James Edwards
Enterprise Architect

Contact

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Profile

Technically astute, performance driven and goal orientated Enterprise Architect possessing a vast and diverse wealth of expertise. Over 16 years experience within the Financial Services Industry including 11 years in management and leadership roles.

Communicative, diligent, and thoroughly dedicated in all pursuits: seeking a new professional challenge and confident in the ability to deliver significant and measurable value to any organisation.

Professional Qualifications

Chartered IT Professional

British Computer Society Chartered IT Professional is the independent standard of competence and professionalism in the technology industry. It provides evidence of an individual's commitment to their profession and endorsement of their experience and knowledge.

In order to qualify for this award a person normally needs to have at least 8 to 10 years professional experience in IT, with evidence of experience at a senior level.

Experience

Director, Enterprise Architecture & Data Management
Midland Credit Management
July 2020 - Present   San Diego, CA
- Leading both the Enterprise Architecture and Data Management functions
- Working closely with the business to define a data strategy that supports the business goals
- Increasing maturity of the EA function to achieve the strategic goals of the organisation

Head of Enterprise Architecture   Cabot Credit Management
April 2018 - July 2020   Maidstone, Kent, UK
- Ownership of Group IT Strategy - Deliver and maintain architectural designs for key initiatives
- Promote, embed, enforce & Chair the Group Technical Design Authority leading a virtual team (dotted line accountability) of disparate application and infrastructure architects across the group
- Define enterprise IT standards and architectural roadmaps working in collaboration with Business Units
- Develop the to-be "end state architecture" vision for all aspects of Cabot's IT Landscape covering Information, Applications and Infrastructur - Promote scale benefits and ROI improvement through sharing of IT assets and solutions
- Lead all IT due diligence, supporting M&A, integration activity and providing technical oversight for newly acquired businesses whilst allowing for their initial autonomy
- Where appropriate, champion methodology improvements e.g. DevOps, or architectural concepts to improve effectiveness

 Key Achievements/Projects:
- Established a set of Group standards, which have been adopted across multiple business across Europe, covering Infrastructure, Application and Information Security standards
- Formalised a group Architecture Governance framework, leading to better alignment and sharing across the group - Championed a switch to a micro-services architecture (Conrad), working closely with IT Ops and IT Solutions teams to create a new way of working which embraces DevOps and Agile processes
- Influenced a range of stakeholders across both technical and business functions around future Architecture, development of Agent Portal, ultimately gaining support for the new Conrad approach
- Led a project to define a new cloud based data management environment which will ultimately replace the legacy data warehouse and analytics platform, championing the adoption of APIs and cloud services across analytics, machine learning and BI platforms

Head of IT Operations   Cabot Credit Management
Oct 2015 - April 2018   Maidstone, Kent, UK
- Responsible for day to day operation of IT services
- Management of a complex set of IT infrastructure incorporating on premise, private cloud and public cloud elements
- Vendor management: Responsible for developing, maintaining and optimising relationships with key IT vendors underpinning a broad range of business services
- Financial management: Responsibility for a £9m OpEx budget and circa £4m CapEx project budget
- Overall sponsorship and accountability for all IT Infrastructure projects
- Working with stakeholders at all levels to ensure IT service was fit for purpose and meeting the needs of a growing business

 Key Achievements/Projects
- Delivered significant improvement is service availability of core platforms
- Led migration of core services to an off site data centre, improving availability across a range of business applications

- Oversaw large scale system implementation projects for Office 365 and real time speech analytics (amongst others)
- Completed several significant infrastructure refresh project across telephony, networks, application virtualisation and core business platforms.
- Instigated a review of the IT operating model and began a process to transition several core services to an internal team, including gaining exec approval for the approach

Previous roles within Cabot Group
2003 - 2015
- Enterprise Architect & IT Strategy Manager (2014-2015)
- Group Applications System Manager (2011-2014)
- Head of IT, Apex Credit Management (2008-2011)
- Various IT roles across a range of disciplines (2003-2008)

Education

Theatre Studies
Coventry University   1999-2002