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# Preface

## The Open Group

The Open Group is a global consortium that enables the achievement of business objectives through technology standards and open source initiatives by fostering a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and mutual respect among our diverse group of 900+ memberships. Our membership includes customers, systems and solutions suppliers, tool vendors, integrators, academics, and consultants across multiple industries.

The mission of The Open Group is to drive the creation of Boundaryless Information Flow™ achieved by:

- Working with customers to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices
- Working with suppliers, consortia, and standards bodies to develop consensus and facilitate interoperability, to evolve and integrate specifications and open source technologies
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The Open Group publishes a wide range of technical documentation, most of which is focused on development of Standards and Guides, but which also includes white papers, technical studies, certification and testing documentation, and business titles. Full details and a catalog are available at [www.opengroup.org/library](http://www.opengroup.org/library).

## This Document

This document is The Open Group Open Agile Architecture™ Standard, Version 2.0, also known as The Open Group O-AA™ Standard. It has been developed and approved by The Open Group.

This document provides guidance for organizations seeking to evolve toward agility at scale while simultaneously leveraging digital technologies to drive innovation, enhance customer experience, and develop competitive advantages. It enables enterprises to accelerate learning cycles, shorten time-to-market, and create environments where Agile and Digital capabilities continuously co-create one another. Through its modular structure, this document provides fundamental concepts, practical guidance, and detailed perspectives on experience design, product architecture, operations, and technical systems to support sustainable organizational transformation.

This document is organized as follows:

- Part 1: The Agile Way of Thinking establishes the fundamental concepts of the dual Digital and Agile Transformation, demonstrating why organizational agility is essential as a key enabler for Digital Transformation
- Part 2: The Agile Enterprise outlines the key capabilities needed for an Agile organization, including organizational structures, strategic approaches, transformation methodologies, and governance models required to sustain agility at scale
- Part 3: The Agile Architecture Capability describes the ways of working with respect to architecture within an Agile enterprise, including Agile Architecture building blocks, intentional architecture, continuous architectural refactoring, and supporting techniques and deliverables
- Part 4: The Ways of Supporting details the techniques and methods that can be used to support architecture activities within an Agile enterprise

Examples and case studies are provided as illustrations to foster understanding of the standard. Examples and case studies are not a normative part of the standard and therefore do not include requirements.

The target audience for this document includes:

- Agilists who need to understand the importance of architecture when shifting toward an Agile at scale model, and who want to learn architecture skills
- Enterprise Architects, solution architects, security architects, and software architects who want to stay relevant in an Agile at scale world and need to learn new architecture skills for the digital age
- Business managers, business executives, and technical leaders who need to learn the importance of the architecture discipline, and who need to influence architecture decisions

## Changes from the Previous Version

Version 2.0 of the Open Agile Architecture™ Standard represents a substantial evolution from the previous version, reflecting new structural thinking, stronger alignment with dual transformation, and expanded guidance on organizational agility. Key enhancements include:

- Restructured core content: Version 2.0 reorganizes the standard into a clearer, four-part structure that aligns Agile thinking, organizational design, ways of working, and supporting techniques into one cohesive model (way of thinking, way of organizing, way of working, way of supporting)
- Explicit dual transformation foundation: Version 2.0 emphasizes dual transformation (simultaneous Digital and Agile Transformation) as the architectural starting point; highlighting the need for coordinated evolution across business and technology in a modern VUCA world, characterized by Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity [Bennis & Nanus, 1985]
- Expanded review and refinement: Version 2.0 incorporates an extensive community review, resolving and integrating over 200 comments, showing substantial refinement over the previous version