

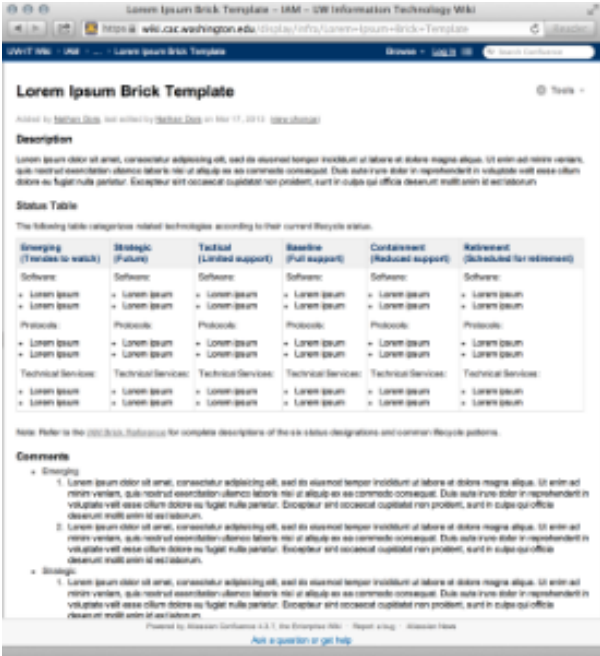
IAM Brick Reference

Purpose

An IAM "brick" describes the status of technical standards, protocols, service options, and other technologies used for identity and access management (IAM) within the IT environment at the University of Washington. To do so each brick focuses on a set of IAM technologies from the same functional area and uses the same set of designations to describe the lifecycle status of individual options coming into or exiting from the environment.

Template

A standard template is used to create a brick for a specific IAM functional area. The template includes sections describing the IAM function, the current technology options and their lifecycle designations, as well as commentary and links to related bricks.



Tip: Click the image above to view a larger version. Or click the Browse menu and select Templates to view the current template.

Lifecycle Status Designations

The following table describes the designations used within a brick to categorize technology options according lifecycle status, related customer risk, investment levels, support, adoption, etc.

Status	Customer Risk Level	Investment Level	Description
Emerging	High	Limited investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends to watch Technologies to track or evaluate Strategic alignment uncertain Adoption uncertain
Strategic	Medium	Strategic investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future technologies Adoption possible within 5 years Technologies aligning with strategic needs Technologies being evaluated for strategic fit Technologies that may transform the business
Tactical	Medium	Tactical investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited support Technologies being piloted Adoption possible within 2 years Some use in select pilot projects Technologies that may enter baseline

Baseline	Low	Ongoing investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full support • Current technologies • In widespread use today • Recommended for new implementations • Technologies that sustain and grow the business
Containment	Medium	Reduced investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced support • No new development • New customer uses limited • Technologies that no longer meet business needs • Investments may be necessary to sustain
Retirement	High	Deinvestment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal support • Scheduled for retirement • Technologies that have been deprecated • Investments may be necessary to decommission

Lifecycle Patterns

This section describes common lifecycle patterns for technologies coming into and exiting from the environment.

Full Lifecycle. Some technologies proceed through every status designation during their lifecycle (Figure 1).



Figure 1. A technology proceeds through the full lifecycle.

Fast Track. Other technologies are evaluated for strategic fit and are recommended for baseline use (Figure 2).

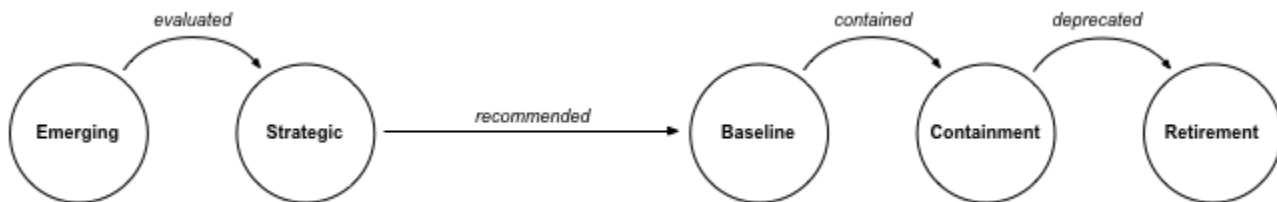


Figure 2. A technology is evaluated and recommended for baseline status.

Tactical Use Only. Some technologies are selected and supported for tactical reasons, but use is limited to contain cost, complexity, etc. (Figure 3).

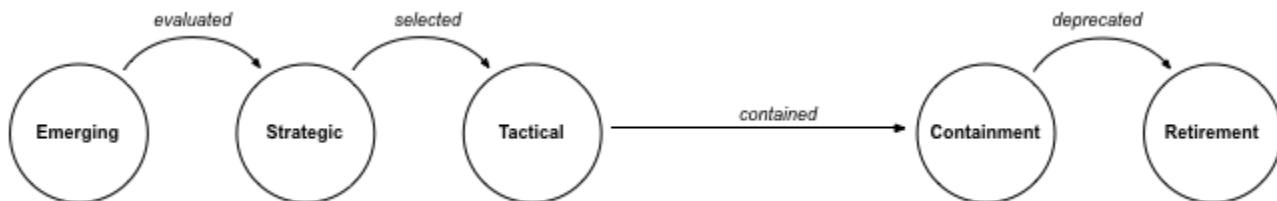


Figure 3. A technology is evaluated and selected for tactical but not baseline use.

Early Retirement. Some baseline technologies are deprecated and make an early exit from the environment (Figure 4).



Figure 4. A baseline technology is deprecated and set for retirement.

Hail Marys. Other technologies are selected without being evaluated for strategic fit, with mixed results (Figure 5).

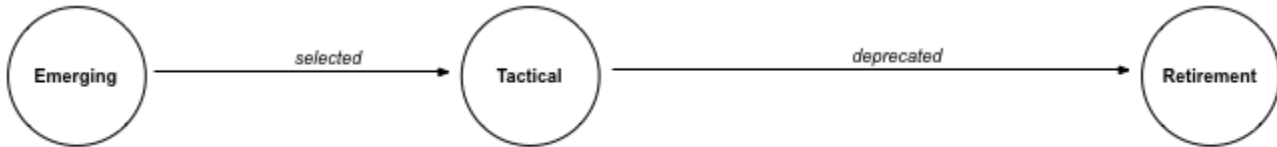


Figure 5. A technology is selected without being evaluated; goes bye-bye.

Other examples abound. Most technologies follow the full lifecycle pattern or some subset of it.

Background

One key goal of infrastructure like IAM is to provide building blocks that accommodate the diverse needs of business applications and shared services. Since these building blocks provide foundations for applications and other shared infrastructure services, they must be stable, proven, useful, and well understood. This requires good design but also clear, concise, and easy to understand communication.

The "brick" concept is a simple model used by other large, complex organizations for planning and communicating what standards, protocols, and other technical components will be adopted in their IT environments. The bricks model brings transparency to the decision-making processes by which community standards emerge, evolve, and are retired. It also clarifies what principles influence these decisions.

The bricks concept is being applied to IAM functions at the UW to help people, teams, and organizations determine effective ways to use our infrastructure to perform IAM functions, now and into the foreseeable future. The IAM bricks can be useful for designing solutions in a way that balances opportunities and risks, and for planning and budgeting uses in the future.

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