

## Domain

**Question:** How can I model a 'domain' in ArchiMate? A 'domain' is defined as a certain demarcation meant to structure concepts. These could be business-, application-, information- or technical domains.

**Solution:** In ArchiMate the grouping relationship is suited to grouping domains. The relationship can be given a name. In the example below (the part of) the sales domain is shown.

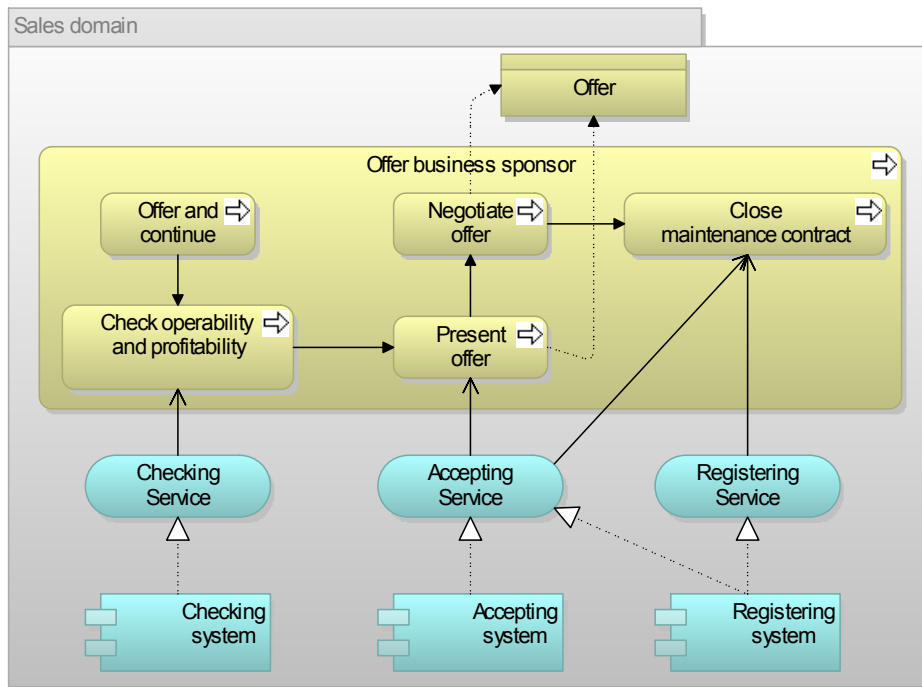


Figure : Example of a sales domain

**Consequences:** ArchiMate distinguishes domains and relationships. Grouping is a relationship. There is a desire to reuse the grouping relationship in other views (if possible without explicitly adding its elements, so only copying the 'grouping' itself). ArchiMate is not explicit when it comes to relationships or how they are used when using the grouping concept. Existing tools do not support this.

The usage of the grouping relationship implies that domains can be flexibly handled. Any domain one could think of can be visualized in this way. To prevent cluttering it is recommended to beforehand develop the domain types that are distinguished within an organization and which concepts are part of that (aggregation relationship).

**Alternatives:** If a targeted domain consists of similar concepts (for example only application components) an occurrence of such a concept might also be used to construct the domain. The components in the domain will then be related to the domain with an aggregation relationship.

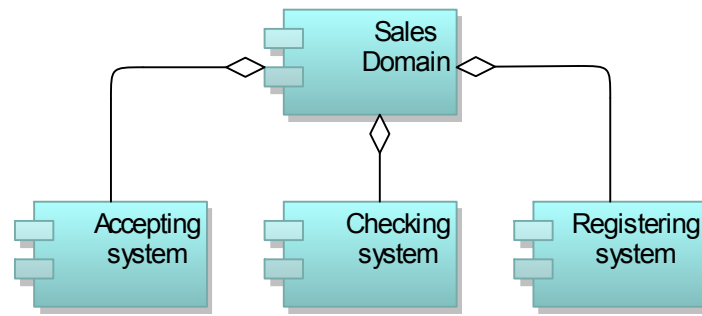


Figure : Example of a sales domain on the application layer

Process domains can be constructed with a business process or business function as container. For application domains, an application component can be used. For an infrastructure domain, the node seems the most suitable container. There is currently a study in progress to extend the language with a separate 'Domain' concept.

**Relationships with other good practices:** Refer to good practice 'application landscape'.