Future-Proof Software-Systems: Summary 15.11.2017

Summary of Lecture 15.11.2017



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Architecture Principles:

Fundamental insights – formulated as *enforcable rules* – how a good softwaresystem should be built [⇐ «Eternal Truths»]





Architecture principles are *not* directly applicable to construct an architectural solution. They need the *future-proof software-systems engineer* to implement and enforce them.

DEFINITION



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Architecture Principle A1: Architecture Layer Isolation

[1] Always use standardized, technology-independent, and product-independent mechanisms for transfer of data and control between layers

[2] Never implement functionality from vertical layers in the horizontal layers (especially no technical functionality in the applications)

Justification: Any reliance on specific technologies or product features generates dependencies which (massively) reduce changeability.

Architecture layers should be able to evolve in their own pace without impacting the other layers by force.

Vertical functionality should not be implemented in the applications (but accessed via services), otherwise changes impact the application landscape.



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- 1. Partition the functionality and data into encapsulation units according to their cohesion (thus minimizing dependencies)
 - 2. Isolate the encapsulation units by strictly hiding any internal details. Allow access to functionality and data only through stable, well specified interfaces governed by contracts
- 3. Minimize the impact of dependencies between the encapsulation units by using adequate coupling mechanisms

Justification: These 3 rules minimize the number and the impact of dependencies. The resulting system therefore offers the least resistance to change, because any change affects the smallest possible number of system elements. A low resistance to change corresponds to high **changeability**.



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A2

Encapsulation:

- The inner workings of the encapsulation units are hidden from the outside
- All accesses are only allowed through well-specified (formally defined) interfaces











Architecture Principle A3:

Conceptual Integrity

- 1. Define all the concepts, the full terminology and models (including their relationships and relevant properties) precisely (whenever possible formally)
 - 2. Draw the boundary of the system in which the definitions apply
 - 3. Consistently and consequently use the definitions in all areas of the system
 - 4. Strictly enforce the correct use of the definitions
 - 5. When cooperating with systems outside the boundary, match the concepts and the terminology between all systems and interfaces

Justification: Misunderstandings between stakeholders lead to unsatisfactory IT-systems with divergence in many areas. Misunderstandings of all sorts must therefore be eliminated in all phases of systems engineering







- Taxonomy
- Ontology •
- Domain model .
- Business object model •



A4

Architecture Principle A4:

Redundancy

- 1. There is only exactly *one source* for the functionality and for the data (both during development time and during run-time)
- 2. All redundant copies must be content-wise and time-wise synchronized (thus avoiding divergence)
- 3. The creation of *unmanaged* redundancy is not allowed under any circumstances. Existing unmanaged redundancy must be identified and eliminated in due course
- 4. Managed redundancy is allowed if there is a good (documented) reason

Justification: Any unmanaged redundancy may cause divergence and thus severely impact quality properties of the system's output. Any unmanaged redundancy will negatively impact the maintenance and evolution of the system



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Redundancy in an IT-system is – in most cases – poison for the structure and for many quality properties of an IT-system



	Managed redundancy	Un managed redundancy
Known and wanted	Yes (if valid reason)	NO!
Un known or un wanted	?	NO!



The redundancy-ghost

- You don't hear it
- You don't see it
- But you feel the damage

Allow only **managed redundancy**

(= known, justified, controlled, synchronized redundancy) in functionality and data



Architecture Principle A5: Interoperability

 Precisely (formally) specify syntax and semantics in all interoperations
Whenever possible use formal contracts for the definition of interfaces
Whenever possible adopt and enforce accepted interoperability industry standards

Justification: Successful, unambigous interoperability is a key factor in today's distributed systems. Interoperability failures have severe consequences and are difficult to pinpoint. Formal contracts isolate the parts of the system.



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