'It Depends'

What Solutions Architects Actually Do

Jericho Arcelao

2025-03-22

License

This work is marked with CC0 1.0

Picture This!

Okay, but what do we actually do?

Money ⇅ Servers

No, we're not wizards nor therapists…

A Day in the Life (1)

- Your friend walks in, believing they have come up with the next big thing in social media.

  - "We're gonna be the next TikTok, I just know it!" they say.

What do you say?

A Day in the Life (2)

- Your client gives you a tour of their office. Turns out, their entire database lives on a single server running since 2005.

  - "Well, can we scale with this?" he asks.

What do you say?

A Day in the Life (3)

- An executive from your client just came from a tech conference.

  - "I know what we need! More AI, blockchain, and quantum tech!" he proudly acclaims.

What do you say?

The Formula

Problem ➡️ Budget? ➡️ Tech? ➡️ **"It Depends"** 🟰 💰 Profit

Hands-on Activity

Let's put what you've learned to the test!

Case Briefer

Imagine this: It's 11 p.m.

You're at your house, trying to submit your assignment before the deadline.

- Your sibling's streaming Netflix

- Dad's outside the room gaming

- Mom's TikTok dance video just buffered for the third time

Your Wi-Fi? Dead. Your family looks at you in contempt.

You're the solutions architect now. **What do you do?**

Case Briefer (cont.)

- Problem: Wi-Fi's slow or down

- Stakeholders: You and your family

- Constraints: PHP 1000 budget, no rewiring the house, 24-hour deadline

- Needs: Streaming, gaming, assignment uploads—all at once

Mechanics

- Group yourselves randomly
    - The facilitator will handle this
- You have 15 minutes to come up with a solution
    - You must give your solution a witty name. This will be your team name
- Afterwards, each team gets 2 minutes max to present their solution
    - Convince the room (a.k.a. your family) why we should go with your idea

So You Wanna Architect a Solution?

It depends… we'll figure it out in the cloud 😅

Thank You!

GitHub: jarcelao/imsummit-25-workshop