Pre-Assessment Questions for SMART-AF Assessment

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Instructions:  
This list is sent to a client in advance of a SMART-AF assessment. Its purpose is to clarify for the client the kind of information we are seeking, and provide insight into the kind of attendees the client should make sure are present during the assessment. The list should contain roughly twenty questions; roughly half with a business and management focus, the other half with a technical focus. These proportions will vary from client to client.

The following is a hypothetical set of questions; the actual set should be based on the advance materials that the client has already sent to the SMART Team. The team should determine whether the client POC (or his designates) can suggest any further inputs to this list.

*Establish Context* and *Analyze Business Intent*

* What is the high-level structure of both the organization and its software asset base? Do these two structures map to each other?
* What are the expected benefits of adopting SOA and the source of that expectation?
* Are there any existing uses of SOA, or other initiatives, within the organization aimed at SOA adoption?
* What business problems exist for which SOA is seen as the remedy?
* Is the move to SOA motivated by the need for process improvement?
* Are cost savings (or any other cost-related factors) the motivation for moving to SOA?
* What are the perceived risks mitigated by a move to SOA?
* Are there any outside/external factors motivating the move to SOA?
* Do you already have business processes selected as candidates for SOA adoption?

*Analyze Technical Intent* and *Review Current Technology*

* Are your current software capabilities insufficient for the organization’s business needs? How is SOA expected to remedy these insufficiencies?
* What are the technical drivers to adopting SOA?
* Does your IT staff understand the advantages and limitations of SOA? Are they aware of the business drivers necessitating a move to SOA?
* What are the major software systems used by the organization?
* Are legacy systems expected to be migrated to SOA? Can you identify these systems?
* Is the current IT architecture able to accommodate changes to business models and processes?
* Do you have formal governance policies over your IT assets and practices?