The Open Group® Professional Certification Program

Configuration Document for the Architect Profession (Open CA)

Version 1.2
February 2021

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Document Number: X2102

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1.   Overview

The Open Group Professional Certification Program (the Program) is designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective development, implementation, and operation of Business or IT-related specializations. The Program is skills and experience-based and goes beyond validating the mastery of any specific knowledge base.

The Program covers multiple Professions. This document is for the Architect Profession, which leads to certification as an Open Certified Architect (Open CA).

The Open Group supports two different routes to certification:

- The first route is Direct Certification by The Open Group
- The second route is Indirect Certification through third-party programs accredited by The Open Group

The Conformance Requirements for each of the Professions in the Program apply equally to Direct and Indirect Certification.

This document is intended for individuals who wish to pursue Direct Certification in the Architect Profession as Open Certified Architects, and for organizations that wish to run Accredited Certification Programs internally.

1.1   Key Documents

The Architect Profession is based upon three key documents:

- The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy, which sets out the policies and processes by which an architect may achieve certification
- The Open Group Professional Certification Program Conformance Requirements for the Architect Profession (Open CA), in which are documented the skills and experience that an architect must possess to achieve certification
- The Open Group Professional Certification Program Configuration Document for the Architect Profession (Open CA) (this document), which outlines the specific certification policies and processes for the Architect Profession

Practical information about the certification process is available through the Open CA FAQ and other Open CA documentation on the Certification Authority's website.

1.2   Levels of Certification

The Program recognizes three levels of certification:

Level 1:   A professional who is able to perform with assistance/supervision with a wide range of appropriate skills as a contributing professional.

Level 2:   A professional who is able to perform independently and take responsibility for delivery of solutions as lead professional.

Level 3:   A professional who has significant breadth and depth of impact on the business through the application of their Profession.

1.3 Migration and Change History

Version 1, June 2018	This is the first version of this document. See Section 3.3 for information about transition from previous versions of the Open CA Certification Program.
Version 1.1, December 2018	The requirements for certification at Level 1 and 2 were clarified to define which Milestone Badges may be used to contribute to an application for certification.
Version 1.2, February 2021	The document was modified in support of the addition of the Digital Architecture Discipline, and application of PR78, PR81, PR83, and PR84.

1.4 Terminology and Definitions

Please see Section 1.5 (Terminology and Definitions) of The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy for the definition of terms.

2. Certification

2.1 Conformance Requirements

The Conformance Requirements for the Architect Profession for this version of the Configuration Document are defined in The Open Group Professional Certification Program Conformance Requirements for the Architect Profession (Open CA), Version 4.0, published by The Open Group, February 2021, Document No. X2101.

2.2 Architecture Disciplines

The Architect Profession recognizes four Disciplines:

- **Business Architecture** – the formalized description of how an organization uses its essential competencies for realizing its strategic intent and objectives, as defined in the Open Business Architecture (O-BA) Preliminary Standard[1]

  This typically describes the structure and interaction between the business strategy, organization, functions, business capabilities, and information needs. Business Architects capture strategic intent and develop the Business Architecture.

- **Digital Architecture** – the formalized description of the digital solutions and roadmap for an enterprise to determine how the enterprise can undergo Digital Transformation to enable innovation, and to achieve its strategic goals

  It supports the synthesis of complex business, technology, and client issues into real-world strategies through the application of innovative approaches to solutions through development, procurement of services, and management of relationships with suppliers. This includes digitalized products or services that are either delivered fully digitally (e.g., digital media or online banking), or where physical products and services are obtained by the customer by digital

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[1] Open Business Architecture (O-BA) – Part I, The Open Group Preliminary Standard (P161), July 2016, published by The Open Group; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/p161.

means (e.g., online car-sharing services), as described in the Digital Practitioner Body of Knowledge™ Standard, also known as the DPBoK™ Standard.[2]

- **Enterprise Architecture** – the formalized description of the structure and operation of an enterprise (an organization or group of organizations with a common set of goals) that is intended to determine how the enterprise can most effectively achieve its current and future objectives

  It defines the frameworks, models, mechanisms, and structures so that the business, information and technology capabilities of an enterprise evolve in a way that effectively supports the business strategy or intent. It provides guidance and governance of projects and transition steps to the future state.

- **Solution Architecture** – the formalized description of solutions to business problems and opportunities developed through the reasoned application of technologies, people, and processes to successfully deliver systems and capabilities that support the needs of the business

  Typical job titles within this Discipline include IT Architect, System Architect, Delivery Architect, Security Architect, and Infrastructure Architect.

Evidence of compliance with the Conformance Requirements will need to be provided in a Discipline-specific context when required and as indicated in the Milestone and Experience Application Forms.

2.3   Milestones and Milestone Badges

The Architect Profession includes three types of Milestone Badge as part of the certification process. These are:

- The Open CA Professional Communication Milestone Badge, which covers Core Basic skills relating to communication

- The Open CA Professional Development Milestone Badge, which includes the Professional Development and Community Contribution requirements

- The Open CA Experience Profile Milestone Badge, which includes the remaining Core Basic skills, the Architecture Basic skills, the Discipline skills, and the Experience Profile attributes; there are different Experience Profile Milestone Badges for each of the Disciplines

Candidates may apply for Milestone Badges at any time and in any order. Each level of certification has its own set of Milestone Application Forms.

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[2] Digital Practitioner Body of Knowledge™ Standard, The Open Group Standard (C196), January 2020, published by The Open Group; refer to: www.opengroup.org/library/c196.

Milestone	Conformance Requirements[3]	Evaluation By[4]	Lifetime after which the Badge Ceases to be Valid	Milestone Badge ID
Professional Communication (Level 1 and Level 2)	CBS01, CBS02	Certification Authority	The Badge is valid for as long as there is at least one (1) example/activity cited for each of CBS01 and CBS02 that is within the last three (3) years.	Open CA PC L1 Open CA PC L2
Professional Communication (Level 3)	No separate Milestone as Executive Communication is covered by DCFS06 and is evaluated in each of the Level 3 Experience Milestone Applications.			
Professional Development (Level 1 and Level 2)	If the Candidate is already Open CA Certified: PD02, PD03, PD04, CC01 If the Candidate is *not* already Open CA Certified: PD01, PD02, PD03, PD04, CC01	Certification Authority	The Badge is valid for as long as there is at least one (1) example/activity cited for each of PD02, PD03, PD04, and CC01 that is within the last three (3) years.	Open CA PD L1 Open CA PD L2
Professional Development (Level 3)	DPD02, DPD03, DPD04, DCC01, DCC02	Certification Authority	The Badge is valid for as long as there is at least one (1) example/activity cited for each of DPD02, DPD03, DPD04, DCC01, and DCC02 that is within the last three (3) years.	Open CA PD L3
Experience Profile (Level 1 and Level 2) Business Architecture Discipline	CBS03, CBS04, CBS05, CBS06, CBS07, ABS01, ABS02, ABS03, ABS04, ABS06, ABS07, ABS08, ABS10, ABS11, ABS12, ADS01, BAS01, BAS02, EXP01, EXP02, EXP03, EXP04	Peer Review Board Member Review	Eight (8) years from the end date of your involvement in the project cited.	Open CA EXP BA L1 Open CA EXP BA L2

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[3] As defined in The Open Group Professional Certification Program Conformance Requirements for the Architect Profession (Open CA)**.**

[4] As defined by The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy.

Milestone	Conformance Requirements[3]	Evaluation By[4]	Lifetime after which the Badge Ceases to be Valid	Milestone Badge ID
Experience Profile (Level 1 and Level 2) Digital Architecture Discipline	CBS03, CBS04, CBS05, CBS06, CBS07, ABS01, ABS02, ABS03, ABS04, ABS06, ABS07, ABS08, ABS10, ABS11, ABS12, DAS01, DAS02, DAS03, DAS04, EXP01, EXP02, EXP03, EXP04	Peer Review Board Member Review	Eight (8) years from the end date of your involvement in the project cited.	Open CA EXP DA L1 Open CA EXP DA L2
Experience Profile (Level 1 and Level 2) Enterprise Architecture, Solution Architecture Disciplines	CBS03, CBS04, CBS05, CBS06, CBS07, ABS01, ABS02, ABS03, ABS04, ABS06, ABS07, ABS08, ABS10, ABS11, ABS12, ADS01, EXP01, EXP02, EXP03, EXP04	Peer Review Board Member Review	Eight (8) years from the end date of your involvement in the project cited.	Open CA EXP SA L1 Open CA EXP EA L1 Open CA EXP SA L2 Open CA EXP EA L2
Experience Profile (Level 3)	DCFS01, DCSF02, DCSF03, DCSF04, DCSF06, DSCF07, DCSF08, DCSF10, DCSF11, DCSF12, DEXP01, DEXP02, DEXP03	Peer Review Board Member Review	Eight (8) years from the end date of your involvement in the project cited.	Open CA EXP L3

2.4 Experience Application Form

After achieving the necessary Milestone Badges, a Candidate must complete an Experience Application Form, which enables a Candidate to show that the experience profiles presented for their Experience Profile Milestone Badges meet a set of criteria called the Experience Requirements.

Certification Level	Experience Requirements	Evaluation By
Level 1 or Level 2	EC01, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, EC06, EC07	Peer Review Board
Level 3	DEC01, DEC02, DEC03, DEC04, DSCF05, DSCF09, DSCF13	Peer Review Board

2.5 Achieving Certification

After achieving the necessary Milestone Badges, a Candidate may apply for certification by completing and submitting an Experience Application Form to the Certification Authority.

At the time of applying for certification, all of the constituent Milestone Badges must be valid and at least one (1) Experience Profile Milestone Badge must have a start date less than three (3) years before the submission of the Experience Application Form.

Candidates applying for Level 1 or Level 2 certification are not required to have been certified in the Profession previously. Candidates applying for Level 3 certification must previously have been certified at Level 2 in the Profession – such certification need not be current, may be to a previous version of the Program, and may be in any Discipline.

Certification is valid for three (3) years.

Certification Level	Milestone Professional Communication	Milestone Professional Development	Milestone Experience Profile	Evaluation Process[5]
Level 1	A valid Open CA PC L1 or Open CA PC L2 Milestone Badge is required.	A valid Open CA PD L1 or Open CA PD L2 Milestone Badge is required.	Two (2) valid Open CA EXP L1 or Open CA EXP L2 Experience Profile Milestone Badges are required.[6] At least one (1) Experience Profile Milestone Badge must have a start date less than three (3) years before the submission of the Experience Application Form to the Certification Authority. At least one (1) of the Experience Profile Milestone Badges must be in the Discipline chosen for certification.	Single Board Member Review Additional Board Member(s) assigned if declined.

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[5] See Section 6 (Evaluation) of The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy for further information.

[6] For Level 1 certification, a Candidate may use Level 1 or Level 2 Experience Profile Milestone Badges or any combination thereof. Note that Level 3 Milestones are qualitatively different from Level 1 and 2 and therefore cannot be used to support an application for certification at Level 1 or 2.

Certification Level	Milestone Professional Communication	Milestone Professional Development	Milestone Experience Profile	Evaluation Process[5]
Level 2	A valid Open CA PC L2 Milestone Badge is required.	A valid Open CA PD L2 Milestone Badge is required.	Three (3) valid Open CA EXP L2 Experience Profile Milestone Badges are required. At least one (1) Experience Profile Milestone Badge must have a start date less than three (3) years before the submission of the Experience Application Form to the Certification Authority. At least two (2) of the Experience Profile Milestone Badges must be in the Discipline chosen for certification.	Peer Review Board Review
Level 3	Not required.	A valid Open CA PD L3 Milestone Badge is required.	Three (3) valid Open CA EXP L3 Experience Profile Milestone Badges are required. At least one (1) Experience Profile Milestone Badge must have a start date less than three (3) years before the submission of the Experience Application Form to the Certification Authority.	Peer Review Board Review

The following table identifies the Badges that are awarded for each level of certification.

Level	Discipline	Certification Badge ID
1	Solution Architect Enterprise Architect Business Architect Digital Architect	Open CA SA L1 Open CA EA L1 Open CA BA L1 Open CA DA L1
2	Solution Architect Enterprise Architect Business Architect Digital Architect	Open CA SA L2 Open CA EA L2 Open CA BA L2 Open CA DA L2
3	N/A	Open CA L3

2.6   Re-Certification

Re-certification is required to maintain currency as an Open Certified Architect. Refer to Section 9 (Re-Certification) of The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy.

Certification Level	Milestone Professional Communication	Milestone Professional Development	Milestone Experience Profile	Evaluation Process[7]
Re-certification (Levels 1, 2, and 3)	Not required	Must hold a current Milestone Badge for Professional Development at the same (or higher) level: • Open CA PD L1 • Open CA PD L2 • Open CA PD L3	Must hold at least one (1) Experience Profile Milestone Badge with a start date after the previous certification or re-certification. The Experience Profile Milestone Badge must be at the same level or higher level in any Discipline: • Open CA-EXP (SA, EA, BA, DA) L1 • Open CA-EXP (SA, EA, BA, DA) L2 • Open CA-EXP L3	If the required Milestone Badge is held at the re-certification date, then re-certification is automatic.
		OR: Must complete and submit a Re-Certification Application Form to the Certification Authority.		Single Board Member Review Additional Board Member(s) assigned if declined.

2.7   Changing Disciplines

A Certified Architect in good standing may change or acquire an additional Discipline certification (Level 1 and Level 2) simply by obtaining a single new Experience Profile Milestone Badge in the desired Discipline.

3.   Additional Topics

3.1   The Specification Authority for the Profession and Program

The Open Group Open CA Working Group is the Specification Authority for the Architect Profession.

The Open Group Open Professions Working Group is the Specification Authority for the Program.

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[7] See Section 6 (Evaluation) of The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy for further information.

3.2 Logos and Labels for Use by Certified Professionals

The Open Group Professional Certification Program Trademark License Agreement for the Architect Profession defines the Certification Logo that may be used, along with the following labels that identify the level of certification achieved:

- Level 1: Certified Architect
- Level 2: Master Certified Architect
- Level 3: Distinguished Architect

3.3 Transition

3.3.1 Applying for Certification during Transition

The Open Group Professional Certification Program for the Architect Profession is transitioning from all previous versions of the Certification Policy to the policies specified in The Open Group Professional Program Certification Policy, Version 1.0 or later. For the transition period, all Candidates may either submit the Milestone Application Forms and Experience Application Form, or a complete Certification Package as defined for the previous version of the Program (i.e., monolithic packages).

The two approaches cannot be mixed.

Several separate Milestone Application Forms may be submitted at the same time.

At the end of the transition period, only the Milestone Badge approach will be accepted. Candidates are strongly encouraged to use the Milestone Badge approach from the outset. The monolithic approach is deprecated.

The transition period for the Architect Profession is as follows:

- The Certification Authority will accept Milestone Applications Forms beginning on the date published by the Certification Authority on its website
- For six (6) months following the published date that the Certification Authority starts accepting Milestone Application Forms, a Candidate may still submit a monolithic package

  To do so, the Candidate must first formally notify the Certification Authority of their intent and complete the submission of their package within the six (6)-month period.

Certified Architects applying for re-certification may use the process defined in Section 9 (Re-Certification) of The Open Group Professional Certification Program Certification Policy from the date published on the Certification Authority's website.

3.3.2 Recognition of Previous Certifications

Architects who were certified prior to Milestone Badge certification availability and are in good standing will be provided with an Open CA Certification Badge for their Discipline and level of certification as part of the transition.

Architects certified as Open CA IT Architect Level 1 or Level 2 will become Open CA L1 or L2 Solution Architects and the appropriate Certification Badge will be issued.

Architects certified as Open CA IT Architect Level 3 in any Career Path Category as defined for the previous version of the Program will become Open CA L3 Distinguished Certified Architects.

3.3.3   Using Experience Profiles from Previous Certifications

Candidates who have been certified under previous versions of the Certification Policy and who wish to apply for a new Level 1 or Level 2 certification using the Milestone Badge approach may, under certain conditions, cite their previous certification as a substitute for all but one of the needed Experience Profile Milestone Badges.

- The previous certification must have been validated by the issue of an appropriate Open CA Certification Badge

- The level of certification must be at or above the level of certification being applied for

- This concession cannot be used to provide a substitute for the one Experience Profile Milestone Badge that must have a start date less than three (3) years before the submission of the Experience Application Form to the Certification Authority