

WHICH OMG MEMBERSHIP LEVEL SHOULD MY COMPANY CHOOSE?

Now that you have decided to sign your company up for an OMG membership, you need to choose the right level. You may even have checked out the matrix at www.omg.org/membership and feel that you need something to fill in “between the lines.” Here is the additional information you need:

Influencing Levels vs. Submitting Levels

Submitting level members – Contributing, Platform, and Domain – can submit candidate specification documents in response to OMG RFPs. Influencing level members – Influencing, Government, and University – can not submit, but can participate and vote in Task Forces (TFs), where technical decisions are made. Note that members at all of these levels may participate and vote in every Task Force; the Platform/Domain distinction restricts only submitting and voting in the TCs, not voting in TFs. Only submitting-level members may run for election to the influential Architecture Board (AB).

Choosing between an influencing membership level and a submitting level is a matter of balancing your company’s exposure to or dependence on OMG technology with the role you will play in the adoption process and in helping to manage the organization by, e.g. chartering new TFs and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and overseeing their work. Figure 1 shows the hierarchy of OMG subgroups:

(Continued on reverse)

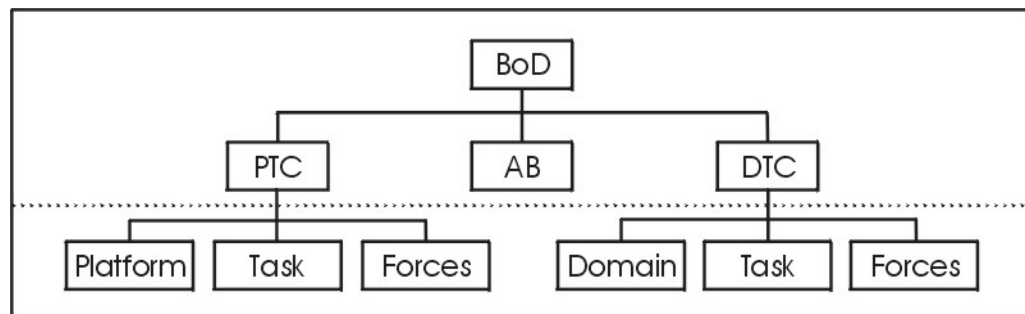


Figure 1: Task Forces (TF) at the bottom, where technical work is done; Platform Technology Committee (PTC) and Domain Technology Committee (DTC) in the middle layer, along with the influential Architecture Board (AB); and the Board of Directors (BoD) at the top. Members at Influencing Levels may participate and vote anywhere below the dotted line. Membership at a Submitting Level adds rights to participate and vote above the line on either the Platform side, Domain side, or both, depending on membership type. All Submitting Level members may nominate a representative to run for a seat on the AB.

Considerations for technology-producing companies:

- If your company produces software based on OMG specifications, one of the submitting levels – Platform, Domain, or Contributing – is best for you. If you plan to submit to a currently active RFP as soon as you join, a submitting level membership is a requirement.
- If only a part of your business (and not its core) is based on OMG specifications, and you are not a submitter to any current adoption process, you may be satisfied with an Influencing level membership. At this level, you forego the opportunity to steward the organization and work as a peer with the other submitting-level companies. You will have a vote in every TF, where all technical-level decisions are made.

Considerations for end-user companies:

- If you're an end-user company that wants to guide standards in your space, and use your contacts among OMG's vendor and other end-user members to gain insight on where the industry is heading, Influencing level is for you.
- If you're an end-user company whose first-rate development shop produces technology that deserves to be the industry standard, you should consider taking a submitting level membership and pitching in to write specifications.
- If OMG specifications are a foundation of your enterprise architecture, then your dependence justifies a membership level higher than Influencing. If, in addition, you're a large company whose logo is recognized instantly world-wide, and are recognized as a leader by the other companies in your domain, you should consider the positive impact that your high-level membership and presence on OMG's Board of Directors (BoD) will have on standards penetration in your industry and choose a submitting-level membership.

Fine-Tuning Your Membership Level Choice

Even though you'll have to choose a membership level when you join, you're not locked in – there are two things you can do to fine-tune your choice: First, you can always upgrade without penalty – OMG will apply full credit for your pro-rated remaining term towards your new membership category. Second, if you choose Platform or Domain level, you're allowed to switch from one to the other once during your membership year. You can't do this if your RFP submitter status doesn't allow it.

– We hope this summary has helped you make your membership choice. If it's raised any questions that didn't get answered, please ask us either by email or telephone.

Welcome to OMG!