



#awsosgcp Episode 1

So you think this is a  
Democracy?  
... Architecture Decisions

# So you think this is a Democracy?

- I've heard this exact same question twice (to my surprise) discussing two completely different development projects with two different people having two completely different Roles
- After letting it sink in, both times were about how Architecture Decisions are made and I, in fact, had hit a wall each time
- After some research, it turns out that this is not an uncommon experience when trying to talk with Teams about Architecture Stacks and just trying to offer some personal expertise and opinions.
- It feels like emotions get involved or at least strong opinions and “black & white thinking”; it's a bit jarring and unexpected



# Wanting to Contribute

- I believe it's natural for any Software Developer who has any kind of passion for their work to want to contribute to Architecture Decisions.
- But many disagree.
- Some people feel that Software Developers and Coders do not belong in the decision making process even though it may profoundly affect their work and their future experience on a project.

# The Software Architect

- One approach to Architecture Design is to hire the Software Architect
- They may have an advanced degree from MIT or TU Delft and they often sit on a lonely pedestal, handing their design documents down to the Developers.
- They can also come under other titles such as Data Architect or Cloud Architect.
- I have run into people that believe this is part of the DevOps Role. (That is to say that DevOps dictates to Developers what the Architecture Stack is.)
- Some believe that this approach is doomed to failure because, among other things, it stifles innovation and ignores the current complexities of current systems.



# Agile Architecture

- Another approach, *Agile Architecture*, emerged around 2015, gaining traction as a distinct methodology. It's a thing, yes.
- Like other other collaborations on Agile Teams, Agile Architecture is about trusting each others' experience equally and valuing each individual perspective.
- Perhaps, as happened to me these last two times, you hit the wall where the Agile Team is not trusted to make Architecture Decisions and is therefore not trusted to define its own future.

# Tools & Techniques

I do not have all the answers but I can, in this episode, suggest a few tools and techniques for introducing Agile Architecture into your Agile processes and rituals.



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# Types of Architecture

- First, it would help if you identity which of the 4 types of Architecture your project needs work on. I will not take the time to define each of these ... because, well, I think you know already:
  1. *Enterprise Architecture*
  2. *Software Architecture*
  3. *Domain Architecture*
  4. *Platform Architecture*
- This will affect the types of tools you use ... for example building abstract models versus working prototypes.

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# Links & References

- Start with [Agile Architecture](#) on Wikipedia
- [How the Agile Mindset is Integral to Architecting Modern Systems](#)  
an essay by Diana Montalion 20.July 2023
- [Agile Architects: Classical Conductors or Band Members](#) a presentation at the Berlin 2023 *Agile Meets Architecture* conference by Silvia Schreier