

ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Azure Well-Architected Framework

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Use this checklist to ensure comprehensive coverage of architect responsibilities within the Azure Well-Architected Framework. Each item represents a key deliverable or activity.

- ☐ Align technical strategy with business requirements by following a 5-step process to gather the right information, negotiate realistic outcomes and stay aligned with business goals.
- ☐ Develop an architecture design specification accompanied by diagrams as a structured packet. Ensure the specification meets functional and nonfunctional requirements gathered in the prior task and includes provisions for routine, ad hoc, and emergency operations.
- ☐ Create architecture design diagrams that illustrate all system design aspects, from a broad overview to detailed dimensions like network and identity.
- ☐ Maintain an architecture decision record (ADR) that captures the context, consequences, and justifications for architectural decisions. Document tradeoffs and rejected options.
- ☐ Validate critical assumptions with proof of concepts (PoCs). Before finalizing a design, validate high-risk or novel components with working code. This prevents theoretical designs from failing in practice.
- ☐ Collaborate with the workload and platform team during implementation to provide clarity and recommendations about the implementation sequence. This collaboration helps you maximize learning and make improvements from the outset. Renegotiate requirements with stakeholders if needed.
- ☐ Support modeling exercises that provide contextualized information about workload concerns. Cover costs, application health, and other areas.
- ☐ Provide optimization recommendations based on observations of usage patterns and changes in workload functionality or cloud provider offerings.
- ☐ Participate in audit, compliance, and confidence reviews to provide a valuable perspective to external parties authorized to conduct reviews.
- ☐ Be a consultant during change reviews to provide insight into the estimated cost of change and its feasibility.

Next Steps

Regularly review this checklist throughout the project lifecycle to ensure alignment with the Azure Well-Architected Framework and to proactively address potential issues. Update the checklist as needed to reflect evolving project requirements and best practices.