

Table of Contents

[Copyright Information](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

Part 1: What Is Software Architecture?

[The Definition of Software Architecture](#)

[Software Engineering vs. Software Architecture](#)

[Architectural Characteristics](#)

[Auditability](#)

[Observability](#)

[Scalability](#)

[Responsiveness](#)

[Fault Tolerance](#)

[Extensibility](#)

[Testability](#)

[Performance](#)

[Configurability](#)

[Non-Functional Requirements \(NFR\)](#)

[Architectural Tradeoffs](#)

[Interoperability vs Scalability, Elasticity and Responsiveness](#)

[Simplicity and Supportability vs Responsiveness](#)

[Maintainability vs Resilience and Fault Tolerance](#)

[Finding the Balance](#)

[Being Conscious and Aware of Architectural Trade-offs](#)

[Long-Term Technical Decisions](#)

[Aligning Business With Technology](#)

[Technology & Business: Core Principles](#)

[Principle 1 - Technology Serves Business](#)

[Principle 2 - Business Does Not Understand Technology](#)

[Principle 3 - Technology Powers Business](#)

[There is ALWAYS an "Architecture"](#)

[Part 1: Key Takeaways](#)

Part 2: Who Is a Software Architect?

[Why Do You Need Software Architects?](#)

[Who is a Software Architect?](#)

[Types of Software Architect Roles](#)

Software Architect "Specializations" or "Sub-Roles"

[Solutions Architect](#)

[Enterprise Architect](#)

[Technical Architect](#)

[Cloud Architect](#)

[Integration Architect](#)

[Infrastructure Architect](#)

[Business Architect](#)

[Application Architect](#)

[Data Architect](#)

[Network Architect](#)

[Domain Architect](#)

[Security Architect](#)

Roles Summary

Difference Between Staff/Principal Software Engineers and Software Architects

[Staff Software Engineer/Developer](#)

[Distinguished or Principal Software Engineer/Developer](#)

[Software Architect](#)

The Skills of the Software Architect

[Negotiation](#) 🤝

[Learning](#) 📖

[Influencing](#) 🗳️

[Communication and Socialization](#) 💬

[Prioritization](#) ⬆️

[Facilitation](#) 🖐️

[Persuasion and "Selling Ideas"](#) 💰

[Coaching/Mentoring](#) 👨🏫

[Problem-Solving](#) 🎯

[Translating Business-Speak to Technology-Speak](#) 🗣️

[Systems Thinking](#) 🌐

[Critical and Creative Thinking](#) 🤔

[Zooming In and Zooming Out](#) 🔍

[Summary of Skills](#)

The Path from a Software Developer to an Architect

[You Think of Edge Cases](#)

[You Ask Whether the System Will "Scale"](#)

[You Treat "One-Size-Fits-All" Advice With Skepticism](#)

[You Question Existing Narratives](#)

[You Frequently "Zoom In" and "Zoom Out"](#)

[You Question Whether Current Technology Will Satisfy Current or Future Business Needs](#)

[You Create Channels of Communication Between Business And Technology](#)
[Steps for Positioning Yourself as a Software Architect](#)

[Part 2: Key Takeaways](#)

[Part 3: Blueprint for Success](#)

 [Principles of Software Architecture](#)

[Modularity](#)

[Loose Coupling/Decoupling](#)

[Separation of Concerns](#)

[Decoupling Using Asynchronous Flows](#)

[Favour Stateless over Stateful](#)

 [Technical Topics to Master \(Or, At Least, Become Very Familiar With\)](#)

[Event-Driven Architecture \(EDA\), Event Streaming, and Event Sourcing](#)

[Request Management](#)

[Throttling](#)

[Rate Limiting](#)

[Load Shedding](#)

[Back Pressure](#)

[Circuit Breaker](#)

[Distributed Systems and the Eight Fallacies of Distributed Computing](#)

[Big Data, Data Lakes, Data Lakehouses, ETL/ELT](#)

[Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning](#)

[Message Brokers, Service Buses, and Event Streaming Platforms](#)

[Domain Driven Design](#)

[Networking](#)

[Databases - Relational vs NoSQL](#)

[Caching](#)

[Partitioning and Sharding](#)

[12-Factor Applications](#)

[Zero Trust, Shift Left Security, and Security-First](#)

[APIs and System Integration](#)

[Cloud](#)

[Architectural Styles and Patterns](#)

 [Tools of the Software Architect](#)

[Architecture Decision Records \(ADR\)](#)

[Sample ADR](#)

[Architectural Diagrams](#)

[Example - Good vs Not-So-Good Architectural Diagram](#)

[Non-Functional Requirements \(NFR\) and Architectural Characteristics Analysis](#)

[Decision Trees](#)

[Current State VS Target State Analysis](#)

[Current State vs Target State - Example](#)

 [Challenges of the Software Architect](#)

[Balancing Technical and Business Requirements](#)

[Keeping Current With Developments in the Industry](#)

[Identifying and Managing Trade-Offs](#)

[Aligning Teams and Stakeholders](#)

[Managing Internal Company Politics](#)

[Dealing with Personal Agendas](#)

[Bureaucracy and Organizational Red Tape](#)

[Balancing Different Types of Work and Constant Context Switching](#)

[Conveying Technical Information to Non-Technical Audiences](#)

✓ [More Strategies for Success](#)

✗ [Software Architect Anti Patterns](#)

[The "Ivory Tower Architect"](#)

[The "Seagull Architect"](#)

[The "Glorified Developer Architect"](#)

[The "My-Way" Architect](#)

[One Last Word on Antipatterns](#)

 [Wrapping Up](#)

[Top 3 Mistakes Made By Software Architects](#)

[Mistake #1 - Thinking Too Far Ahead Or Not Far Ahead Enough](#)

[Mistake #2 - Not Considering The Tradeoffs](#)

[Mistake #3 - Mixing Project Management With Architecture](#)

[Top Techniques that Help Software Architects Thrive](#)

 [Leading the Way](#)

 [Bridging Gaps Between the Technical and the Non-Technical](#)

 [Mentoring](#)

 [Knowing How To Dive Deep, But Not Too Deep](#)

 [Being Constantly Aware of Cost](#)

 [Recognizing that Everything is a Trade-Off](#)

 [Most Problems are People Problems](#)

[Part 3: Key Takeaways](#)

[Part 4: Software Architecture in the Age of AI](#)

[Preface](#)

[AI: A Quick Run-Through](#)

[Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

[Data](#)

[Data Engineering](#)

[Analytics and Business Intelligence \(BI\)](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Data Science](#)

[Machine Learning \(ML\)](#)

[Predictive AI](#)

[Neural Networks](#)

[Deep Learning \(DL\)](#)

[Natural Language Processing \(NLP\)](#)

[Generative AI](#)

[Foundation Models](#)

[Large Language Models \(LLMs\)](#)

[Tokenization](#)

[Transformers](#)

[Context](#)

[Prompting and Prompt Engineering](#)

[Retrieval-Augmented Generation \(RAG\)](#)

[Fine-Tuning](#)

[Training vs Inference](#)

[AI Agents and Agentic AI](#)

[AI Models vs AI Systems](#)

[Integrating AI Into Your Role](#)

[Generating Architectural Alternatives](#)

[Task:](#)

[Validation Phase](#)

[Drafting Architectural Decision Records](#)

[Decision](#)

[Constraints](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Task](#)

[1. Context and Background](#)

[2. Options Considered](#)

[3. Trade-offs](#)

[4. Consequences](#)

[Format](#)

[1. SRE Perspective](#)

[2. Security Architect Perspective](#)

[3. Finance Perspective](#)

[4. Skeptical Senior Engineer Perspective](#)

[Failure Simulation](#)

[Threat Modeling](#)

[Context](#)

[Task:](#)

[Stress Test:](#)

[Failure Simulation:](#)

[Simulating an Architecture Review](#)

[AI Tools to Take Your Architecture to the Next Level](#)

 [Brainstorming Architecture](#)

 [Architectural Diagramming](#)

 [Meeting Note Taking & Analysis](#)

 [Code Analysis](#)

 [Knowledge Management](#)

[How These Tools Fit Together](#)

[Emerging Architectural Patterns](#)

[AI Gateway](#)

[Retrieval Augmented Generation \(RAG\)](#)

[Prompt Chaining and Orchestration](#)

[Tiered Model Usage](#)

[Agentic Workflows, Protocols, and Tools](#)

[Semantic Caching](#)

[Guardrails and Safety Layers](#)

[Human In The Loop AI Workflows](#)

[Model as a Service](#)

[Rethinking Architectural Characteristics & Trade-Offs](#)

[Cost](#)

[Latency & Availability](#)

[Accuracy](#)

[Data Residency](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Observability & Explainability](#)

[Ethics, Risk, and Accountability](#)

[AI Architectural Trade-Offs Summary](#)

[The New Socio-Technical Reality](#)

[Dealing with Politics, and False Expectations](#)

[Everyone is an Architect](#)

[Shadow AI And Uncontrolled Tool Usage](#)

[Summing it Up: Career Capital in the Age of AI](#)

[AI Literacy, AI Fluency, and AI Expertise](#)

[The Future of Technology Architects in the Era of AI](#)

[Parting Thoughts ...](#)

[Bonus:](#)

 [Red Flags in AI-Produced Designs](#)

 [Sense-Check Checklist](#)

 [Common Hallucinations in AI Architecture](#)

- [!\[\]\(fd4127b9e2af37bd6ea0fa06afa8e6d8_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(3278d6283d12f18012b5aa7d40747611_img.jpg\) Context Validation](#)
- [!\[\]\(bb96b32142ec45f72f12316beae3ef61_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(a75d0d7d1ac0ea815a0c027a77b137d5_img.jpg\) Non-Functional Requirements Verification](#)
- [!\[\]\(adab168ecea4e2ae40993afba3fcd26e_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(e95ea1a0e297340f96c3d715d76d8c23_img.jpg\) Dependency and Integration Realism](#)
- [!\[\]\(0e0cdd76cf8fb3c858658faf72d7f324_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(c7bdebfc2a52eab4f6683b0c1c0c28d2_img.jpg\) Failure Mode Analysis](#)
- [!\[\]\(8a5c092736ceaf7cfeed23b17ea5e6ff_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(dd896e8effa212be4a7431ac3e5bf510_img.jpg\) Operational Feasibility](#)
- [!\[\]\(1136f3a14b3ba5842784adf33e611db1_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(d536ae100fbef949d5488b8fe23458f5_img.jpg\) Decision Sequencing](#)
- [!\[\]\(ca07eb06779edef206c13bdfc2c41b40_img.jpg\) Sense-Check Checklist](#)
- [!\[\]\(7e7914364faa22e4d6649c877c7e723a_img.jpg\) The Core Principle](#)
- [!\[\]\(8ca478e471a5a40f192eb324324796da_img.jpg\) Common AI Architecture Traps: Summary](#)
 - [!\[\]\(1ef1c1e934c0d3468708b1b65c673a8e_img.jpg\) Over-Distribution](#)
 - [!\[\]\(2feef24d2b62f527f17ec4a26c99892b_img.jpg\) Over-Abstraction](#)
 - [!\[\]\(62fbabcb8f920179a05cac5e6f77b9ec_img.jpg\) Imaginary Capabilities](#)
 - [!\[\]\(ea93f456ce60033911637cde1e339ebc_img.jpg\) Ignored Constraints](#)
 - [!\[\]\(5ee090fbd54350d5f2535fbbb0cd8843_img.jpg\) Happy-Path Thinking](#)
 - [!\[\]\(4dd804f7f115c0312bcea2f969779146_img.jpg\) Premature Optimization](#)
 - [!\[\]\(0917fa5071e46a535e4715939ddc0471_img.jpg\) Static End-State Thinking](#)