

# Celebrating 20 years of Enterprise and Solution Architect training

“approaching things in the right order, in the right way, at the right level”

ESA course feedback, November 2020

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Hi Graham,

Happy to say, I've been busy as a Solution Architect since completing the course. It has been useful to me because:

- I have relied on the material in the course and on the website countless times in my work since doing the course, throughout every step of a client engagement
- it has given me confidence that I am [approaching things in the right order, in the right way, at the right level](#)
- it did a great job of filling the gaps in my knowledge and reinforcing and stitching-together the things I already knew about architecture.

Also, I really enjoyed it because:

- the breadth and depth of material was very well balanced and vendor-neutral
- it was well-timed for the point I am at in my career
- the material was well presented
- the exercises made me think carefully about what is important during the 'architecting' process (the case-study in particular was excellent).

And I would recommend it because:

- it is fun
- it is comprehensive in the right way
- it's not polluted with vendor terms
- it's a total and careful dissection of what's important, which is critical in such a large, terminology-heavy, constantly-changing domain.

Here's my completion of your feedback template:

- Current Role: currently on two assignments as a Solution Architect.
- Number of years relevant experience: 25 years software engineering, 3-5 years in architect roles
- One sentence summary of course and tutor: The material was very well-balanced and Graham managed to steer a clear path through what sometimes feels, as an IT professional, like a morass of vendor-driven terminology, 'best practice' and techno-fluff.
- One sentence summary of BCS E&SA scheme and exam(s): The scheme and exam feels relevant and valuable, even in a domain which is changing all the time, which is quite a feat to pull off.
- Things I valued
  1. combination of website material and course continues to boost my confidence as a practitioner
  2. I really appreciated the vendor-neutral stance and highly abstracted approach
  3. extreme focus on what's important
  4. the careful linking of material and exam back to the SFIA
- Things I'd change: I think it could be double the length because there's so much material to cover, although, that should possibly be matched with by an 'advanced' qualification.

Learning 'to architect' is more than learning how to follow an 'architecture development method' and I wish companies recruiting architects would focus on the architecting rather than following a method.

Lastly, thank you very much for delivering such a useful and considered course, I found it extremely valuable.

Kind regards,

[a Solution Architect]