Visible Consulting Services

Building Strategic IT Infrastructures for Business

Here is the secret to competing in the 21st century: give your company a strong enterprise information backbone that blends strategic business requirements and information technology. Having a business-driven, model-based Enterprise Architecture makes companies more competitive, efficient, and profitable in both e-commerce and traditional environments. A well-documented and managed Enterprise Architecture will:

- Improve software development processes to meet demand and deadlines
- Build high-quality, bug-free applications that can be easily maintained
- Create technology-independent applications
- Rapidly respond to changes in technology, markets, and environments
- Capture the organization's accumulated knowledge and skills

Leader in Enterprise Architecture consulting. Visible helps companies align their information systems with their business strategies to ensure that an organization's software meets the needs of every department and users at every level. Since 1981, Visible's experienced consultants have contributed to the success of thousands of clients through their hard work, commitment, and talent.

Enterprise Architecture Specialties

- Enterprise Architecture engineering
- Corporate portal engineering
- Data warehouse engineering
- Enterprise application integration
- XML meta-data management
- Software engineering process improvement
- Software configuration management
- Component design, development

Our Competitive Edge

"OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE YOUR ORGANIZATION SUCCESSFUL AND SELF-SUFFICIENT."

Experts in Business and Technology

Visible consultants have the unique blend of business and technology experience to help your organization achieve its business goals. We promise you only experienced senior consultants who are experts both in their fields and in teaching others to succeed.

Business-driven, Technology-independent Information Systems

Successful IT projects require active participation of both business and information systems professionals. Our methodology focuses first on the business plans to identify an organization's information requirements, then uses detailed data requirements to derive processing and technology needs. Our approach goes beyond just developing software systems: We address the interaction of business and technology factors that are critical to making systems work.
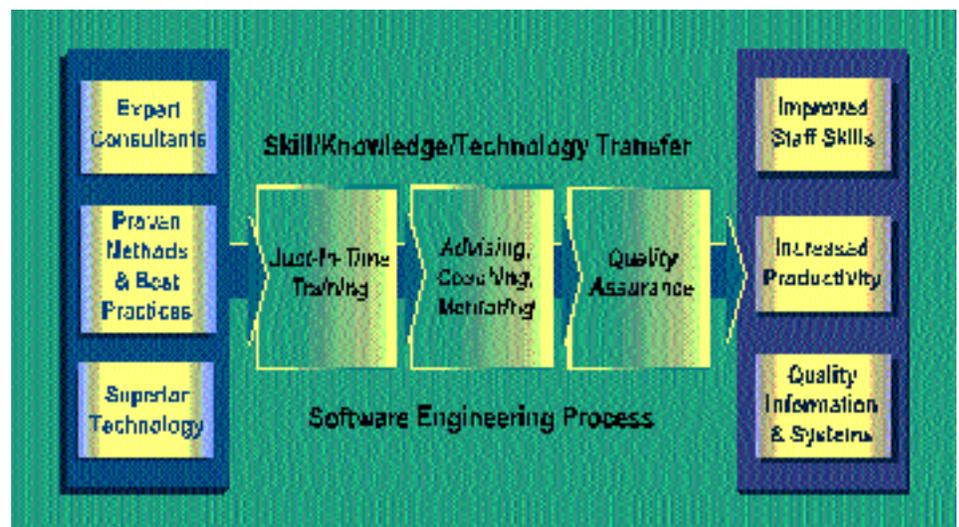
Training for Self-sufficient IT Departments

Visible teaches clients to master model-based, business-driven methodologies and tools in three development cycles. In the first cycle, we help the enterprise implement a project while training enterprise personnel assigned to an internal "Action Team." In the second cycle, Visible consultants closely monitor and coach enterprise personnel as the Action Team completes the next project. Finally, the Action Team performs a complete development cycle with minimal assistance from Visible. By the end of this third cycle, enterprise personnel should be fully capable on their own.

Tools to Support Methodologies

Visible has products that automate and accelerate many tasks and techniques associated with building a business-driven, model-based information systems infrastructure. When appropriate, consultants use Visible's suite of tools and train and coach every project team on the effective use of support tools. Our "Enterprise Engineers" are excellent workshop facilitators, who are knowledgeable in all aspects of our methodology and products.

Our Consulting Specialties

Enterprise Architecture Engineering

Many organizations do not have information systems that give the entire business--all departments and managers --accurate information on demand. Why? Most IT systems have been developed ad hoc without uniform business rules and meta-data.

When possible, Visible uses a top-down approach to building applications by helping organizations implement an "information blueprint," called an Enterprise Architecture. This is the only way an organization can manage strategic information, implement interoperable systems, and establish true data sharing. An Enterprise Architecture:

1. facilitates communications
2. provides a medium for better communicating with potential vendors
3. improves productivity and saves development time
4. can be easily ported to new technology platforms

Corporate Portal and Data Warehouse Engineering

Today, an organization's information requirements span beyond corporate walls. Many organizations are unable to provide internal and external users with meaningful access to information because they lack an integrated repository of legacy, structured, and unstructured data. If some applications use the word "product" and others use the word "system" to define the same entity, how can meaningful information be extracted?

Visible has an effective Enterprise Architecture-based approach for developing corporate portals and data warehouses that are easy to design and maintain and provide strategic information that is accurate, valid, and timely. We lead clients in the following steps: First, we interview key enterprise managers and analyze pertinent documentation to determine whether the enterprise is ready to develop a strategic information warehouse or portal. We help define critical success factors for strategic information systems development and develop a preliminary plan for overcoming shortfalls. We model the information and then facilitate focus

group sessions of potential information warehouse or portal users to confirm enterprise information needs. Then, we refine the model with the details necessary to begin implementation.

Strategic Enterprise Application Integration

Many organizations spend over 70 percent of their IT budgets on maintenance of current applications and have too much data but not enough information. This legacy system problem results from departmental "stove-pipe" systems, which are poorly documented and have been patched too many times. Some companies have unsuccessfully tried to integrate these systems through application interfaces or force fit data into purchased packages, data warehouses, enterprise portals, or middleware.

> In helping to develop the largest human resources system in the world by consolidating the personnel and payment systems of every U.S. military branch, including their components such as the Reserves, Visible's senior consultants provided highly valuable enterprise engineering expertise in bringing our DOD clients to agreement on the business rules and meta-data needed to build a first-rate information architecture. With the resulting blueprint, we will be able to build an extremely well-designed and well-accepted system.
>
> *David O'Neill*
> *Technical Lead*
> SRA International, Inc.

Visible has pioneered a method and tools that unify these approaches and integrate legacy applications. We help clients do the hard work necessary to meet the important goals of Strategic Enterprise Application Integration: shared, non-redundant data, trusted strategic information, and reusable software components.

XML Meta-data Integration for E-commerce and E-business

XML is enabling companies to integrate unstructured text and structured databases for next-generation e-commerce and EDI applications. Yet XML

> I have had a long-standing relationship with Visible Systems Corporation Consulting Services. Their consultants have consistently demonstrated substantial relevant subject area knowledge and skills, coupled with professional manner and focus. Given a need for their services, I would not hesitate to hire them again in the future.
>
> *Mark Bruno*
> *Acting Director, Information Planning Division and Manager, Enterprise Data Management Program*
> Texas Education Agency

assumes that a company's meta-data is already defined. Unless a company's existing databases and corporate data models are part of an Enterprise Architecture, there is no way to be sure that information is consistent, accurate, and reusable.

Visible helps companies manage XML through meta-data management. Working with our clients, we forward-engineer the Enterprise Architecture model into XML designs. We can also reverse engineer legacy systems and data warehouses into XML designs. Our clients can manage XML meta-data using the same modeling notations and tools that are used to manage structured data.

Software Productivity Improvement and SCM

The biggest stumbling block to producing high-quality software on time and on budget is the lack of internal controls on the software development process. With Visible's assistance, clients improve processes and procedures until they are able to consistently develop quality information systems that exactly meet their customers' information needs.

We help clients quickly meet the requirements of ISO 9001 and the Software Engineering Capability Maturity Model (CMM).

Visible
SYSTEMS CORPORATION

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