What it’s about

- Application Portfolio Management is the process of assessing the application landscape in its entirety by identifying the strengths and weaknesses to define focus areas and creating a strategy and roadmap for improvement.
- It measures the applications capabilities against the processes and procedures set in place by the organization to assess their overall feasibility.
- Based on the analysis outdated or incompatible applications are replaced with more viable options or consolidated with those that have similar features and purpose.
- It manages all aspects from end-user experience, to integration with back office functions such as database, ERP, Cloud functions and CRM.

Why it matters

- Increased Efficiency by hosting a more lean and stable environment.
- Reduced Risk of loss of business caused by failure of poorly managed applications.
- Positive End User Experience increases productivity and improves employee satisfaction.
- Application interoperability ensures the flow of data between applications that allows for enhanced collaboration between different business units.

Challenges

- No centralized data governance
- Different applications with similar functionalities
- Lifecycle Management is lacking or non existant
- Applications are incompatible with the main system architecture
- Unstable and complex interfaces and data streams
- Lack of Training for efficient use of critical applications
- User Experience decreased by poor account management

How we contribute

- Pool of skilled Business Analysts for assessments and requirement engineering at your service
- Access to a wide spectrum of technical experts within the ELCA to support your transformation
- Having completed over 1000 projects we carry a wealth of experience in numerous fields
- We know what works! Consulting and Engineering under one roof ensures quality results and high customer satisfaction.

Approach

1. Step 1: Situational Analysis
   The Mondrian Matrix focuses on the purpose and capabilities of the active applications in the organization’s operational and business processes.
   - In this example a number of applications are being utilized for only a single business process within an organizational unit, raising costs considerably.
   - Certain organizational units and business processes require up to four different applications to fulfill their operational tasks, complicating the work flow.

2. Step 2: BCG Matrix Evaluation
   The assessment lays the groundwork for the redesign and optimization of the application portfolio.
   - In this case two applications (D,G) have been removed obsolete and therefore are removed from the application portfolio.
   - In another case, it might be deemed necessary to replace certain applications with new and improved solutions, or add a new application to the portfolio when needed.

3. Conclusions and Strategy Proposal
   The assessment lays the groundwork for the redesign and optimization of the application portfolio.
   - Based on the analysis, the prioritisation of critical applications is established. The goal is to minimize the amount of applications needed, and consolidate business processes wherever the requirements allow the possibility.
   - The results are improved workflows, better interoperability and less maintenance and licensing fees. Additionally, it creates a friendlier environment for employees. These measures have a cost reducing and efficiency increasing effect on the organization.

Deliverables

- Full assessment of the current application portfolio through stakeholder interviews to identify the business processes, applications features and functionalities, interoperability and data streams, usability and user account management.
- Benchmark analysis of the performance and capabilities of the applications measured against the processes and procedures they are intended to support.
- Technical analysis to determine the feasibility and readiness for integration with the organization’s core systems (i.e ERP)
- Strategy Proposal of a renewed application architecture aiming at establishing leaner and more efficient workflow to improve all aspects of daily operations
- LifeCycle Management strategy to properly launch, maintain all employed applications as well as phase out strategy to successfully remove and replace inadequate and obsolete applications.

Benefits

- Lean processes and higher efficiency by utilizing less applications to cover all requirements needed
- Transparent and effective workflows between different organizational units
- Lower cost and maintenance overhead for IT departments and reduced need for application support
- Less interruptions and system failures due to a more stable application infrastructure
- Higher productivity by a motivated workforce

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