Context Map

Purpose of Context Map Template
- Facilitate conducting an environmental scan, providing reminders of important categories to consider
- Provide effective graphical group communication medium.

Guidelines for creating a Context Map
1. Identify/agree on categories: Identify and get agreement on the most relevant categories of environmental information. Add to or change the Guide accordingly.
2. Identify trends: Record technological and industry/market trends.
3. Identify drivers/forces and factors: Record competitor directions, partner/supplier directions, customer needs, governmental regulations, people/resource needs and constraints and other forces or factors that might affect the architecture.
4. Identify areas of uncertainty
5. Identify issues and risks

Uses of Context Map information
- Use context map to identify and state assumptions about business and market directions and technology trends that the architecture will need to accommodate.
- Starting point for identifying change scenarios when capturing non-functional requirements--What new business processes or behaviors, applications or services does the new technology enable? What new capabilities will the architecture have to support? What competitor moves will the business need to respond to, and how will the architecture help?

© 1999 Bredemeyer Consulting

Adapted from Grove Consultants International Graphic Guide #3 (1-800-49GROVE)