



Altus

clear thinking for Financial Services

IBM System Architect Quick-Start

Congratulations! You've just bought System Architect, the market leading Enterprise Architecture tool from IBM. Now what are you going to do with it? The good news is that System Architect is so powerful you can do almost anything. But that's the bad news too; with a tool so sweeping in its scope, where do you start? On the one hand you'd like to keep your options open but on the other there is a need to focus on the immediate challenges that inspired you to purchase it.

And those challenges are particularly tricky in Financial Services. With a mixture of strategic and legacy business systems, a complex mesh of business processes and capabilities all involving multi-dimensional relationships spanning brands, products and distribution channels, modelling any aspect of a financial services business requires careful thought and planning.

As business and system architecture consultants operating exclusively in the Financial Services sector and with a long history of working with System Architect, Altus are perfectly positioned to help. So, if you have recently purchased SA, or you have the tool and don't feel that you are getting the benefits you expected, then this Quick-Start guide is for you.



System Architect Quick-Start in Ten Steps

Quick-Start focuses on a particular area of your organisation, fast-tracking adoption of System Architect by addressing a specific business need, then using proven techniques to introduce the tool smoothly and quickly. And it is quick - typical engagements are measured in weeks, not months.

Quick-Start consists of ten simple steps:

Target - Identify the most appropriate target business area - one where there are real business needs and where benefits can be delivered quickly.

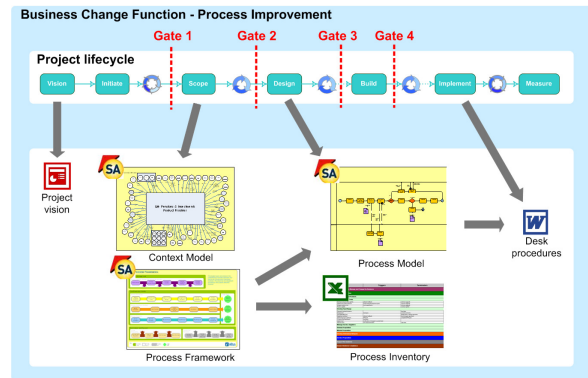
Scope - Tool initiatives can easily disappear into a labyrinth of meta-model debates. We set immediate boundaries for the initial exercise but with one eye on broader use of SA in the future and how this is achieved based on our experience.

Diagrams - Determine the diagrams and output required from the tool and how these link together. We have a stock library of inter-linked FS specific diagrams to get you started.

Lifecycle - Understand your change lifecycle and decide how SA will support this - who will produce and consume information in the tool and at what stage in your process. We can visualise all this in an easy to understand lifecycle diagram.

Customisation - Using the Altus standard FS meta-model as a baseline we configure SA, we build diagram templates and tune the whole user environment to support your initial project. SA provides a huge range of functionality and it is essential for successful adoption that the tool is 'cut-down' to focus on the business need being addressed.

Example Lifecycle diagram showing SA interactions



Conventions - Agree standard naming conventions and determine how multiple views of the repository (typically 'as-is' and 'to-be') will co-exist. Due to the inherent flexibility of SA, these conventions do not come out of the box and need to be thought through for your business.

Training - The various SA training courses available provide essential detail of using the tool in the round. We supplement this with short, tailored sessions focused on specific roles within the business area and their use of the tool.

Guide - We develop a succinct user guide specifically for the customised version of SA that you now have. This details the activities and responsibilities of each user role, your environment, your conventions and the diagrams you use.

Mentoring - To support the training we provide 'on the shoulder' mentoring, walking through problems with your staff and resolving problems one-to-one.

Governance - Altus typically remain on-site to assist and support on a part-time basis, reviewing the outputs produced and providing feedback to users, governing the environment to ensure quality and gradually handing over to your own staff at a pace they are comfortable with.