



Enterprise Architecture Resources

Good architecture provides a clear set of guiding principles, technology and infrastructure choices, and specification of high-level componentry and interfaces. The right architecture is a good architecture that contributes directly to the realization of strategic business objectives. Successful architecture is achieved when the right architecture is understood and embraced by your organization. We specialize in helping you develop successful architectures-repeatably. Working with executives and managers of the Architecture Program as well as the architecture team, we apply strategic management and technical consulting resources to help you be successful.

“Architecture can be a powerful source of competitive advantage. Whether you seek to lead through innovation, customer intimacy or operational excellence, architecture is either the foundation for agility, responsiveness and effectiveness, or the millstone that makes your every effort flounder.

Brittle monolithic systems, silo applications, and long and unpredictable development times, are all symptomatic of architectural decay and cause huge organizational drag.

As a counterpoint, architecture is the enabler for reliable systems developed in “Internet time,” eCommerce systems that scale, and CRM systems that “Wow” customers with an individualized experience.”

*Dana Bredemeyer, President
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Architecture Program Management Services

Strategy/Process Consulting

- Architecture strategy and vision
- Scoping and chartering an architecture initiative
- Architecture organization, team creation and leadership
- Architecture processes
- Architecture capability assessment and benchmarks
- Architecture transitions, change management and alignment

Executive Seminars

- Architecture and Business Strategy or “How to Win at the New Technology Wars
- Building Architectural Competency
- Architecture Project Management
- Architecture Primer for Managers

Benefits

- More effectively translate business strategy into technical strategy
- Exploit technology to create strategic advantage
- Create a realistic architectural roadmap and transition plan
- Build creative, cohesive architecture teams that are empowered to succeed and work smart
- Deliver timely architectural solutions that create high business value
- Gain the support and confidence of the management team by developing a shared architectural vision
- Leverage architecture best practices, patterns and templates
- Avoid common pitfall

Resources for the Architect

Great architects deliver architectures that differentiate services or products, delighting customers and enabling organizational agility. Architects translate business strategy into technical strategy and guide the implementation of that strategy. They seek to innovate where it provides a clear competitive edge, and rely on standards where that enhances organizational effectiveness. They make complex systems understandable and actionable, so that they can be developed in "Internet time".

Though this is a new field, our team has been consulting to and studying the effective characteristics of world class system and software architects for more than five years. We host a web site of Resources for the Software Architect (<http://www.bredemeyer.com>) and offer consulting and training services to help architects deepen and expand their understanding of software architecture and the role of the architect.

Architects create architectures. They are responsible for articulating the architectural vision, conceptualizing and evaluating alternative architectural approaches, creating models and component and interface specifications, and validating the architecture against requirements and assumptions. However, the role is not just technical.

A sound sense of strategy is required to envision the "right" architectural approach to the customer's problem set, given the business objectives of the architect's organization. Activities in this area include the creation of technology roadmaps, making assertions about technology directions and determining their consequences for technical strategy.

Further, architectures are seldom embraced without challenge. The architect has to actively sell the architecture to its various stakeholders, communicating extensively and working networks of influence to ensure the ongoing success of the architecture.

But "buy-in" to the architecture vision is not enough either. Everyone involved in implementing the architecture needs to understand it. Since weighty architectural documents are notorious dust-gatherers, this involves creating and teaching tutorials and actively consulting on the application of the architecture, as well as being available to explain the rationale behind architectural choices and keeping the architecture current.

Lastly, the architect must lead--the architecture team, the developer community, and, in its technical direction, the organization.

Architecture Team Services

Technical Consulting

- Architecture Assessments
- Architecture vision creation
- Architecture modeling and documentation
- Architecture trade-off analysis
- Mentoring (problem solving, modeling, patterns, leadership and organizational skills)
- Architecture processes

Training

- Software Architecture Workshop
- Architectural Leadership Skills Workshop
- Architecture Modeling with UML and Action Guides
- Component Design Class

We also offer architecture team training where competency building goes hand-in-hand with making real progress on the architecture project.

Benefits

- Leverage architecture best practices, patterns, Action Guides and templates
- Avoid common pitfalls
- Deliver timely architectural solutions that create business value
- Tailor our action-oriented architecture method to your project needs ("just enough process")
- Learn key architecting skills:
 - architecture modeling using UML
 - component and interface design and documentation
 - application of architectural patterns
 - Use Case modeling to capture run-time requirements and Test Cases for qualities
 - architecture analyses and validation
 - creating and communicating an architectural vision
 - other leadership, consulting and strategy skills such as interviewing stakeholders, building technology roadmaps and scenario analysis.