

InfoQ Certified Organizational Architect Program syllabus

Five-week online certification cohort. Four hours a week.

Program Overview

The [InfoQ Certified Organizational Architect Program](#) online cohort is designed for senior engineers and software architects who need to address the non-technical complexities of architecture. This program skips passive theory. It provides a safe environment where you work with peers across industries to pressure-test your organizational strategies, build influence, and align business, technical, and organizational architecture for fast flow of value to your customers.

Week-by-week syllabus

Week 1: Leadership & Communication

- **Focus:** This week explores the work that senior architects and Staff+ engineers actually do once code is no longer the bottleneck: shaping decisions through effective communication with distinct stakeholders in the organization. You will evaluate socio-technical systems, balancing architecture decisions with team dynamics and culture to drive organizational change that supports the business strategy. In particular, you will learn how to gain confidence from upper management and how to align your peers on organizational change.
- **Sample discussion task:** You will compare communication style samples on how to communicate and negotiate organizational changes with stakeholders who have different priorities and concerns. Your group will be pressure-tested to demonstrate the value

delivered by past organizational changes and to make influential decisions about ongoing investments.

Week 2: Value Stream Architecture

- **Focus:** This week dives into understanding what are value streams from an organizational perspective, and why that matters for the business. You will understand why flow slows down the more your organizational structures differ from your value streams architecture, and how to focus on removing bottlenecks and aligning teams' work to user needs and value delivery. You will gain a deeper understanding of the differences between project, product, and value stream-oriented organizations.
- **Sample discussion task:** You will identify how to structure teams around value streams rather than just functions. Your group will: 1. identify high-level value streams; 2. map them to team-level value streams; 3. contrast your findings with actual organizational structures; and 4. define steps to address the current gaps between organizational architecture and business value architecture.

Week 3: Architect for Flow

- **Focus:** This week examines how to align organizational, technical, and business architectures by combining techniques and ideas from Wardley Mapping, Domain-Driven Design, and Team Topologies. You will visualize the landscape for a system based on the user needs it meets and expected evolution over time from genesis to commodity. You will overlay team design on this landscape and understand how different types of teams and interactions are required depending on the evolution stage of the system or service.
- **Sample discussion task:** Bring a current system (or part thereof) that is producing flow problems. Your group will diagnose it by applying techniques from the three frameworks, starting with the evolution landscape. Then you will provide a combination of steps to address the current problems, as well as defining metrics to diagnose the next evolution stage.

Week 4: Platformization

- **Focus:** This week introduces strategies for growing business and technology capabilities - including AI - for sustainable growth with an internal multi-platform strategy. Platforms work when they are products with willing customers and flexible boundaries, and fail when they are mandates with captive customers and rigid boundaries. You will learn to treat your internal platform as a product designed to reduce extraneous cognitive load for developers, and build feedback loops to measure developer experience without producing vanity numbers.
- **Sample discussion task:** You will share one platform success and one platform failure from your own experience or close observation. Your group will identify the conditions that made one work and the other fail, then pressure-test whether the case for centralizing a specific capability at your organization is justified or premature. You will also consider alternative options to the "centralized vs decentralized" platform pendulum, especially in the age of AI.

Week 5: Data & AI

- **Focus:** The final week explores how to maximize the impact of data science and AI on value flow via intentional organizational structures. Data and AI capabilities do not fix organizational dysfunction. They amplify it. You will reason about why bounded agency and clear data governance are fundamental to adopting AI safely. And why adaptive enabling and platform mechanisms are key to adopting AI quickly. The majority of the time is dedicated to the capstone project presentations.
- **Capstone Project:** The capstone is introduced in Week 1 and built throughout the program. Your group will choose one of two tracks: design a value-stream-aligned reorganization for one part of your business, or propose a platform and team-topology strategy for a capability that is currently fragmented or failing at your organization. The deliverable is a 20-minute group presentation followed by a 30-minute peer discussion. End your presentation with an unresolved question that your team is still working out.