

Spotlight On

Information Architecture

Presented by
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A Little About Me

- ▣ Technology professional with 18 years experience in project management, custom application development, visual production and corporate training.
- ▣ AIIM Certified Enterprise Content Management Practitioner
- ▣ Currently IT Project Manager & SharePoint Architect for Skechers USA, a global footwear manufacturer
- ▣ 10 Years as a content management specialist for legal and government industries
- ▣ Principle Enthusiast at SharePointStrategist.com
- ▣ Vice Chair of SPUGS.org, non-profit dedicated to promoting SharePoint User Groups



Enterprise Balancing Act



Elements of Good Architecture

Interactive structure – not static

Informs a user of data or system state by design

Periodically reviewed for accuracy and relevancy

Taxonomy is not architecture – don't miss the big picture for the minutiae



The Right Resources



Define Your Purpose

- Probably won't have this stated when you start
- Much like a mission statement or business objective
- Keep it simple – it should be easily understandable by non-technical people

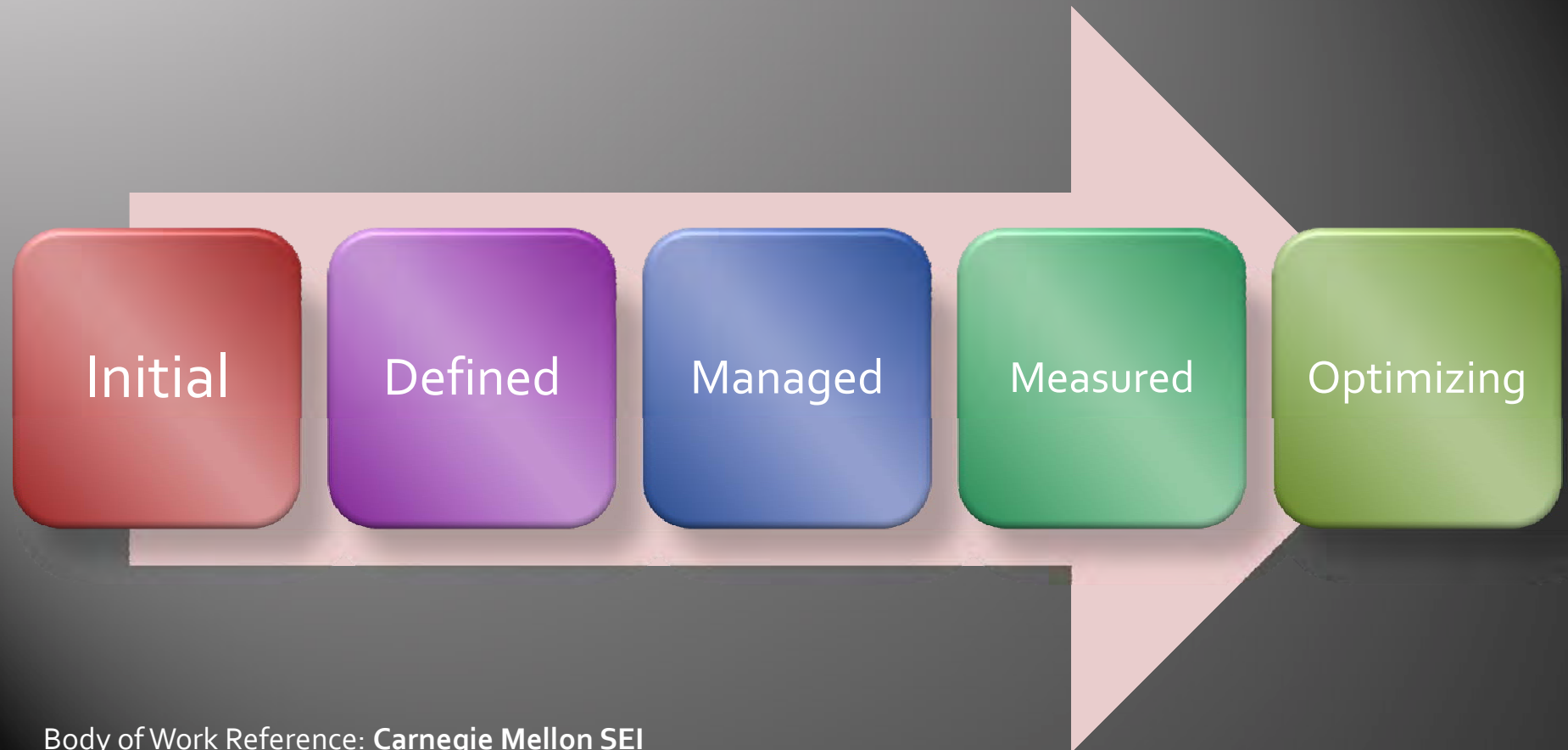
Examples:

- To increase greater collaboration across business units
- To implement a create-once-use-many best practice
- QUIT e-mailing spreadsheets!**



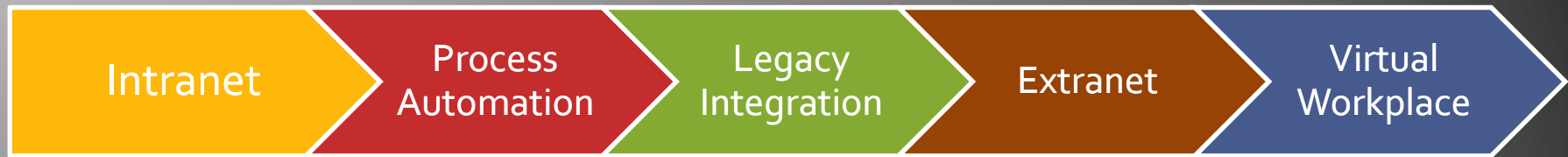
Existing State: Know Where You're At

Capability Maturity Model (CMMI)



Body of Work Reference: Carnegie Mellon SEI
<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/cmmi/general>

Define Your Scope



For this discussion IA Scope is applying to SharePoint only

Enterprise IA includes infrastructure and other elements

Virtual Workplace → central access point to author, consume and interact with corporate data regardless of format or location.

Architecture Considerations

- ▣ **Taxonomy** - How you classify data as expressed through:
 - Database & web app design
 - Content types
 - Custom columns
 - Other metadata
- ▣ **Legacy Integration**
 - Links to external databases & other LOB apps
- ▣ **Data Conversions**
 - Unstructured to Structured Data
 - File Stores



Compliance & Governance

- ▣ Information retention policy
 - Document & data life cycles
- ▣ Legal (litigation & other requirements)
- ▣ Executive management review/approval
- ▣ Enterprise change management policies
- ▣ SOX
- ▣ HIPPA

Each consideration can be handled by defining metadata with associated workflows, audit trails, publishing sites, content expiration and a taxonomy that identifies the owners & categorization of content.



SharePoint Feature Mapping

- ▣ Web Application
- ▣ Audiences
- ▣ Site Collection Type
 - Quotas
- ▣ Site Columns
- ▣ Content Types
- ▣ UI – Master & Content Pages
- ▣ Lists & Libraries
 - Views
- ▣ Web Parts
- ▣ Alerts



Example Architecture

- Web Application –
 - Single by Port
 - Separate administration web app
- Audiences – by department or security group
- Site Collection Type – Publishing / Team
 - Quotas – based on SQL db architecture
 - Per Department is standard
- Site Columns (Metadata)
 - Document Type or Category
 - Department
- Content Types (General to Specific)
 - Media Files
 - Published
 - WIP
 - Or by more detailed type
- UI – Master & Content Pages
- Lists & Libraries
 - Views
- Web Parts
- Alerts

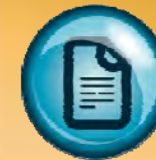


Web
Front
End



Web
Application

Metadata, Content Types, UI



Site Collections



User
Experience

Example Architecture



Dual Web Front Ends
Failover; load
balancing



Multiple Web
Application by
Function

Metadata, Content Types, UI



Site Collections



Varied
User
Experience

Extended Considerations

- ▣ Process Automation & Legacy Integrations require additional connectivity & resources
 - Document & data life cycles
- ▣ Evaluate ECM Software to identify features & tools that will help you to implement & enforce your policies.
 - See SharePoint Feature Map
- ▣ Use visual workflow tools to show lifecycles (Visio or Mind mapping software)
- ▣ Add complexity by iteration



Resources

- ▣ Microsoft TechNet
 - Architecture & Deployment tools
- ▣ MVP Community
- ▣ My Blog: SharePointStrategist.com
- ▣ Peers
- ▣ Training

