

Level Up Your Digital Skills

An introduction to SFIA

for development, career pathways and recruitment





Today

- Introducing SFIA
 - SFIA basics in a nutshell
 - Ways to use SFIA
- SFIA for development and career pathways
- SFIA in recruitment
- Getting started with SFIA



Introductions



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BEING HUMAN IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Digital Skills Agency

















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BEING HUMAN IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Why level up your digital skills?

INDIVIDUALS

Stay employable

New job

Future opportunities

Interesting work

Learning enjoyment

Future proofing

LEADERS

Boost performance

Deliver on strategy

Team engagement

Team retention

Competitive advantage



Case study



Hollyford Tech



AVA - Solution Architect
Priorities: Wants progression to Head
of Architecture
Concerns: Pathway not visible,

pressure to step up delivery

JUN - Head of Architecture
Priorities: Own development, support
team delivery, bolster engagement
Concerns: Team delivery below
expectations, needs to hire



TAMA - Candidate Solution Architect Priorities: Obtain a new role as a Solution Architect Concerns: Being visible in a candidate-heavy market, putting best foot forward



Introduction to SFIA

Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA)



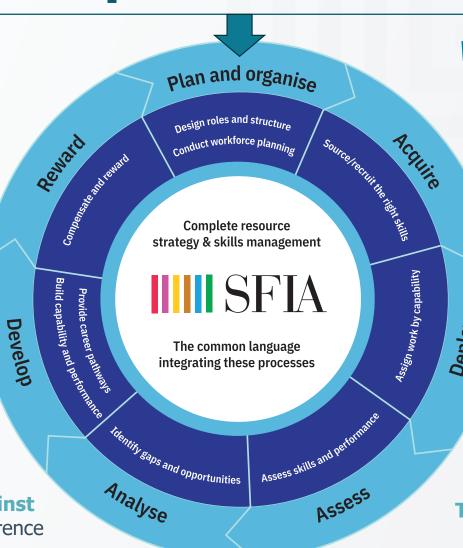
How SFIA helps

What skills do you have?

To align remuneration coherently to the individual's competence and contribution.

To build capability in line with the organisation's needs, based on SFIA's statements of competence.

To assess performance against business objectives with reference to SFIA skills.



What skills do you need?

To set recruitment criteria that enables the attraction & selection of the RIGHT candidates.

To clearly & transparently **describe the capability** being sought or provided.

To reduce project risks by assigning the right skilled people based on actual capability.

To measure current capability and plan for future demand.

Introducing SFIA

 SFIA – the global common reference for skills and competency for the digital world

Key facts:

- 147 skills
- 6 categories
- 7 levels

Characteristics:

- Activity focussed
- Tool/vendor agnostic
- Jargon free descriptors
- Refined over 20+ years



Example content

Project management PRMG

SFIA 8 Change and transformation

Change implementation

Skill Overview

Skill Levels (4-7)

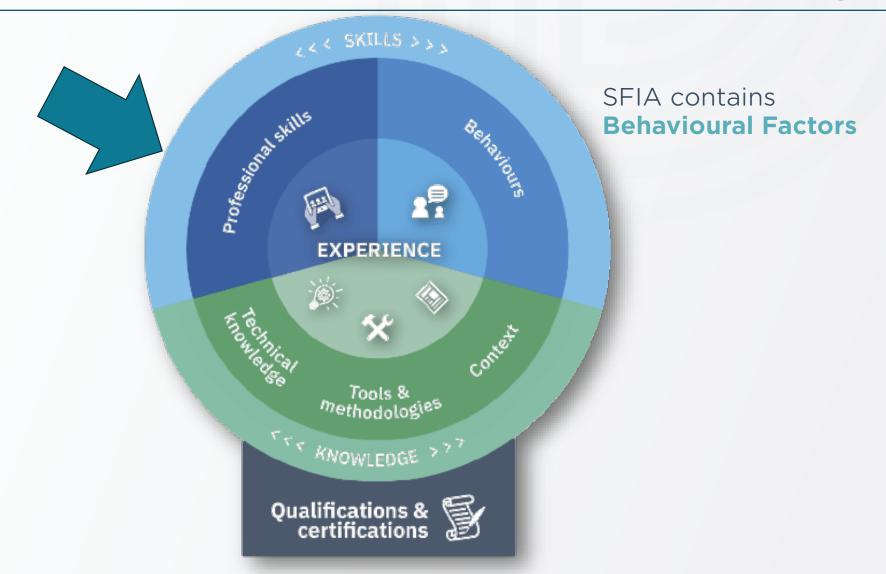
Additional Notes

Skill description

Delivering agreed outcomes from projects using appropriate management techniques, collaboration, leadership and governance.



Skills Framework for the Information Age





Skill vs knowledge

Who is the musician?



Knowledge - understanding your domain



Skill - putting the knowledge to use



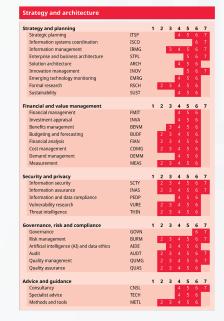
SFIA skills

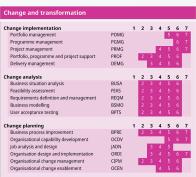
6 categories

147 skills (v9)

Each skill described at up to 7 levels

672 skill-level descriptions













SFIA levels

Sets & authorises strategy ... Level 7 Set strategy, inspire, mobilise **Mobilises and inspires organisation Initiates** and leads strategic delivery Level 6 Initiate, influence **Influences** strategy formation **Ensures** operational accountability Level 5 **Ensure**, advise **Advises** decision makers Level 4 **Enable Enables** team/business outcomes Level 3 **Applies** knowledge Apply Level 2 **Assists** others **Assist** Level 1 **Follow Follows** detailed instructions



SFIA levels

Level 7 Set strategy, inspire, mobilise **Chief X Officer** Level 6 Initiate, influence Director **Ensure**, advise Level 5 **Manager / Domain Expert** Level 4 **Enable Functional Senior / Lead Apply** Level 3 **Practitioner / Technician** Level 2 **Assist Graduate / Support** Level 1 **Follow Entry Level / Automated?**



SFIA structure

Generic

definition of a

level

Apply

Skill name

Skill code

Overall description of skill

Guidance notes

Skill-level description

Application Support ASUP

Delivering management, technical and administrative services to support and maintain live applications.

Guidance notes

Activities may include but are not limited to:

- investigating and resolving issues
- implementing working practices to support iterative/agile development...

Autonomy

Works under general direction to complete assigned tasks. Receives guidance and has work reviewed at agreed milestones ...

Influence

Works with and influences team decisions. Has a transactional level of contact with people outside their team, including internal colleagues and external contacts.

Complexity

Performs a range of work, sometimes complex and non-routine, in a variety of environments.

Knowledge

Applies a knowledge of a range of role-specific practices to complete tasks within defined boundaries ...

Follows agreed procedures to identify and resolve issues with applications.

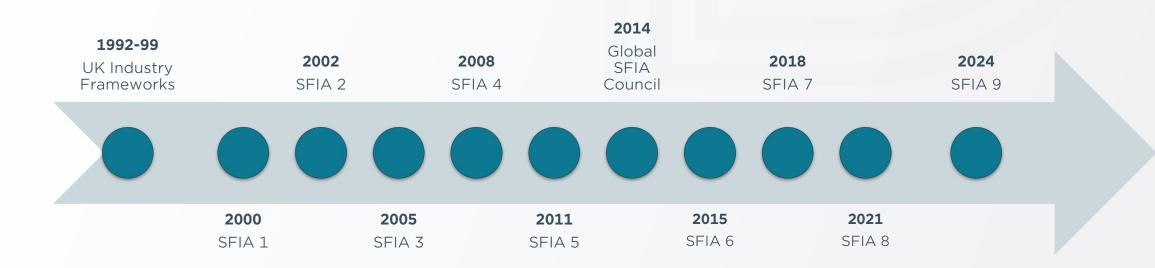
Uses application management software and tools to collect agreed performance statistics.

Carries out agreed applications maintenance tasks.



Regularly updated

As digital skills evolve over time, so does SFIA



SFIA Foundation

You need a licence to use SFIA...

... but in NZ we have an all-of-country licence

... and SFIA is free for most users!

SFIA is "owned" by the non-for-profit SFIA Foundation

Global collaborative development of industry / business / users

- Updates come from real users of SFIA
- Overseen by Global Design Authority Board

Vendor, framework, sector, and tool agnostic

Global governance - SFIA Foundation Board and SFIA Council

- Professional bodies e.g. ITP, BCS, ...
- Industry bodies e.g. itSMF, ISACA, ...
- Leading Accredited partners e.g. Digital Skills Agency, SkillsTX, ...
- Government, education, and other representatives of major user groups



How to use SFIA?





How to use SFIA?



Position descriptions

Capability planning

Career pathway maps

Digital skills profiles

Digital badges

Organisational structural modelling

Uncover hidden strengths

Supplier procurement criteria

Organisational capability modelling

Individual development plans

Interview questions

Remuneration structures

Team structures

Target skills blind spots

Targeted training

Secondments

Project needs assessment

Recruitment criteria

Job design

Leadership pipelines

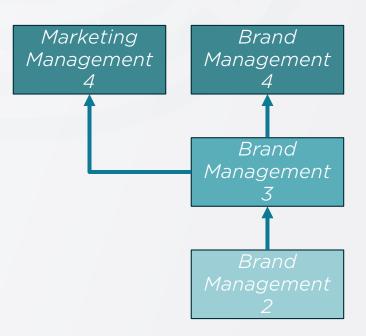


SFIA for Development and Career Pathways



SFIA and development

- 'Lego blocks' for individual skill development
 - See the pathway brick by brick
 - Build skill by skill track progress
- Map skills to the job you have
- Map skills to the job you want
- Identify skills for the talent you need



Case study



Hollyford Tech



✓ Personal development✓ Career pathways

AVA - Solution Architect
Priorities: Wants progression to Head
of Architecture
Concerns: Pathway not visible,
pressure to step up delivery



Ava - individual user



Skills Portfolio

- Solution Architect
- Hungry to grow professionally
- Wants visibility of future options

SKILL CODES:

STPL: Enterprise and Business

Architecture

ARCH: Solution Architecture EMRG: Emerging Technology

Monitoring

CNSL: Consultancy

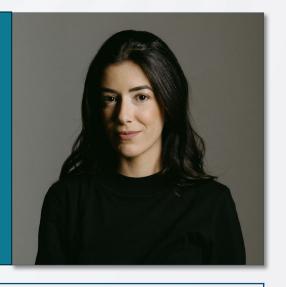
TECH: Specialist Advice METL: Methods and Tools PROD: Product Management

DESN: Systems Design

RLMT: Stakeholder Relationship

Management

PEMT: Performance Management



| | | | | SFIA | Skill Co | de and l | _evel | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Ava | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | TECH 5 | METL 5 | PROD 5 | DESN 5 | RLMT 5 | PEMT 4 |



Ava - individual user



Current Role

- Solution Architect
- Hungry to grow professionally
- Wants visibility of future options

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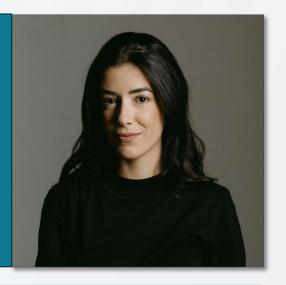
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| Team | Position | | SFIA Skill Code and Level | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| hitecture | Solution Architect | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | DESN 5 | SINT 5 | SUPP 4 | |
| Archite | Ava | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | DESN 5 | X | SUPP 4 | + TECH 5 METL 5 |



Ava - individual user



Target Role

- Head of Architecture
- Wants a plan to step up
- Not sure what she needs to do

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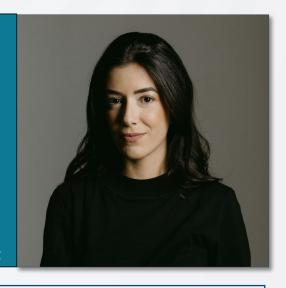
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| Team | Position | | SFIA Skill Code and Level | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Archite cture | | | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | | | SUPP 4 | + DESN 5 SINT 5 | | |
| | Head of Architecture | STPL 6 | ARCH 6 | EMRG 6 | CNSL 6 | PROD 6 | RLMT 6 | SCTY 6 | PEMT 5 | SUPP 5 | QUMG 5 | | |
| | Ava | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | | | SUPP 4 | + TECH 5 METL 5 DESN 5 | | |



Ava - first steps





| Solution Archi | tecture (ARCH) |
|--|---|
| Level 5 - Ensure, Advise | Level 6 - Initiate, Influence |
| Leads the development of solution architectures in specific business, infrastructure or functional areas. | Leads the development of architectures for complex solutions ensuring consistency with agreed requirements. |
| Leads the preparation of technical plans and ensures appropriate technical resources are made available. | Establishes policies, principles and practices for the selection of solution architecture components. |
| | |



Ava - first steps





Development Plan

Solution Architect to Head of Architecture

| Skills I Have | Skills I Need | Actions | Next Steps |
|---|---|---|--|
| Enterprise and Business Architecture (STPL) Level 5 | STPL 6 + 1 skill level to increase | What resources do I have access to What training is available at the right level | Specific step I will take Timescale Accountability actions |
| Solution Architecture (ARCH) Level 5 | +1 skill level to increase | How can I get practical experience at the level I need | |
| Stakeholder Relationship Management (RLMT) Level 5 | RLMT 6 +1 skill level to increase | Who can support, mentor or coach me | |
| | Performance Management (PEMT) Level 5 n/a - new skill | How do I build knowledge in this new area - reading, training, shadowing etc | |



How to get started?

- What would be useful to you?
 - Personal development planning
 - Mapping SFIA skills to jobs
 - Career pathway views
 - Translating development needs into achievable steps

Check out the resources on https://sfia.nz
Talk to our team



SFIA in Recruitment



Case study



Recruitment

- Hiring new Solution Architect
- Overloaded with applications
- Anxious about getting it right
- Likes data-based decisions



√Recruitment

JUN - Head of Architecture Priorities: Support team delivery,

bolster engagement

Concerns: Team delivery below expectations, needs to hire







Hiring Criteria

- Choose core SFIA skills
- Choose selection methods to test
- Agree evidence methodology

SKILL CODES:

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DESN: Systems Design

SINT: Systems Integration and

Build

SUPP: Supplier Management



| | | | | SFIA Ski | II Code a | nd Level | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| Solution Architect | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | DESN 5 | SINT 5 | SUPP 4 |













Skills Survey

- Online for selected candidates
- Self-evaluate on skills needed
- First pass evidence use for selection
- Refine at interview stage

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SFIA Interviews

- Refine survey results
- OR first pass
- Use SFIA skill to frame quality open questions
- Use SFIA skill to evaluate answers and whether candidate appears to meet the skill/level needed
- 4 questions on core criteria skills selected:
 - Solution Architecture (ARCH)
 - Emerging Technology Monitoring (EMRG)



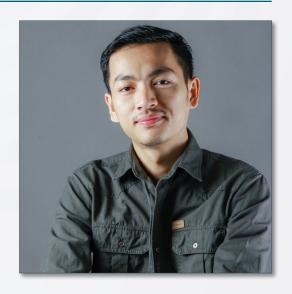




Stakeholder Relationship Management (RLMT)

Design question around the skill overview:

• Systematically analysing, managing and influencing stakeholder relationships to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes through structured engagement.



Broad interview question:

- "Tell me about your work in managing stakeholder relationships. How have you managed and influenced stakeholders to achieve outcomes?"
- Draw out examples and probe for detail
- Evaluate answer against SFIA levels
- Record answer detail as evidence







- Listen to their answer and probe.
- Which level are you hearing the strongest evidence of?

| Level 4 - Enable | Level 5 – Ensure, Advise | Level 6 - Initiate, Influence |
|---|--|---|
| Deals with problems and issues, managing resolutions, corrective actions, lessons learned and the collection and dissemination of relevant information. | Identifies the communications and relationship needs of stakeholder groups. | Leads the development of comprehensive stakeholder management strategies and plans. |
| Implements stakeholder engagement/communications plans. | Translates communications/stakeholder engagement strategies into specific activities and deliverables. | Establishes and builds long-term, strategic relationships with key stakeholders to support service delivery and change initiatives. |
| Collects and uses feedback from customers and stakeholders to help measure the effectiveness of stakeholder management. | Facilitates open communication and discussion between stakeholders. | Acts as a principal point of contact, ensuring effective communication and alignment. |
| | | |







Candidate: Tama

- Would you consider hiring him?
- Why or why not?

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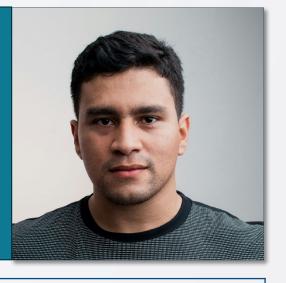
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| Position | | | | SFIA | Skill Co | de and | Level | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| Solution Architect | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 5 | RLMT 5 | DESN 5 | SINT 5 | SUPP 4 | |
| Tama | STPL 5 | ARCH 5 | EMRG 5 | CNSL 5 | PROD 4 | RLMT 5 | DESN 5 | X | X | + TECH 5 METL 5 HSIN 5 SCTY 4 |



Evidence based hiring

- Good evidence = good data
- Strong skills methodologies = evidence
- We have a very high success rate with this

Hiring Manager Concerns

Too many applications to manage

Technical interviewing is tough

Am I making the right decision?

s the remuneration pitched right?

Will they stay or will they go?

Low talent pool ,

Better Outcomes

Tangible skillsbased criteria

Better data = better decisions

Realistic job preview



SFIA +

robust

methodologies

How to get started?

- What would be useful to you?
 - Creating SFIA role profiles for jobs to hire
 - Support for skills-based interviewing
 - Support for hiring criteria
 - Evidence-based decision making

Check out the resources on https://sfia.nz
Talk to our team



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Getting Started with SFIA



SFIA Resources

- SFIA NZ Website: https://sfia.nz
- Digital Skills Agency Website: https://digitalskillsagency.com



- Official source of materials
- Lots of resources
- Key reference documents
 - https://sfia-online.org/en/sfia-8-documentation
 - About SFIA (pdf)
 - SFIA Reference Guide (pdf)
 - Summary Chart (A3)
 - Framework Content (Excel)









Getting Started

- What would be useful to you?
 - Identifying team skill profiles
 - Mapping job descriptions to SFIA
 - Stronger team development planning
 - Career pathway visibility
 - SFIA recruitment support
 - Training in how to use SFIA























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Your partner for digital skills & capability

https://digitalskillsagency.com



