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# Enterprise Architecture Office Design Note - Application Naming

This document provides help in naming applications. The goals for naming applications include:

- Names should help people remember the application.
- Names should describe what the application does: its business purpose.
- Names should not change as the implementation changes.

As an example:

Principle	Example	Notes
The name should include the key function or process: what is it for?	Collection	What would you call it if you did not know the vendor, technology or product name.
A better name would be more specific.	Property Tax Collection	With people trading places, would the next person understand what the application does?
It may include a localizing focus.	Property Tax Collection Ramsey County	

Databases containing the application as entries may include aliases in addition to the application name. However, indexes and references should only use the application name itself.

## Examples of What Not to Use as Part of an Application Name

Item	Example	Notes
Product Name	Filenet Business Objects Crystal Reports	These identify the products used to implement the application. Such names can (and do) change frequently and are thus not good identifiers.
Product Version	1.1	These change often.
Vendor Name	BMC Oracle Microsoft	These identify the vendor. The state often purchases multiple products from the same vendor and thus these do not make good identifiers.
Platform	Mainframe	Unless it is about the mainframe itself.
Technology Mechanism	Interface Server Web Services	Unless it is about the mechanism. For example a "Web Services Monitor."
Location	Floors Building Data Center	Unless it is about the business purpose. For example a "Data Center Power Manager" as opposed to a "Building Power Manager."
Deployment Environment	Production Staging Test QA	A given application name will normally span all related environments. Thus, the abovementioned Property Tax Collection system may have production, staging and test instances, but they are all part of the same application.

Item	Example	Notes
	Demo Training Lab	
Frequency	Daily Screen Scraper	The application should be named for its purpose, not its frequency of execution.
Time Slice	Quarterly Property Assessment	Same as for frequency.
Dates	2005	For example, the implementation year. Again, the application's name should not depend upon when it was implemented or other time identifications.