

# Data Architecture and Data Dictionary Defined

## Data Architecture Data Dictionary Defined

The purpose of this document is to define data architecture and data dictionary. They may seem like technical terms unique to information technology, but their real value is they are independent of technology. They model requirements technology solutions must support. Independent of the technology, they model the more stable business relationships that control the other information architectures.

### A Business Model

The data architecture (with its logical data model with its data dictionary) models the customer or user view of the information. Before building an information system (either functional or enterprise), the data architecture shows the IT people what the customer wants. It also helps the customer “plug and play” new information systems, including loading those new systems with conversion data. Like a professional architect’s illustrations, drawings and specifications that list a home construction project customer’s requirements; the business model lists a customer’s information requirements, independent of technology. Besides the various business views the customer’s functional reports provide, a business model includes an integrated objective and normalized view of the business. The key to this integration is a normalized logical data model, the final deliverable of which is a data dictionary.

### Logical Data Model

It is important the business model views be related to a logical model. In a logical model the name of each entity means one and only one thing, and there is a meaningful relationship between those names. At TeamsWin we use our copyrighted TeamsWin Template and its associated TeamsWin General Business Model to guarantee this logical data model normalization. This normalization is required for data reusability. If your business model stays normalized, it stays flexible. If it loses normalization, it cannot flex with changes in the business or even changes in requested views of the business information.

### Data Dictionary

The final deliverable of a normalized logical data model is the business model data dictionary. Like a professional architect, the business modeler produces a model that identifies and defines the business objects and objectives. Those definitions indicate relationships such as characteristics and associations like types, subtypes, and type discriminators. In other words, with text, identifiers and diagrams the dictionary definitions show those entities in their business context.

## Summary: Data Architecture Data Dictionary

The purpose of this document is to define data architecture and data dictionary. Their real value is they are independent of technology. They model the more stable business relationships that control the other information architectures.