GAO: Agencies toddle toward EA maturity

Despite the emphasis on creating and using enterprise architectures over the past two years, agency progress remains slow, according to a soon-to-be released General Accounting Office report.

Auditors surveyed 93 agencies and found that 56 still are at stage 1 or 2 of Version 1.0 of GAO's five-stage maturity model. Examiners compared the progress against 2001 survey results.

GAO released Version 1.1 of its EA framework in April and found 76 agencies were in Stage 1.

Under the new framework, only the Executive Office of the President is at Stage 5—the most advanced phase.

"GAO cited continuing challenges such as limited understanding of EA at the executive level and a shortage of staff who understand it and perform the EA work," said David Marin, a spokesman for Rep. Tom Davis (R-Va.). GAO prepared the report, scheduled for release this week, for Davis, chairman of the House Government Reform Committee.

In the new framework, GAO fleshed out the requirements for each stage:

Stage 1
▶▶Versions 1 and 1.1: No structured plans, but some initial EA components decided
Stage 2
▶▶Version 1: Roles of chief players defined; development begun on some EA components
▶▶Version 1.1: Executive body assigned to plan and develop the architecture, set metrics and allocate resources
Stage 3
▶▶Version 1: Development of agencywide EA components begun; description of the as-is and to-be environments complete; transition plan set
▶▶Version 1.1: Work begun on architecture products based on the plans created in Stage 2; tracking and measuring of progress against initial EA components under way
Stage 4
▶▶Version 1: Complete architecture for managing IT investments approved by agency executives
▶▶Version 1.1: Complete set of EA products approved by management and verified by an independent party; maintenance policy created to govern further evolution of the architecture
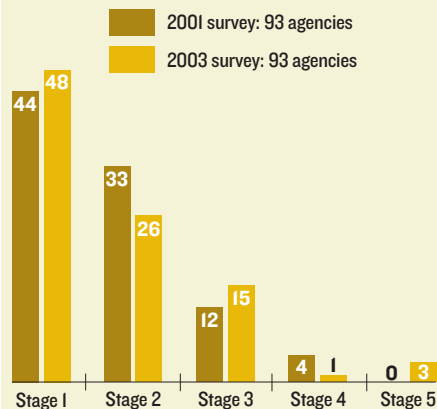**Stage 5**
▶▶Version 1: Change managed and measured through the EA; policy set for architecture maintenance; steering committee and review board established to approve IT investments
▶▶Version 1.1: Advanced performance metrics in use; return on investment realized; security integrated into EA

—Jason Miller

GAO Framework Version 1.0

- 2001 survey: 93 agencies
- 2003 survey: 93 agencies

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
2001 survey	44	33	12	4	0
2003 survey	48	26	15	1	3

GAO Framework Version 1.1

- 2003 survey: 96 agencies

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
2003 survey	76	10	9	0	1