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APPENDIXES

Template for Technical Evaluation and Ranking of Architecture Viability

Enterprise Architects often face the challenge of assessing the complex products, solutions, or components for their fitness to the problem at hand. Also, we may have to select the best solution out of competing several.

We aim to quantify sometimes-elusive qualitative features and criteria, and to make them comparable on the same scale. Assessments for some features may become showstoppers that can take the solution out of the race altogether.

We should take the final numbers with the grain of salt though, especially if scores are very close. At the very least, Assessment Table is a good vehicle for guiding the discovery of the solution features, and for identifying gaps in our understanding of the proposed solution (and, sometimes, in our understanding of the problem as well).

You may wish to modify this table to fit your Feasibility Assessment better, or to devise your own template based on the presented simple basic example.

Business and Technical Requirements for your project will guide you in populating the model spreadsheet with sought-after features and their weights, and formulas for calculating totals from entered scores. Quality Measures from this book will provide a good starting point in populating your table.

Template for the Architecture and Feasibility Assessment Table for the evaluation of particular Solution or Product may vary from project to project. Your final version for the evaluation checklist will depend on the scale of the problem, priorities and the operating environment in the context of your enterprise.

Also, most likely, your evaluation checklist will have finer granularity, with Quality Measures expanded and elaborated.

Do not get carried away with weights and scores though. Your qualitative observations, captured during the discovery of products' features, could influence your decision in the final analysis to the great extent. Therefore, make sure you neatly collate your valuable observations as you go, reading the documentation, querying vendors, interviewing references – from every member of the evaluation team.

Compliance Criteria or Feature	Weight	Score
Functional Requirements Fulfilment Completeness		
Function 1		
…		
Function N		
Non-Functional Requirements and Quality Measures		
Platform (Server, OS, ORB, TPM, Application Server)		
Costs of implementation and TCO, savings and profits		
Performance		
Time to Market		
Scalability		
Availability and Business Continuity		
Security and Privacy		
Separation of Concerns, Layering and Partitioning		

Adherence to Industry and Enterprise Standards and Best Practices		
Re-use and Integration with other parts of Enterprise Architecture		
Skills availability and re-use in the Enterprise		
Maturity of the Product		
Support from vendor and local presence		
Extensibility		

Specific products and solutions may present a complex mesh of benefits and drawbacks.
Making decision or technical recommendation becomes a very tough task. It helps to summarise for every prospective solution in-question the major points for consideration in the form of more qualitative SWOT Analysis table (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats).

Strengths	**Weaknesses**
S.01	*W.01*
S.02	*W.02*
…	…
Opportunities	**Threats**
O.01	*T.01*
O.02	*T.02*
…	…

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