

Principles Template

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

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
- ◆ Ref: Tapscott and Caston, 1995

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