

# Introduction to Architecture Decision Records

Capture architectural decisions for better software development.

DEFINITION

Architecture Decision Records (ADRs) are documents that capture important decisions made during software architecture design. They help teams understand the reasoning behind choices and maintain a clear history.

KEY CONCEPTS

Purpose of ADRs

ADRs serve to document architectural decisions and their context for future reference.

Structure of ADRs

ADRs typically include a title, status, context, decision, and consequences.

Benefits of ADRs

They improve team communication, provide clarity, and help onboard new members.

Version Control

ADRs can be versioned to track changes in decisions over time.

Collaborative Process

Creating ADRs should involve team discussions to ensure shared understanding.

EXAMPLES

- Deciding to use a microservices architecture for scalability.
- Choosing PostgreSQL over MySQL for better data integrity.
- Opting for a RESTful API design for easier integration.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Think of ADRs as 'architectural footprints' that guide future decisions.
- ★ Remember 'DECIDE' - Document, Explain, Context, Impact, Decision, Evaluate.
- ★ Visualize ADRs as a timeline of architectural evolution.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Neglecting to update ADRs after decisions change.
- ✗ Overcomplicating the structure of ADRs.
- ✗ Failing to involve the whole team in decision-making.

QUICK RECAP

Architecture Decision Records are essential for documenting key architectural choices. They enhance team collaboration and provide a historical context for decisions, ensuring everyone is aligned.