Architecting the Agile Enterprise: A Strategic Guide to Open Agile Architecture

Course Number: ZTS-ARCH-AGILE-ENT

Duration: 3 days

Course Description

As organizations move toward agility, speed, and continuous delivery, traditional architecture practices often struggle to keep pace. The Open Agile Architecture™ (OAA) framework offers a modern approach that empowers architects to thrive in digital environments while staying aligned with Agile, Lean, and DevOps principles. This Agile course is designed for enterprise, solution, and senior domain architects seeking to modernize their architectural thinking and practices. Learners explore the principles, practices, and mindsets of OAA, learn how to architect within Agile delivery streams, and develop strategies for applying OAA across complex organizations. Practical exercises and collaborative workshops help ground theory in real-world application, enabling architects to drive transformation with confidence.

Skills Gained

After taking this course, learners will be able to:

- Explain the principles and motivations behind the Open Agile Architecture™ framework
- Identify the key mindsets, roles, and governance models that support agile architecture
- Collaborate effectively in Agile and product-centric environments
- Apply OAA concepts such as capability mapping, value stream alignment, and architectural enablers

- Use lightweight architecture artifacts, tools, and practices
- Integrate OAA with existing frameworks like TOGAF and SAFe
- Develop a roadmap for adopting OAA within their teams or organizations

Who Can Benefit

This course is designed for experienced architects (enterprise, solution, and domain) who are working in or transitioning to Agile or product-centric delivery models.

Prerequisites

Familiarity with enterprise architecture and Agile delivery models is recommended.

Course Details

The Why of OAA

- Drivers of change: Agile at scale, digital transformation, continuous delivery
- Problems with traditional architecture in Agile environments
- Overview of OAA structure and terminology

OAA Mindsets & Principles

- Agile, Lean, DevOps, Product-Centric thinking
- Intentional Architecture vs. Emergent Design
- Value streams and customer-centric thinking

Agile Architecture Roles & Governance

- Architect roles in cross-functional teams
- Federated governance and decentralized decision-making
- Lightweight documentation and Architecture Decision Records (ADRs)

Architecture in Agile Delivery

- Working with product owners, devs, testers
- Supporting MVPs and product iterations
- Architectural Enablers and the “Architecture Runway”

Capabilities and Value Streams

- Mapping business capabilities to architecture
- Aligning architecture decisions to value delivery
- Service and API thinking (modularity, platform ecosystems)

Workshop: Design an Agile Architecture

- Design an agile architecture for a fictional digital initiative
- Use templates and real-world constraints
- Apply decision-making models (e.g., ADRs, capability mapping)

Tooling and Artifacts

- Minimum viable artifacts
- Architecture sprints, roadmaps, and backlogs
- Collaboration tools (Jira, Miro, ArchiMate, etc.)

Integration with Other Frameworks

- How OAA aligns or coexists with TOGAF, SAFe, ArchiMate
- Supporting agility in regulated or large-scale environments

Transitioning to Practice

- Maturity models and assessments for Agile architecture
- Scaling OAA across teams and portfolios
- Change management for architecture functions

Final Workshop + Debrief

- Group presentation or walk-through of architecture proposal
- Feedback + action planning
- Post-course roadmap: What to do in the next 30/60/90 days