ONE PAGE SUMMARY

IT & Software › Software Architecture › Architecture Decision Records

Introduction to Architecture Decision Records

Capture architectural choices with Architecture Decision Records.

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 project history.

KEY CONCEPTS

Purpose of ADRs

ADRs provide a structured way to document architectural decisions and their justifications.

Format of ADRs

Typically, an ADR includes a title, status, context, decision, and consequences.

Benefits of ADRs

ADRs enhance communication among team members and serve as a reference for future decisions.

Version Control

ADRs can be versioned to track changes and updates over time, ensuring clarity.

Stakeholder Involvement

Involving stakeholders in the ADR process ensures that all perspectives are considered.

EXAMPLES

→ Choosing a microservices architecture over a monolithic approach.

→ Deciding to use PostgreSQL instead of MySQL for database management.

→ Opting for RESTful APIs instead of GraphQL for service communication.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Think 'ADRs are my architectural diary' to remember their documentation purpose.

★ Use the acronym 'PFC' for Purpose, Format, and Consequences to recall key elements.

★ Visualize a decision tree to remember how ADRs guide architectural choices.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Neglecting to update ADRs after decisions change.

✗ Failing to involve relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.

✗ Writing ADRs that lack sufficient context or detail.

QUICK RECAP

Architecture Decision Records are essential for documenting and justifying architectural choices. They improve team communication and serve as a historical reference for decisions made during software development.