VERAM: Virtual Enterprise Reference Architecture and Methodology

Nowadays, enterprises cooperate more extensively with other enterprises during the entire product life cycle. Temporary alliances between various enterprises emerge such as those in Virtual Enterprises. However, many enterprises experience difficulties in the formation and operation of virtual enterprises, for instance concerning integration issues. This chapter lays down an architectural framework, called VERAM, which aims to support the set up and operation of virtual enterprises. The framework aims to offer handles that contribute to solving the problems that enterprises face when they want to cooperate in a Virtual Enterprise. Supported by the framework, individual enterprises might operate and set up a virtual enterprise from a dynamic, inter-enterprise network. Furthermore, this chapter shows how other chapters of this book fit into the VERAM architectural framework.