## Principles Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle Name</th>
<th>Give the principle a catchy name.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
<td>Statement of the principle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rationale/Benefits</strong></td>
<td>Describe the reasoning behind the principle. Where applicable, provide traceability to business or architectural objectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implications</strong></td>
<td>Identify implications such as actions that need to be undertaken, and constraints implied by the principle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counterargument</strong></td>
<td>Describe the reasonable counter to this principle.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Architectural Principles

### Principles
- Architectural principles are statements of preferred architectural direction or practice.

### Guidelines for Creating Principles
- In each principle, clearly state a chosen direction
- Each principle should be stated in such a way that you will know if the architecture has the characteristics expressed by the principle
- Each principle should have a counter-argument; that is, they should not be platitudes or general features that are desirable regardless of the system
- Principles should be simply stated and understandable
- Principles need to be rationalized, stating why the principle is preferred, drawing on business-related factors where possible
- The implications of adopting the principle should also be identified
- Base principles on experience (graphical history, literature, etc.) to repeat what worked and avoid what did not work
- For each quality goal, consider whether there is a principle that will guide structuring decisions to achieve the goal

### Uses of Principles
- Architectural principles help establish a context for architectural decisions by using business criteria to rationalize basic architectural choices, and
- eliminate the need for evaluating endless alternatives in the modeling stages by agreeing up front on preferred directions.” Tapscott and Caston, 1995 p.241

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System Structuring Action Guide #2: Architectural Principles