

ARCHITECTURE – AN EXAMPLE

The house must be finished quickly, so construction begins immediately, as soon as there are at least basic plans. The facade has already been thrown up – still without windows, so as not to preempt the interior design. Meanwhile construction has stopped because the lighting is missing. Hence, all available manpower is assigned to electrical installation. This is done on top of the plaster, as planning is incomplete and one wants to stay flexible. In order to provide a first impression of the future design to the client, parquet flooring is being extensively laid on the foundation. To protect the delicate floor, wooden shoes are purchased for the entire team of workers. The trainee earns an extra bonus when he obtains an exceptional bargain buying all available stocks offered at the surrounding DIY superstores. Conveniently, the problem of protecting the flooring is now also solved for the next few years. Finally, the students arrive as well, and - assisting via a bucket brigade – assure there is a tolerable water level of only 4.6 cm in the basement. This allows further sensible use, also in the basement, of the ample number of available wooden clogs. The wooden shoe purchase is confirmed as a foresighted decision...

A horror scenario? Almost worth a smile? Clearly, as a client, you would never hire the architect or the construction manager!

And in your case?

Perhaps some of the above rings a bit familiar vis-à-vis one's own IT-landscape. It might not be a newly constructed building, but a solid, established building with a venerable structure and protection under a preservation order.

Of course, there is not much opportunity to adequately consider the subject of architecture when the pressures of cost and short deadlines are growing. This in particular if there are only a reduced number of qualified employees available, and these might well be fully occupied keeping the company operational.

For those who can lean back and relax now with a secure feeling of having everything under control – congratulations!

Understandably, you perhaps do not feel that relaxed. Maybe you see a need for action. Or you might have definite plans to optimize cost-intensive areas of your system landscape?

With us you have found a competent partner.

How we define architecture

- Optimizing your investments.
- Assuring that your business processes are reliably handled.
- Facilitating the ability to adapt to changes in your business processes.
- Anticipating future developments.
- Supporting efficient future conversion to new and cost-saving technologies.
- Future-oriented planning.
- Building on processes, not on products.
- Keeping your IT architecture effectively updated and in line with the development of your business.

Architecture is often treated as a static structure, set up at some point in time to be maintained unchanged as long as possible. But this means losing any chance of adequately integrating newer developments and requirements.

We see architecture as a dynamic process.

Hidden risks

- Selecting products based on the latest buzzword topics will undermine business processes and their effectiveness integrating into existing structures.
- Merging technologies without a common concept results in high adaptation costs.
- "Reuse by creative abuse" will raise maintenance expenses.
- Simple adoption of manufacturer's guidelines for development of software will invalidate earlier investments.
- "Time to Market" as primary criteria for projects can generate excessive local activity (short term gain is long term pain).
- Installations that are not adapted to business processes will cause continuing inefficiency and losses.
- Non-scalable applications used in high volume processing can create massive hardware expenses.
- All-in-one devices suitable for specific purposes will prevent clear allocation of tasks and responsibilities.

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Architecture – rules for successful cooperation

Every complex system applies assumptions within the basic rules of processing. These rules must be consistent across an entire system. When these rules are violated, corrective adaptations are required. Should the rules prove inconsistent or necessary adaptations not been carried out, the resulting system will prove unreliable and unable to meet requirements. The larger the system, the greater the probability that a change will violate a general rule. As a result, expenses for operation and expansion of a system can reach incalculable and uneconomic proportions.

General rules are technical processes on the one hand. These processes are today mostly standardized and allow communication amongst various system components. Unfortunately, many dialects nowadays are defined as promising local advantages, but may well in fact limit a system's interoperability and generate numerous undesirable dependencies. Thus, an apparently low initial investment can lead to substantially higher "Total Costs of Ownership".

Business processes are another group of rules. Especially these should be supported by the IT-systems. Standardized, inalterable processes allow for efficient realization. On the other hand, business lives from innovation and fast reactions to the market. - Innovation requires new processes and an IT that supports these processes effectively.

Architecture balances the diverse requirements of:

- cost
- flexibility
- maintainability
- extensibility
- scalability

Whilst not a theoretical approach, architecture applies solid experience to derive precise instructions for the successful implementation of projects.

Expensive simplifications

- Operating systems beyond their specifications (product-life, functionality).
- "That'll do" – approaches.
- Incomplete consideration of cost scenarios and micro charges.
- Underestimation of operating and maintenance expenses.

Our experts are well equipped

Our range of proven experience goes well beyond purely IT questions. Based also on our sound banking and business management expertise, we are able to optimally transfer and meld the requirements of your business processes with the potential of your IT.

- We offer **long-term experience** in the design of large as well as small system landscapes.
- We possess **excellent knowledge** of a wide range of technologies, systems and software products.
- We are well acquainted with the **latest developments** and concepts in software engineering.
- We **know** the possible **traps** emerging during design of system landscapes.
- We **help** you, to **avoid mistakes** in your architecture, to circumvent **snare**s, and to stay clear of **explosive situations**.

We support you

- We start with the process requirements – not the products available. Together with you we ascertain the requirements that need to be fulfilled by your IT-landscape.
- We will provide an exact survey of the components of your system landscape.
- We will show you the dependencies within the elements of your IT. Together we will identify the critical points relating to your business processes.
- We will help adjust and fine-tune the performance of your systems specifically to your business requirements, thereby avoiding also performance bottlenecks.
- In cooperation with you we will verify, that the aims of your architectural design are fully realized within your IT landscape.
- We will demonstrate the effect of architecture on the basis of a "proof-of-concept" prototype.

Your contacts

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Please feel free to contact us. We shall gladly provide further details.

YOU CAN'T STAY AHEAD BY STANDING STILL.

Acrys Consult is your competent business and IT-consultancy.

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