

WHAT IS INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE?

The Information Architecture Institute is an international organization committed to advancing and promoting the practice of information architecture.

We define information architecture as **the art and science of organizing and labeling websites, intranets, online communities and software to support usability.**

As information proliferates exponentially, usability is becoming the critical success factor for websites and software applications. Good IA lays the necessary groundwork for an information system that makes sense to users.

Why IA?

Today, every business has an information problem. Whether an organization is wrestling with how to handle myriad legacy data, or how to create taxonomies within a new product, information architecture is an important part of the solution. Some organizations have clearly defined positions for Information Architects, who play leading roles in development processes for everything from file systems to product architecture. Other organizations have no formalized positions, but count IA as a critical competency for many, such as internet strategists, interaction designers, and knowledge architects. In both types of organizations, best practices in information architecture support the development of interfaces that facilitate the flow of useful and relevant information to the user.

Your organization needs information architecture when:

- Business objectives dictate designing or significantly redesigning a user interface or website
- Inaccessibility of information to your customers and employees is increasing costs, including to your call center and help desk
- Knowledge management initiatives are migrating information from desktops to a central file system or intranet.