# ADRs

An “ADR” literally means a “Architectural Decision Record”.

ADRs give us a way to capture an important software architecture decision made along with its context and consequences. ADRs have states and therefore follow a lifecycle, and once accepted - become immutable. An ADR can be thought of as a structured decision log.

# When to use an ADR

## Use an ADR when…

* You want to introduce a technology or procedure.
* You want to preserve the problem context and reduce the Bus Factor.
* You want to improve onboarding process for new tech team members.
* You want to backfill past tech decisions and/or receive a sign-off from stakeholders on new ones.
* You need to follow up on an RFC with more details and proceed to the actual implementation.

## Don’t use an ADR when…

* You want to track issues and requirements. Use a dedicated Project Management software for that, like Jira, Rally, etc.
* You want to document decisions that do not impact anyone else. In the vast majority of cases, creating an ADR to explain yourself will be overkill. ADRs should only be used if a decision explicitly requires one of the bullets in the section above.

How ADRs are different from RFCs (Request for Comments)?

* ADRs drive *decision,* RFCs drive *discussion;*
* ADRs are *immutable* - each change requires a new ADR, RFCs are *mutable* - via Errata section;
* In most cases teams create an RFC first that in turn might or might not result in an ADR

# References

<https://adr.github.io/>  
<https://docs.aws.amazon.com/prescriptive-guidance/latest/architectural-decision-records/adr-process.html><https://cloud.google.com/architecture/architecture-decision-records>  
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