. [Enterprise Architect](#) and its extensions manage everything, from project tracking and UI design specifications through to test execution and documentation. The team have quarterly releases of the projects being run

in Enterprise Architect – all employment policy initiatives within the Federal Government – and are continually evolving their use of the software.

For a summary of how DEEWR are using Enterprise Architect and to get a sense of how they have extended its functionality, [check out this presentation](#).

## CHANGE MANAGEMENT AND ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT

Enterprise Architect at another government department, but this time down in Wellington. [Matthew Wyatt](#) at Cubic Consulting gave a great presentation about how Enterprise Architect can be used to generate operational procedures and policy documents. Matt demonstrated some great results using native functionality, producing documents from the models that can be used and consumed by the business.

Unfortunately, I can't share the presentation for this one, but suffice to say that there are some great results to be had and the discussion was lively. It was clear that the native Enterprise Architect functionality is great, but the consensus from the group was that eaDocX really makes it fly. Whether you agree or not, [eaDocX](#) is well worth having a look at!

## USING ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT ACROSS THE BUSINESS

I have seen this presentation a few times – it is one that we use internally here at [Catch](#) to explain how broadly Enterprise Architect can be used – and it sparks great discussion every time. It is always

interesting to take Enterprise Architect out of the technical realm, consider how it can be used more broadly across the organisation, and how the project and governance models tie into the tooling.

If you want a quick summary of what it's all about, [check out the user group presentation](#).

## TOOLS & METHODS SUPPORTING CROSS AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY

---

This is a great initiative by Australian Federal Government and one that I am excited to see the results of in the coming months and year. Back in September [Brian Stonebridge](#) presented on the cross-agency initiative that the Australian Federal Government are currently undertaking and Enterprise Architect is central to this. They are aiming to move towards a platform where government agencies can share information, collaborate on projects, share models and entities, and more...

As far as user groups go, this topic was at a much higher level than we would usually address. In fact, our speaker spent no time in the software. What we did have though was a long, detailed, and frank discussion between a senior manager and the business analysts and architects at the coal face, discussing the need for interoperability, the value proposition, the scope of this initiative, and how it will work in practice. Based on the discussions in the room that night, there seems to be some exciting potential here and I look forward to an update at a future user group.

## SPARX & ATLISSIAN - THE GREAT AUSSIE DUO!

---



Being situated in New Zealand, we can't help but feel a little bit proud of our partners '[across the ditch](#)' who are doing so well on the world stage. At our most recent user group, in Canberra, Bryce Day presented on the combined Sparx Systems and [Atlassian](#) toolset and it sounds like it was a great event. I didn't get to this user group (a shame as I love catching up with the guys in Canberra), but I wanted to mention it as the topic is near and dear to our hearts and it provides a great example of how these tools can be used together to create an end-to-end solution.

Whatever your tooling preferences, the underlying principles that [Bryce](#) discusses – integrating your software, to minimize waste and increase reuse – are ones you can't argue with.

[Have a look at the presentation](#) and let us know your thoughts – we'd love to hear them!

## SUMMARY

---

This is just a selection of the groups I have attended and been involved in in the past few months and they all stand out for different reasons. The overarching thing that I love to see though, is the Enterprise Architect community coming together to share ideas, learn from each other's experiences, and discuss how to do things better. I learn something from each and every user group I attend and would strongly recommend that you [come along to the next one in your region](#).

For those of you who are too far away, seek out a user group in your region or start one yourself and see what a difference it can make!

Author: Stacy Busek, Communications Manager