

Code of Ethics FEAPO

Release 1.1

1. Preface

1.1. Vision and Purpose

As Enterprise Architects, we are committed to integrity and competence. We set standards for ourselves and we aspire to meet these standards in all aspects of our lives—at work, at home, and in service to our profession. This Code of Ethics describes the expectations that we have of ourselves and our fellow practitioners.

The purpose of this Code is to instill confidence in the Enterprise Architecture profession and to help an individual become a better practitioner. We believe that the credibility and reputation of the profession is shaped by the collective conduct of individual practitioners. (PMI, 2007)

We believe that we can advance our profession, both individually and collectively, by embracing this Code of Ethics. We also believe that this Code will assist us in making decisions, particularly when faced with difficult situations where we may be asked to compromise our integrity or our values.

1.2. Persons to Whom the Code Applies

1.2.1. The Code of Ethics applies to all FMO members, delegates and agents.

1.2.2. It is recommended for individuals who are not members of an FMO but meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Non-members who hold an Enterprise Architecture certification
- Non-members who apply to commence an Enterprise Architecture certification process
- Non-members who serve the Enterprise Architecture profession in a volunteer capacity
- Anyone holding the title of Enterprise Architect.

This is not meant to replace current ethics statements of FEAPO member organizations only to augment already adopted statements or to provide principles for members as a starting point to provide consistency for organizations that employ or contract Enterprise Architects.

1.3. Structure

The Code of Ethics is divided into principles that contain statements which are aligned with the 'Elements of Ethics' (Johnson & Ridley), that were identified as most important to the Enterprise Architecture community. The document includes a bibliography to site references used to build this document. Finally, a glossary can be found at the end. The glossary defines words and phrases used in the Code.

2. Implementation

Ethics is the basis of conduct, which is perceived through individual morality and society's norm of what is "good or bad", "right or wrong". In another word, "conduct" is based on "ethics" which is based on "morality". The following diagram illustrates an ethical framework:



Figure 1 - Ethical Framework

Morality determines what the professionals, as a group, think is the moral boundaries of the profession.

A code of ethics establishes whether an activity is right or wrong. Ethics assigns responsibility for a moral action. Ethical statements are the same across all of the profession. It also reflects moral principles. Ethical statements for enterprise architecture are determined by an overarching organization that represents all of the enterprise architecture organizations. Currently this is FEAPO.

A code of conduct is a statement of the standards to which an individual or enterprise adheres, and the responsibilities and restrictions that are to be observed. Codes of conduct are implemented at many levels. A country, region, or state could decide to license enterprise architecture. An enterprise architecture organization could decide to have its own code of conduct unique to its members. A firm could have a code of conduct for enterprise architects employed by them. Codes will move from country/region/state, to organization, to firm. Each level must not contravene the higher level. Consequences are assigned at each level and may require registration, licensing, or contracts to be enforceable.

3. Principles

3.1. Integrity

3.1.1. (RFC-1) *An enterprise architect should respect the privacy of their interactions with their client*

An enterprise architect is going to have privileged access to information, perhaps damaging information, about their client. Privacy must be maintained for privileged information, in accordance with the law, to establish the level of trust needed and have the required information for the enterprise architect to provide the best decisions.

3.1.2. (RFC-3) *An enterprise architect should protect public interest and maintain integrity* (CIPS Code of Ethics, 2007)

An Enterprise Architects will accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment; An Enterprise Architects will participate and act with integrity in a manner that upholds the reputation and good standing of Enterprise Architecture profession

3.1.3. (RFC-10) *An enterprise architect must be prepared to offer alternate architectures*

The client might have fiscal or time constraints with an architecture. The architect needs to be prepared to offer alternative architectures that address this. The architect is still in the position to exercise his/her judgment. Having an alternative does not mean that the architect gives up the right to his/her design aesthetics.

3.2. Beneficence

3.2.1. (RFC-9) *An enterprise architect shall communicate clear expectations and be competent to perform any services for the work accepted.*

An enterprise architect shall establish win-win scenarios whenever possible. They must obtain informed consent with clearly define expectations. An Enterprise Architect should encourage a second opinion and be flexible and professional in conflict resolution. Enterprise Architects owe their client a duty to be competent to perform any Enterprise Architecture services undertaken on such party's behalf.

3.3. Prudence

3.3.1. (RFC-2) *An enterprise architect should avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist*

An enterprise architect should avoid making decisions that benefit personal interests, or the interest of a close friend, family member, business associate, corporation or partnership in which he/she hold a significant interest, or a person to whom he/she owe an obligation.

More importantly, those who could influence his/her decisions and impair his/her ability to: act in FEAPO's best interests, or represent FEAPO fairly, impartially and without bias. In addition, an enterprise will declare any personal interest that might affect, or be seen by others to affect, his/her impartiality or decision making

3.4. Justice

3.4.1. (RFC-8) *An enterprise architect shall treat all people in an equitable manner, balancing gate keeping and advocacy while pursuing justice*

An enterprise architect shall give credit where credit is due and make performance criteria explicit. An EA must not discriminate in any manner based on grounds such as race, sex, sexual orientation, nationality, social origin, family status, or disability. Also they shall exemplify the values of equality, tolerance, and respect for others.

3.5. Self-Reliance

3.5.1. (RFC-7) *An enterprise architect shall be accountable for conducting themselves in a manner of appropriate independence and autonomy.*

He/she may terminate services that cease to be of value, are collaborative, or are of acceptable quality and may respectfully refuse to offer a requested service either formally or informally as required by Integrity, discretion or personal moral values.

3.6. Fidelity

3.6.1. (RFC-4) *An enterprise architect must uphold responsibility to the Enterprise Architecture profession*

An enterprise architect seeks to support and advance the interests of the enterprise architecture profession. (for example, by providing feedback to professional bodies, by recommending enterprise architecture approaches to clients, etc)

An enterprise architect will look for opportunities to update and improve the Body of Knowledge relating to the profession, and to develop the profession generally. An enterprise architect will keep professional qualifications and certifications up-to-date

3.6.2. (RFC-5) *An enterprise architect must maintain high standards of personal conduct*

An enterprise architect will be courteous and respectful with clients, fellow workers, and sub-contractors.

An enterprise architect will make every effort to deliver work to agreed timescales, and to agreed standards of quality. An enterprise architect will support fellow architects in the pursuit of their profession. This may include providing advice and sharing knowledge. An enterprise architect will always uphold the laws of whatever country he or she is working in.

3.6.3. (RFC-6) *An enterprise architect must act in a way befitting a professional*

An enterprise architect must always be perceived to act in a professional manner. The enterprise architect should also be perceived as representing the profession in the public eye.

Bibliography

CIPS Code of Ethics. (2007). Retrieved from www.cips.ca

Johnson, W. B., & Ridley, C. R. *The Elements of Ethics for Professionals*.

PMI. (2007). Retrieved from PMI: www.pmi.org

Glossary

FEAPO – abbreviation for Federation of Enterprise Architecture Professional Organizations

Professional organization – organization meeting the qualifications of Article II Section 2.01(a) for FEAPO Member Organizations or 2.02(a) for FEAPO Affiliate Organizations

FMO – abbreviation for FEAPO Member Organization

Delegate – official representative of a FMO

FAO – abbreviation for FEAPO Affiliate Organization

Agent – official representative of a FAO

Correspondence Official – FMO or FAO designated official to whom FEAPO notifications are sent and from whom notifications are received

Council of Delegates – membership body comprising all FMO Delegates

Board of Directors – selected group of Delegates responsible for FEAPO governance