Case Studies
Application to Execution Framework

These case studies highlight how the Extended Application Portfolio Framework, with its enriched catalogs and relationships, addresses organizational challenges in managing applications, servers, locations, actors, and projects. The framework supports clarity in lifecycle management, accountability, hosting dependencies, and project impacts.

Framework Summary: Application, Infrastructure, and Project Impact Model

This framework extends the basic application portfolio model to incorporate **infrastructure elements and project dependencies**, enabling a comprehensive view of applications, their ownership, technical hosting, and transformation initiatives. It is designed to provide enterprise architects with the ability to connect **business, technology, and change management perspectives**.

Core Components

Application

- Central repository of applications across the enterprise.
- Properties include:
  - **Criticality** – Importance of the application within the organization.
  - **Recommendation** – Lifecycle guidance for the next 3 years (maintain, modernize, retire, etc.).
  - **Cost** – Relative cost indicator (scale of 1–5).
  - **End of Life** – Support expiry date.
  - **Business Fit** – Alignment with business objectives. 1-5
  - **Technical Fit** – Compliance with enterprise technology standards. 1-5

Actor

- Maintains a list of **technology custodians** (application owners).
- Includes contact details (email, phone).
- Supports accountability and governance.

Location Catalog

- Defines **physical sites** where IT assets are deployed (e.g., datacenters).
- Provides transparency into hosting environments.

Server Catalog

- Represents the **hardware infrastructure** underpinning applications.
- Key properties include:
  - **Vendor** – Hardware supplier.
  - **End of Life** – Hardware support expiry date.
  - **IP Address** – Technical identification of the server.
- Helps track infrastructure lifecycle and risks.

Project Catalog

- Captures **projects and initiatives** impacting the IT landscape.
- Properties include:
  - **Start Date** – Project initiation.
  - **End Date** – Project closure.
- Provides visibility into ongoing and planned changes.

Relationships

Actor Owns Application

- Maps ownership between custodians and applications.
- Ensures accountability and contactability.

Application Is Hosted At Location

- Shows where an application is physically hosted.
- Supports disaster recovery, compliance, and infrastructure transparency.

Application Is Hosted At Server

- Links applications directly to the underlying **hardware infrastructure**.
- Highlights dependencies and technical risks.

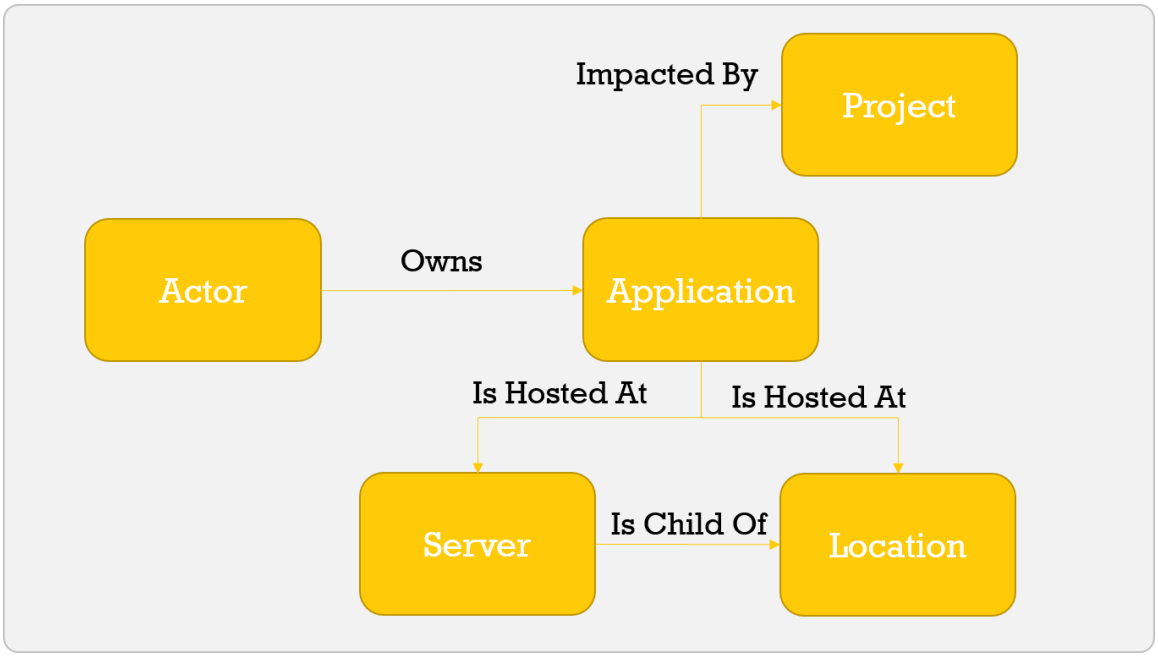
Server Is Child Of Location

- Establishes the **hierarchical composition** of infrastructure (servers within datacenters).
- Useful for physical asset management and compliance reporting.

Case Study: Application to Execution Framework

Application Impacted By Project

- Maps applications to projects that **modify, migrate, or decommission** them.
- Provides a clear view of project impact on the IT landscape.



Scenario 1: Sarah in the Banking Sector

Problem Faced

Sarah, an Enterprise Architect in a multinational bank, faced significant challenges in coordinating multiple digital transformation projects that impacted critical banking applications. Overlaps between legacy applications and new project deployments caused operational risks and regulatory compliance concerns. Additionally, many servers hosting these applications were approaching end-of-life, increasing the urgency of migration planning.

Framework Application

The **Application Catalog** provided visibility into lifecycle recommendations, costs, and business alignment. The **Server Catalog** revealed end-of-life risks for critical infrastructure, while the **Server Is Child Of Location** relationship connected servers to physical datacenters. The **Application Impacted By Project** relationship enabled Sarah to map project dependencies and evaluate the effect of transformation initiatives on the

application landscape. Finally, the **Actor Owns Application** relationship clarified technical accountability.

Deliverables Produced

- Application portfolio analysis with project impact mapping
- Risk register highlighting end-of-life servers hosting critical applications
- Ownership and accountability matrix for key applications
- Roadmap for aligning projects with application lifecycle recommendations

Business Value Created

The bank reduced regulatory and operational risks by proactively retiring unsupported servers and ensuring that applications impacted by new projects were properly assessed. The structured framework enhanced transparency, improved project planning, and delivered cost savings through optimized infrastructure investments.

Scenario 2: Tomson in the Manufacturing Industry

Problem Faced

Tomson, an IT Director in a global manufacturing company, managed several overlapping ERP and production systems across different plants. Projects were initiated to modernize operations, but there was no structured way to evaluate their impact on existing applications and servers. This led to fragmented deployments, duplicated investments, and frequent disruptions in manufacturing workflows.

Framework Application

Using the **Application Catalog**, Tomson assessed business fit and technical compliance of ERP systems. The **Application Is Hosted At Server** and **Server Is Child Of Location** relationships allowed the IT team to visualize server dependencies across plants. The **Application Impacted By Project** relationship provided a clear view of how modernization projects would affect critical production applications. By linking actors to applications, accountability was established for each system and its upgrades.

Deliverables Produced

- Application-server-location dependency map
- Project impact assessment across ERP and production systems
- Consolidation plan for overlapping applications and servers
- Governance model assigning ownership and accountability

Business Value Created

The manufacturing organization reduced downtime risks by aligning modernization projects with existing application and infrastructure lifecycles. Consolidation of systems across plants reduced costs, improved efficiency, and ensured that projects directly supported business goals. Enhanced accountability improved governance and streamlined support operations.