Christophe Van Ginneken

Enterprise Architect
christophe@2know.be
Tremelo

Introduction

Explore my professional journey and you will quickly see that my primary focus lies at higher levels of abstraction within the realm of information technology. As an Enterprise Architect, I have consistently maintained a connection to the strategic level, collaborating closely with solution, data, integration, and application architects to ensure success.

Being an architect, I adhere to a technology-agnostic approach. I do not exclusively utilise platforms such as AWS or Azure; instead, I integrate cloud functionality into my architectures. Similarly, I do not limit myself to programming languages like Java or .NET; instead, I apply patterns and best practices to design high-level integrations. I do not advocate for either agile or waterfall methodologies; instead, I adopt an experience-based approach that combines common sense and flexibility, drawing upon existing methodologies that align with the preferences of team members.

With over 25 years of experience, spanning the early 1980s, I have cultivated an architectural approach that emphasises the realisation of business value. This approach involves decomposing the enterprise into domains that leverage its capabilities and business processes. In today's rapidly evolving IT landscape, almost every effort is a transformative initiative, and this transformation often commences at the enterprise level. By defining a roadmap based on these principles and incorporating just sufficient technical details to effectively communicate this to both business and project teams, I bring my architectural vision to the table.

Furthermore, I place a strong emphasis on governance and recognise that establishing and maintaining standards, processes, and policies is a fundamental success factor for any architectural endeavour. This includes providing support and leadership to the teams involved in the process, a role that I have had the privilege of assuming on multiple occasions and for which I have received positive feedback from many of my team members.

My extensive experience in a diverse range of information technology disciplines has equipped me with reliability and strategic insight necessary to effectively collaborate with organisations seeking to implement challenging enterprise transformation programs. I ensure that the overall architecture and the associated solutions are aligned with a robust IT strategy and directly support the organisation's core business values.

Top skills:
Enterprise Architecture • Business Analysis • Functional Analysis • Common Sense

Recent Experience

Framework & Standards Architect - Bank Van Breda
March 2023 - May 2024

If one red tape can be observed in my professional career, it's one of methodology, standards and documentation. Combine this with the modern and strong IT story that has been unfolding over the past years at Bank Van Breda, a pursuit of a rational approach to documenting business to implementation, and I was ready to put my shoulder to the wheel of this huge task.

Applying Agile ideas to a lightweight, BPMN-driven documentation approach, led to a nonintrusive, business analysis driven end to end framework for documenting the entire software platform. In parallel to this, business analysts were coached and brought together in an overarching competence group, supporting and guiding the entire effort inside-out.

Skills: IT Architecture · BPMN · Software Analysis · Software Documentation

Lead Solutions Architect - Acerta
June 2021 - December 2022

Like good movies, good past work experiences return for a sequel. After roughly 12 years, the path of Acerta (& UnifiedPost) and myself crossed again and that resulted in a renewed partnership to support their solution architecture team, on pretty familiar territory, with an initial focus on document management in a strategic, also renewed, alliance.

As lead architect within the renewed document management platform team, my foremost task was solving current issues, within the scope of an architectural "update", to get the new platform up and running as soon as possible. Leveraging the power of the Azure Cloud, we built a simple yet very resilient solution, which was not only approved, but also praised in a Microsoft-conducted architectural review. Working directly with and guiding the development team and external Azure specialists, to bring this solution to life, was a great experience.

Skills: IT Architecture · Functional Analysis · Business Analysis · Cloud Computing

Lead Solutions Architect - TUI Belgium
May 2018 - June 2021

Defining solution architectures for integrating the various components in the TUI service software portfolio. Bringing the requirements of value streams and capabilities of development teams closer together to achieve the unified TUI platform.

As lead solution architect I designed the cross-domain functional communication protocol to enable the autonomous development of the domain-specific capabilities - as envisaged by my enterprise architecture colleagues. This API-first approach then allowed further detailing by the other solution architects from within the domain at hand. Besides guiding the solution architects team, I also brought together the business analysts of all domains in a central analysis cell and introduced UML as a simple, standard modelling tool to drive the formal definition of the domain specific and external data models. Finally, there was the collaboration with the central cloud platform team to realise the common API-driven communication layer between the domains. To this very day, I still look back on that with fond memories.

Skills: IT Architecture · Team Leadership · Business Analysis · Functional Analysis · API Design

Consult all of my experiences at https://www.linkedin.com/in/christophevg/details/experience/