Open Group Guide

**The Open Group Certified Architect (Open CA) Program
Skill Mappings to the
Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA)**

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Preface

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- Facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and open source technologies

- Offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia

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This Document

This document is a Guide to The Open Group Certified Architect (Open CA) program skill mappings to the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA).

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Referenced Documents

The following document is referenced in this Guide:

- Open CA: Conformance Requirements (Multi-Level), X110, published by The Open Group; refer to: www.opengroup.org/bookstore/catalog/x110.htm.

1 Introduction

1.1 Open CA and SFIA

The Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) is a framework for describing the skills of information systems professionals. SFIA is used to unite a wide variety of other systems in the recruitment, development, training, and reward of Information Systems (IS) staff throughout the world (see www.sfia.org.uk).

In developing the Open CA program, SFIA has been used as an underlying structure to help with the organization of the Open CA Conformance Requirements and as a resource to help in their validation.

Open CA and SFIA differ in their approaches:

- SFIA identifies a comprehensive set of categories of skill that are needed in the IS domain, and describes the skills in these categories at several different levels. Individuals assessing themselves against SFIA are likely to find that they meet the SFIA criteria in several different categories, and organizations using SFIA to define the skills required for a particular role may need to select skills from more than one SFIA category.

- The Open CA program identifies a number of different areas of work that need to be performed by IT Architects, and defines the detailed skills and experience requirements that would be expected of people who have successfully performed in those roles.

1.2 The Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to indicate mappings between Open CA skills and SFIA skills. It is not the intention to provide all the requirements for the Open CA program; comprehensive documentation describing the Open CA Conformance Requirements is available from The Open Group website (www.opengroup.org).

1.3 Our Approach to Mapping

In mapping SFIA skills to the Open CA skills, rather than include pre-requisite or supporting skills, the authors have focused on mapping skills where it is clear that the key attributes described for one match the attributes of the other skill. Including skills that are considered pre-requisite or support the Open CA program skill or skills that might be associated for any other reason would produce a list that would be over-long and render this document impractical to use.

Also, when mapping the Open CA skills and SFIA skills, careful consideration has been given to the context of each skill; the Focus Areas and Streams in Open CA, and the generic as well as

skill-specific levels in SFIA. Clearly there are cases where the mapping may span two or three levels in SFIA and this has been indicated when it is the case.

1.4 How to Use this Document

This document explains the relationship between Open CA skills and SFIA skills. The document comprises two sections:

1. Open CA program skills

2. Open CA program skills and SFIA skill(s) with suggested level mapping

The intended workflow is to step through from the first section to the mappings using the Open CA program links to find the SFIA mappings in which you are interested.

1.5 Workflow Example

The first section of this document displays Open CA program skills in a table.

To see Open CA/SFIA mappings for a skill, choose a skill link. (The Category name is also linked.)

Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2		Reference	Limited	General	Applied	Deep	Expert
People	Apply Communication Skills	CFS01			1	2	
	Lead Individuals & Teams	CFS02			1	2	
	Perform Conflict Resolution	CFS03			1	2	

An Open CA skill is displayed with mapped SFIA skills, which are considered closely related. The SFIA Skill, Code, and Suggested Levels are displayed.

Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	SFIA Skill	Code	Suggested SFIA Level(s)						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Use of Techniques Given an architectural question, use and apply various techniques – such as data collection, data analysis, hypothesis, and solution formulation – to produce a supportable answer to the question.	Business Analysis	BUAN					■	■	
	Business Modeling	BSMO					■	■	

SFIA Levels range from Level 1 to 7. The purpose of this document is to provide a specific mapping for Open CA and SFIA skills. This is shown with the fill color. In this example screenshot, an Open CA skill is mapped to an SFIA skill (Business Analysis) at Levels 5 to 6.

2   Open CA Program Skills

		Limited	General	Applied	Deep	Expert
Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	**Reference**					
People	Apply Communication Skills	CFS01			1	2	
	Lead Individuals & Teams	CFS02			1	2	
	Perform Conflict Resolution	CFS03			1	2	
Project Management	Manage Architectural Elements of an IT Project Plan	CFS04			1	2	
Business	Understand Business Aspects	CFS05			1	2	
Architecture	Develop IT Architecture	CFS06			1	2	
	Use Modeling Techniques	CFS07			1	2	
	Perform Technical Solution Assessments	CFS08			1	2	
	Apply IT Standards	CFS09			1	2	
	Establish Technical Vision	CFS10			1	2	
	Use of Techniques	CFS11			1	2	
	Apply Methods	CFS12			1	2	
	Define Solution to Functional and Non-Functional Requirements	CFS13			1	2	
	Manage Stakeholder Requirements	CFS14			1	2	
	Establish Architectural Decisions	CFS15			1	2	
	Validate Conformance of the Solution to the Architecture	CFS16			1	2	
	Perform as Technology Advisor	CFS17			1	2	

3 Open CA Program Skills and SFIA Skills

			Suggested SFIA Level(s)						
Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	**SFIA Skill**	**Code**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
People									
Apply Communication Skills Demonstrate good written communications, including the use of proper grammar, spelling, document organization, clarity, and use of content appropriate for the audience. Demonstrate good verbal communications, including strong eye contact (where culturally appropriate), responsiveness to questions, ability to stay on subject, use of good feedback, and follow-up questions, etc., so that effective two-way communications is demonstrated.	No Mapping								
Lead Individuals and Teams Given a scope of architectural work to be accomplished, plan the work, form a team to perform the work, and guide the team in performing the work to completion.	Solution Architecture	ARCH						■	
	Project Management	PRMG					■		
	IT Management	ITMG						■	
Perform Conflict Resolution Mediate opposing viewpoints and negotiate equitable solutions to ensure successful and stable outcomes.	No Mapping								
Project Management									
Manage Architectural Elements of an IT Project Plan Given a project plan, identify those elements of the plan that put the integrity of the architectural elements at risk and manage those elements through to the agreement by the client/project manager that the project has been successfully completed.	Business Risk Management	BURM					■		
	Project Management	PRMG					■		
	Business Analysis	BUAN					■		
	Change Management	CHMG					■		

Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	SFIA Skill	Code	Suggested SFIA Level(s)						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Business									
Understand Business Aspects Understand the stakeholders' business needs and how they relate to their business and mission.	Consultancy	CNSL					■		
	Enterprise and Business Architecture Development	STPL					■		
	Business Analysis	BUAN					■		
	Requirements Definition and Management	REQM					■		
	Stakeholder Relationship Management	RLMT					■	■	
Architecture									
Develop IT Architecture Given one or more business requirements, create the structures of a solution that can be validated to meet those requirements.	Enterprise and Business Architecture Development	STPL					■		
	Solution Architecture	ARCH						■	
Use Modeling Techniques Use modeling techniques – such as use-case, scenario modeling, prototyping, benchmarking, and performance modeling – to describe the problem space, to size the solution, and to validate that the proposed architecture addresses the business requirements.	Enterprise and Business Architecture Development	STPL					■		
	Solution Architecture	ARCH					■		
	Business Analysis	BUAN					■	■	
	Business Modeling	BSMO				■	■		
Perform Technical Solution Assessments Given a technical solution and the underlying business requirements that drove its development, assess the technical integrity and risks inherent in that solution in such a way that the recommendations and findings are appropriate and implementable.	Business Risk Management	BURM					■	■	
	Business Process Testing	BPTS				■			
	Systems Design	DESN					■		
	Conformance Review	CORE				■			

Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	SFIA Skill	Code	Suggested SFIA Level(s)						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Technology Audit	TAUD					■		
Apply IT Standards Given project requirements that call for or would benefit from the use of standards, establish, implement, and enforce appropriate standards in the creation and implementation of the solution to meet those requirements.	IT Governance	GOVN					■		
	Solution Architecture	ARCH					■		
	Methods and Tools	METL					■		
	Systems Development Management	DLMG					■		
	Quality Standards	QUST					■		
Establish Technical Vision Given requirements and a list of stakeholders, identify approaches, tools, techniques, and technologies to meet the requirements, and explain the present and future rationale so that stakeholders accept the choices and agree with the rationale.	Consultancy	CNSL					■		
	Business Process Improvement	BPRE						■	
	Enterprise and Business Architecture Development	STPL						■	
	Emerging Technology Monitoring	EMRG					■		
	Solution Architecture	ARCH					■		
	Stakeholder Relationship Management	RLMT					■		
Use of Techniques Given an architectural question, use and apply various techniques – such as data collection, data analysis, hypothesis, and solution formulation – to produce a supportable answer to the question.	Business Analysis	BUAN					■	■	
	Business Modeling	BSMO					■		
Apply Methods Given a work effort, adapt, apply, and enforce the use of a method that meets the method recognition criteria in Section 6 of	Solution Architecture	ARCH					■		
	Methods and Tools	METL						■	

			Suggested SFIA Level(s)						
Core Foundation Skills for Levels 1 and 2	**SFIA Skill**	**Code**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
the Conformance Requirements to successfully create architectural work products that meet the requirements of the work effort. Demonstrated ability to follow a recognized method ensures repeatability of delivery and success. Candidates are not required to have used more than one recognized method.									
Define Solution to Functional and Non-Functional Requirements Given the functional and non-functional requirements, define a solution that meets the stated requirements using the Organization's and industry standard procedures and tools.	Solution Architecture	ARCH					🟥	🟥	
	Methods and Tools	METL						🟥	
	Systems Design	DESN					🟨		
Manage Stakeholder Requirements Given approved business goals, objectives, and constraints, document, clarify, refine, detail, and prioritize functional and non-functional requirements.	Solution Architecture	ARCH					🟥		
	Requirements Definition and Management	REQM					🟪		
Establish Architectural Decisions Determine, document, and communicate architectural decisions to support and rationalize the design of the solution.	Enterprise and Business Architecture Development	STPL						🟥	
	Solution Architecture	ARCH					🟥		
Validate Conformance of the Solution to the Architecture Given a set of requirements, define and execute strategies and plans for ensuring and demonstrating that the solution satisfies the documented architecture.	Business Process Testing	BPTS					🟪		
	Change Implementation Planning and Management	CIPM						🟪	
	Conformance Review	CORE					🟦		
Perform as Technology Advisor Maintain IT industry knowledge to advise on technical trends and techniques and apply them to the development of solution designs.	Consultancy	CNSL					🟥		
	Technical Specialism	TECH					🟥		
	Innovation	INOV					🟥		
	Emerging Technology Monitoring	EMRG					🟥		