



@SoftArchConf #SoftArchConf
www.software-architect.co.uk

Housekeeping

- Conference schedule
- Missing slides & code samples
- Evaluation forms & T-shirts
- Mobile phones

- **Jesus Rodriguez**
 - **Today at 14.00**
“NodeJS for the .NET developer”
 - **Tomorrow at 09.30**
“I am a .NET developer but I have an iPhone and an Android”

- 5.30pm tonight
- In the catering area
- Beer, wine, soft drinks & nibbles
- Meet the exhibitors and speakers



www.skillsmatter.com



www.planetrecluit.com



www.developerFusion.com

www.devweek.com

4th - 8th March 2013
Barbican Centre
London

[illegible]

And finally...

Thank you!

And finally finally...



coding
(the)
architecture

The journey to becoming a
21st century architect
software



Simon Brown

Jersey, Channel Islands



simon.brown@codingthearchitecture.com
@simonbrown on Twitter



Writing

Training and consulting



Software Architecture
for Developers

A practical and pragmatic guide to software architecture

Technical leadership
Collaboration, communication
and presenting ideas

Communication
Effective interviews and
lightweight documentation

Just enough
Structure, shared vision,
style and team foundations

Simon Brown

Published
incrementally

Variable pricing

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leanpub.com

Let's start from the
beginning...

What is **architecture?**

As a noun...

Structure

*The definition of something in terms
of its components and interactions*

and

As a verb...

Vision

*The process of architecting,
making (significant) design decisions, etc*

What is design?

As a noun, design is the named structure or
behaviour of a system whose presence resolves
...a force on that system.

A design thus represents one point
in a potential decision space.



Grady Booch

<http://www.handbookofsoftwarearchitecture.com/index.jsp?page=Blog&part=2006>

What is design?

All architecture is design,
but not all design is
architecture.



Grady Booch

<http://www.handbookofsoftwarearchitecture.com/index.jsp?page=Blog&part=2006>

What is design?

Architecture represents the
significant decisions,
where significance is measured
by **cost of change**.



Grady Booch

<http://www.handbookofsoftwarearchitecture.com/index.jsp?page=Blog&part=2006>

*Can you refactor
it in an afternoon?*

The
**20th century
software architect**

Software development
is like
\${metaphor}

*Building, gardening,
cooking, janitorial, ...*

\${metaphor}
is broken because...

:-p

Big up front design
and analysis paralysis

UML

Waterfall

I'm a

software
architect



Ivory Tower

PowerPoint Architect

Architecture Astronaut

The
pre-modern
architect

“architect”

Latin: architectus

Greek: arkhitekton

“master builder,
director of works”

[
arkhi- "chief"
+
tekton "builder, carpenter"
]

Master builder =
“master mason”

a stonemason
most major buildings were
constructed of stone at the time



A master mason, is a
manipulator of stone,
an *artist* in stone and
a *designer* in stone.

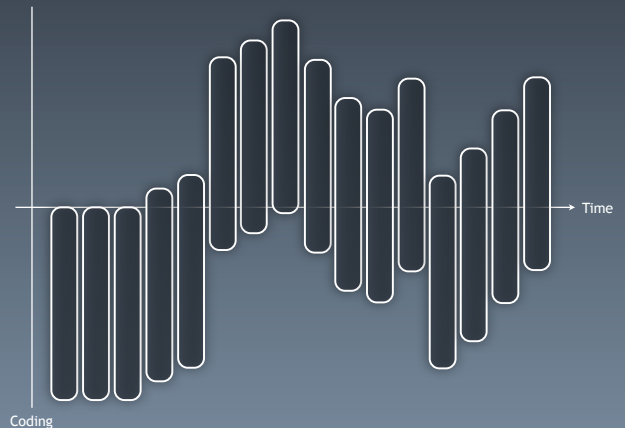
Did master builders actually
build?

Although a master mason was a respected and
usually wealthy individual, he first had to
*prove his worth by
going through the
ranks as a stonemason*
and then a supervisor, before being appointed
to the highest position in his trade.

Throughout ancient and medieval history, most architectural design and
construction was carried out by artisans, such as stone masons and carpenters,

*rising to the role
of master builder.*

“Architecture”



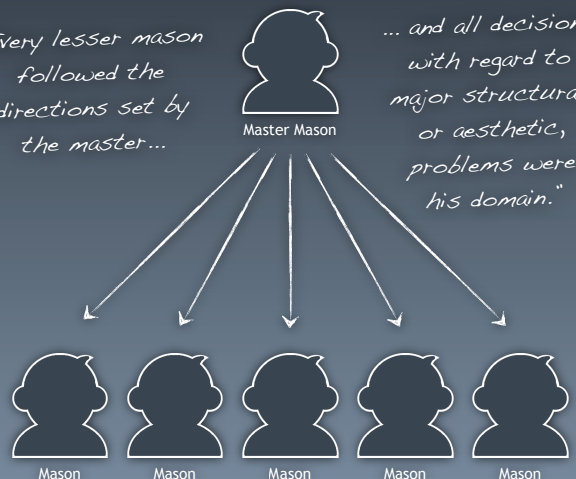
*How much contact he actually had with this substance is, however, **debatable.***

Ivory towers?

A mason who was at the top of his trade was a master mason. However, a Master Mason, by title, was the man who had overall charge of a building site and master masons would work under this person. A Master Mason also had charge over carpenters, glaziers etc. In fact,

everybody who worked on a building site was under the supervision of the Master Mason.

"Every lesser mason followed the directions set by the master..."



... and all decisions with regard to major structural, or aesthetic, problems were his domain."

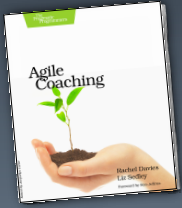
The master mason, then, designed the structural, aesthetic and symbolic features of what was to be built; organised the logistics that supported the works; and, moreover, prioritised and decided the order of the work.

...

*If, as seems likely, this multiplicity of tasks was normal it is **hardly surprising that master masons took little part in the physical work***
(even had their status permitted it).

Testimony of this supposition is supplied by a sermon given in 1261 by Nicholas de Biard

railing against the apparent sloth of the master mason 'who ordains by word alone'.



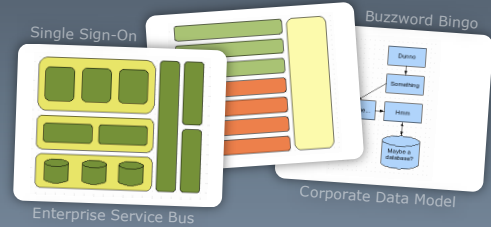
Agile Coaching

Rachel Davies & Liz Sedley

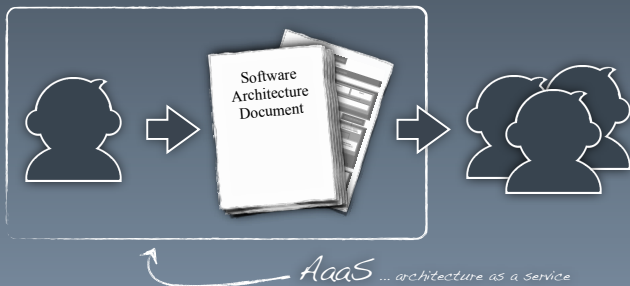
"If you know how to program, it's often tempting to make suggestions about how developers should write the code. Be careful, because you may be wasting your time—developers are likely to ignore your coding experience if you're not programming on the project."

"They may also think that you're overstepping your role and interfering in how they do their job, so give such advice sparingly."

PowerPoint Architecture



Software development is not a
relay sport



Successful software delivery

is **not** an
"implementation
detail"

Should software architects
write code?

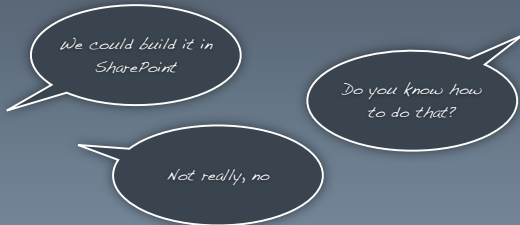


Would we
code
it that way?



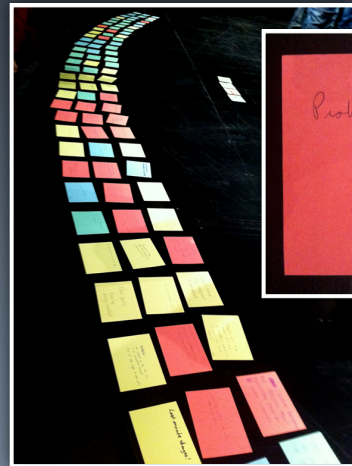
The people designing software must

understand technology



All decisions involve a trade-off

Why did you choose technology A?



Problems with New Technology

An example timeline from
"Beyond Retrospectives"
by Linda Rising

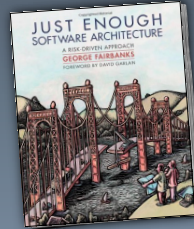
#gotocon Aarhus 2011

Would you hire me to design a
TypeScript app?

Would you hire me to design an
Erlang system?

Would you hire me to design a
Java system?

*"architecture-indifferent
design"*



Just Enough Software Architecture
A Risk-Driven Approach
George Fairbanks



Should software architects write

code

on software projects?

Ideally yes, but...

The software architecture **role**

Architectural
Drivers
Establishing the high-level
requirements and constraints

Technology
Selection
Choosing and evaluating
technologies

Architecting
Developing software

Architecture
Evaluation
Understanding the fit
between the architecture
and the requirements

Coding
Involvement in the hands-on
elements of software delivery

Architecture
Evolution
Managing the architecture
throughout the lifecycle



Quality
Assurance
Ensuring the system meets
the requirements and standards

Coaching and
Mentoring
Guidance and support

Generalising

Specialist

Depth

Deep hands-on technology
skills and knowledge

Breadth

Broad knowledge of
patterns, designs,
approaches, technologies,
non-functional requirements,
different ways of working, etc
...
options and trade-offs

Software architects
must be
master builders

*And coding is a great way
to retain this skill*

*Plus it reduces many of the
problems associated with
ivory tower architecture*

Why don't building architects build houses?

Throughout ancient and medieval history, most architectural design and construction was carried out by artisans, such as stone masons and carpenters, **rising to the role of master builder.**

Until modern times there was no clear distinction between the architect and engineer.

In Europe, the titles "architect" and "engineer" were primarily geographical variations referring to the same person, often used interchangeably.

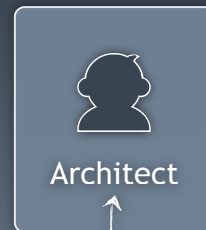
Structural engineering has existed since humans first started to construct their own structures. It became a more defined and formalised profession with the

emergence of the architecture profession as distinct from the engineering profession

during the industrial revolution in the late 19th century.

Until then, the architect and the structural engineer were usually one and the same - the master builder.

Only with the development of specialised knowledge of structural theories that emerged during the 19th and early 20th centuries did the professional structural engineer come into existence.



Interacts with client, requirements, design, aesthetics, layout, etc

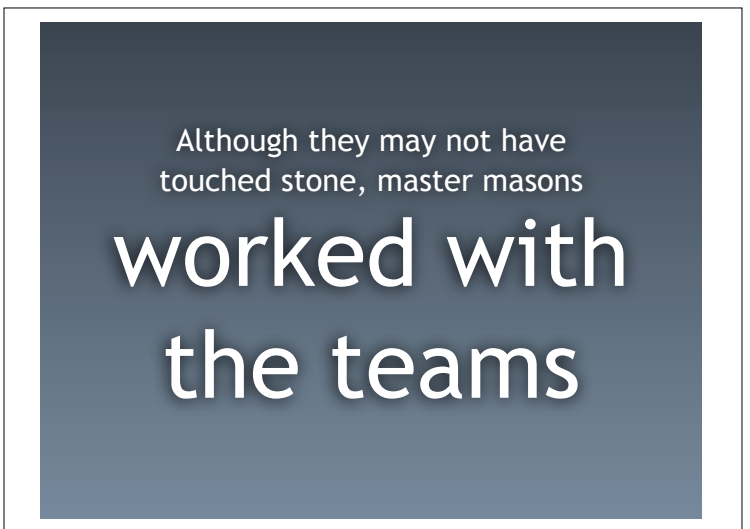
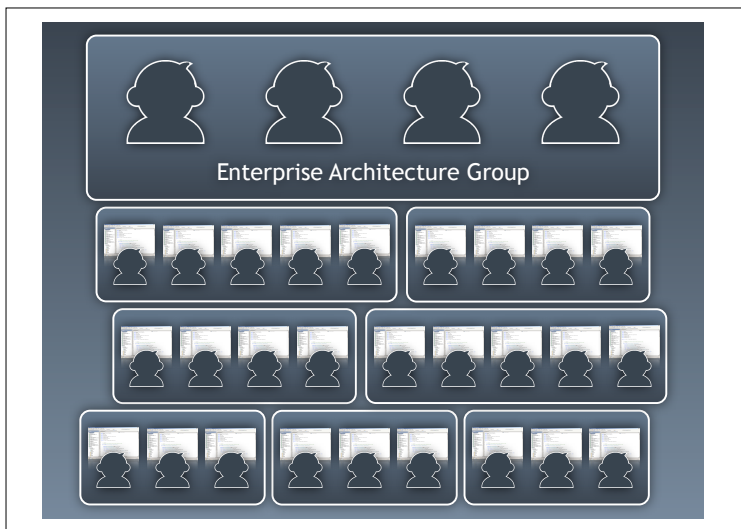
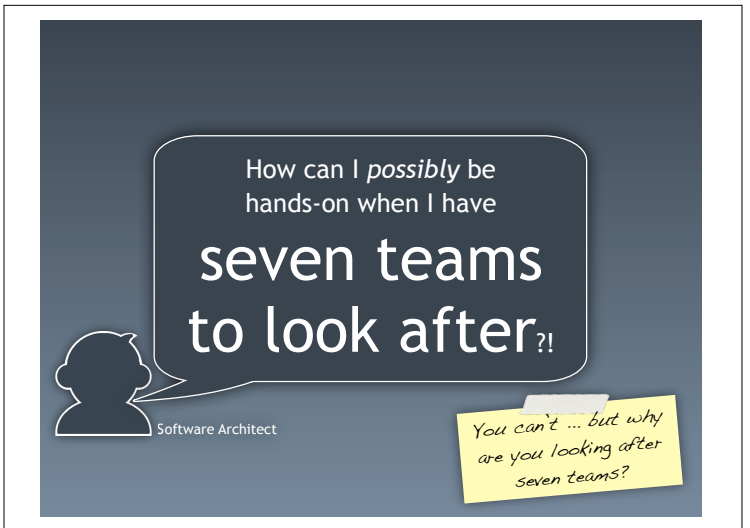
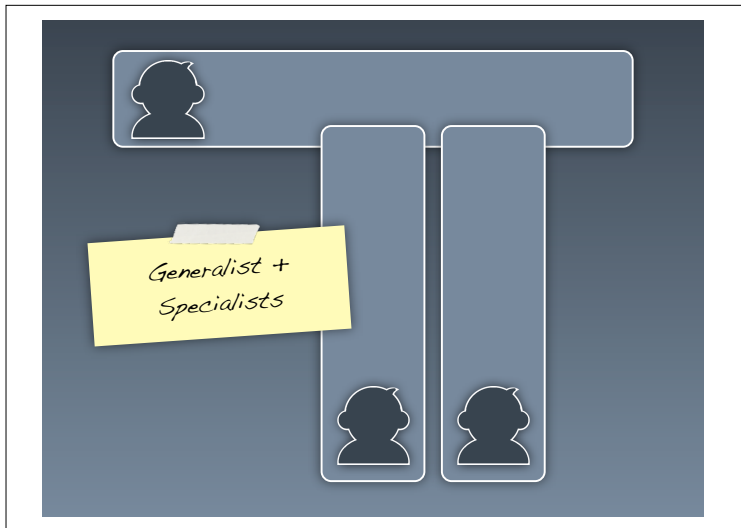
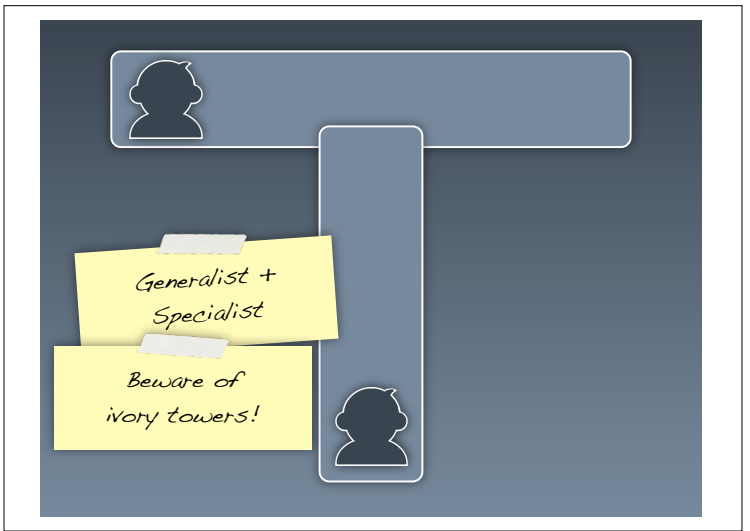
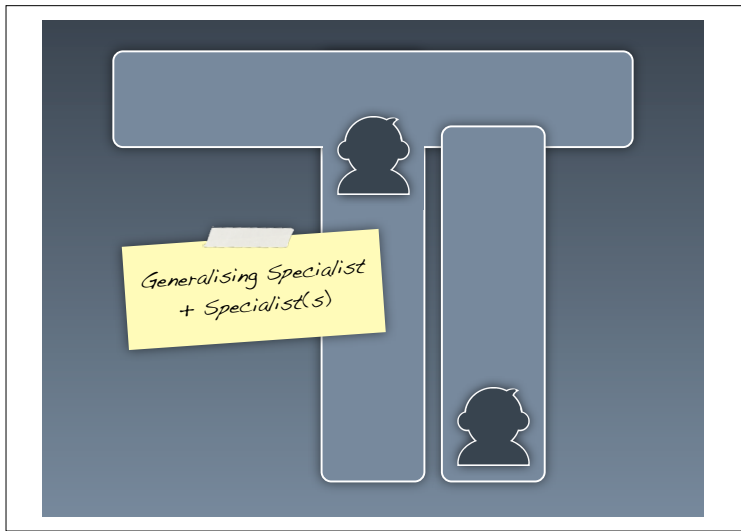


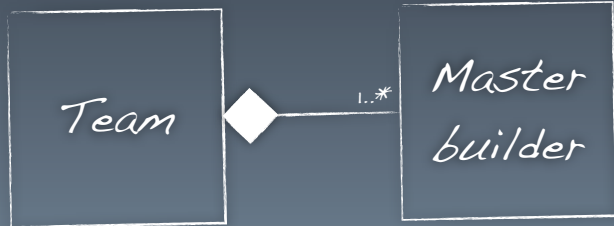
Makes sure the building doesn't fall over!

Stone 3.0?

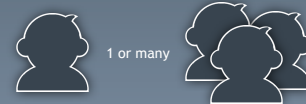
We live in "internet time"







Every software development team needs a master builder



Software teams also need leadership

To become a successful master mason in the medieval era, whatever one's origins or education, patently required a man of immense talent. Such a man needed to be a master in the handling of physical and human resources

- to be able to direct them with imagination, ingenuity and efficiency toward a mercurial goal always framed by a host of compromises.

The opportunities for such a man whose creativity was matched by his organisational and diplomatic ability were varied and great.

Soft skills?

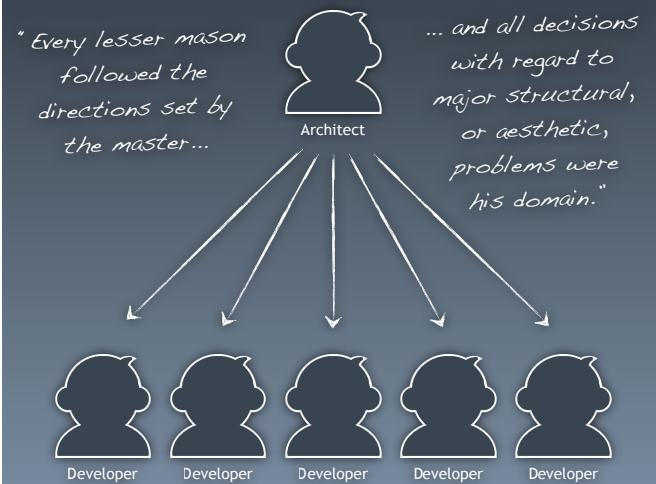


Software Architect

Leadership
Communication
Influencing
Negotiation
Collaboration
Coaching and Mentoring
Motivation
Facilitation
Political

How do you learn to deal with people?

Notes to a Software Team Leader
Growing the Team You Want From the Team You Have
Roy Osherove



Chaos!

Does the team understand what they are building and how they are building it?

STOP!

No defined structure,
inconsistent approaches,
big ball of mud,
spaghetti code, ...

Slow, insecure, unstable, unmaintainable,
hard to deploy, hard to change,
over time, over budget, ...



Architect

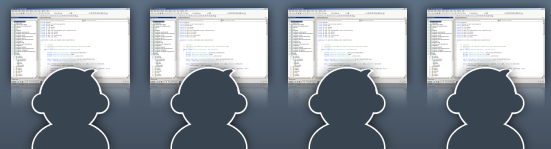
*Sits in an ivory tower,
commanding and controlling*

*Focusses on the
low level detail*



Developer Developer Developer Developer Developer

Shared vision



What's **stopping**
teams doing this?

The conflict between agile and architecture

Myth or reality?

Myth

There is no conflict between agile and architecture

*All software projects
need structure and vision*

A conflict in team structure



Dedicated
software architect
Single point of responsibility for
the technical aspects of the
software project

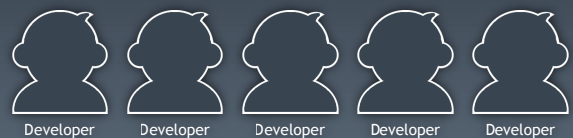
VS



Everybody is a
software architect
Joint responsibility for the
technical aspects of the
software project

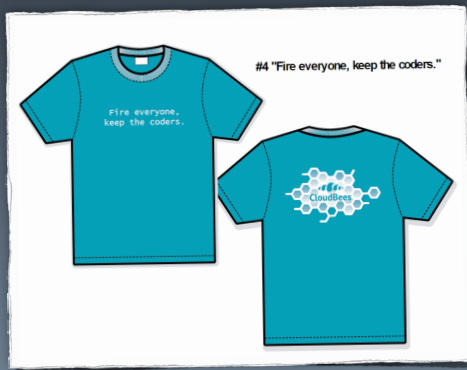
Architects?

We don't need no
stinkin' architects!



*Small teams of generalising specialists,
everybody does everything*

*With agile, there is often a
perception that you must
have self-organising teams*



I like the sentiment, but...

Abstract

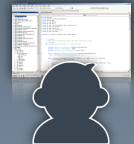
Specific

As software developers, the

code

is usually our main focus

Lines of code
Classes, functions
Design patterns
Unit tests
Refactoring



Abstract

Specific

Sometimes you need to
step back
from the IDE

Lines of code
Classes, functions
Design patterns
Unit tests
Refactoring

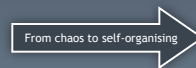


The software architecture role



Dedicated
software architect

Single point of responsibility
for the technical aspects
of the software



Everybody is a
software architect

Joint responsibility for
the technical aspects
of the software

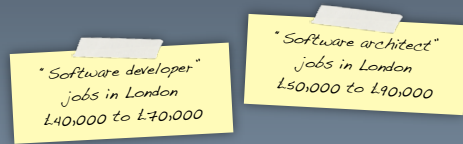
Elastic Leadership (Ray Osherson)
Survival mode (command & control),
learning (coaching),
self-organising (facilitation)

Is it really that
simple?

In order to avoid the sort of struggle late Renaissance artists had to be recognised as more than mere artisans it would seem that master masons perpetuated a myth (as I see it) of being the descendants of noblemen. Further to this, by shrouding their knowledge with secrecy

*they created a mystique
that separated them from
other less 'arcane' or
'noble' professions.*

Is “Software Architect”
a “high-value” role?



Ego

"I", self-importance, etc



Would you hire a
software architect
that wouldn't code?

Most importantly,
rockstar engineers believe in
simplicity and
common sense



Top 10 Traits of a Rockstar Software Engineer
http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/top_10_software_engineer_traits.php

Why do you want
to code on this project?



Is coding a
commodity?

Software architecture is a
post-technical
career



"In Thoughtworks, one of the most poignant insults one can throw at you is 'so-and-so has gone post-technical'."



Architect

Collaborating,
coaching and
mentoring

Reduced gap

Increased
architectural
awareness



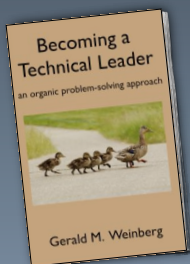
Developer



Benjamin Mitchell
@benjaminm

"Have no ego" <- an example of (generally) worthy,
but difficult to implement advice. [#gotocph](#)

*"Understanding the
experiences of others
expands our choices"*



Becoming a Technical Leader
An organic problem-solving approach

Gerald M. Weinberg



Non-technical
(or "post-technical"!)

Technical



The "corporate
career ladder"

*Our tech lead and mentor
has been "promoted" ...*

help!

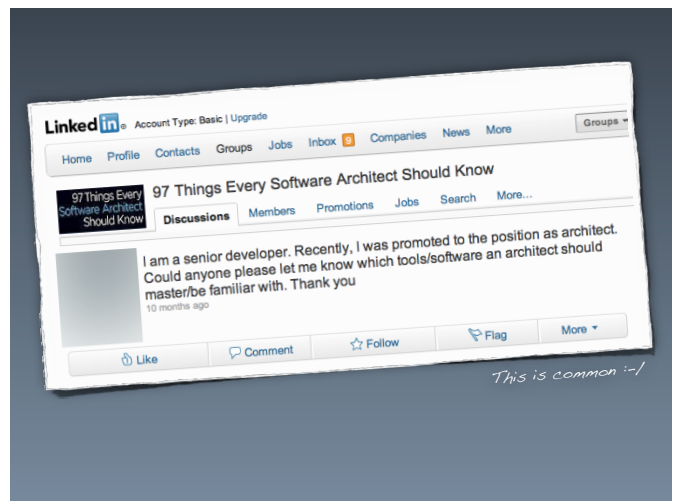
*Medieval stonemasons' skills were in high demand, and members
of the guild, gave rise to three classes of stonemasons:*

*apprentices,
journeymen,
and master masons.*

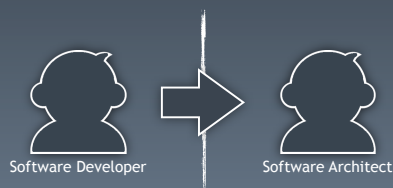
*Apprentices were indentured to their masters as the price for their
training, journeymen had a higher level of skill and could go on journeys
to assist their masters, and master masons were considered freemen who
could travel as they wished to work on the projects of the patrons.*

*A mason would have an
apprentice
working for him.*

*Traditionally medieval
stonemasons served
a seven-year
apprenticeship.*



Are you a software architect?



Experience is a good gauge,
but you need to look deeper

Work with your employer to create a
technical career path



We need to **grow** the
software architects
of tomorrow



A 21st century
software architect

The software architecture role

Architectural Drivers

Understanding requirements and constraints

Technology Selection

Choosing and evaluating technology

Architecting

Designing software

Architecture Evaluation

Understanding that the architecture works

Coding

Involvement in the hands-on elements of software delivery

Architecture Evolution

Ownership of the architecture throughout the delivery

Quality Assurance

Introduction and adherence to standards and principles

Coaching and Mentoring

Guidance and assistance



The role



21st century software architecture
"just enough"

Understand how the significant elements fit together

Identify and mitigate the key risks

Provide firm foundations and a vision to move forward



The process



Is a collaborative and lightweight approach to software architecture

the **missing piece**
of the **jigsaw?**



The Conclusion

Software architects
must be
master builders

And coding is a great way to retain this skill

Plus it reduces many of the problems associated with ivory tower architecture

The Conclusion

Software development teams need

one or more
master builders

All software development teams need technical leadership

The Conclusion

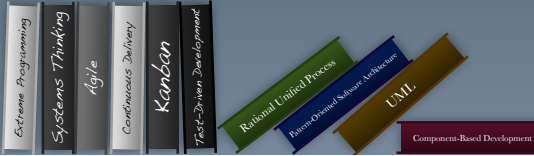
Technical leadership should be

collaborative
and include **coaching**

One person doesn't have all of the answers

We need to grow the master builders of tomorrow

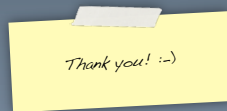
Who is **teaching**
the **classics** of the
pre-*agile* era?



What do you consider to be
essential reading
for 21st century software architects?



Let's **learn** from
past **experience**
rather than ignoring it



codingthearchitecture.com



Leanpub

leanpub.com



On-site training and consulting



simon.brown@codingthearchitecture.com
[@simonbrown](https://twitter.com/simonbrown) on Twitter

References

Analyse the role of the master mason in the C12-14th
<http://www.moonshadow.co.uk/?p=66>

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architect>

BuildingArchitect
<http://martinfowler.com/bliki/BuildingArchitect.html>

Medieval Masons
http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medieval_masons.htm

Stonemasonry
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stonemasonry>

Structural engineering
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_engineering

The Medieval Stonemason and the Master Mason
<http://rachel-bellerby.suite101.com/the-medieval-stonemason-and-the-master-mason-a65816>

