

ARCHITECTURE THINKING MINDSET / DESIGN PHASE / VALIDATE

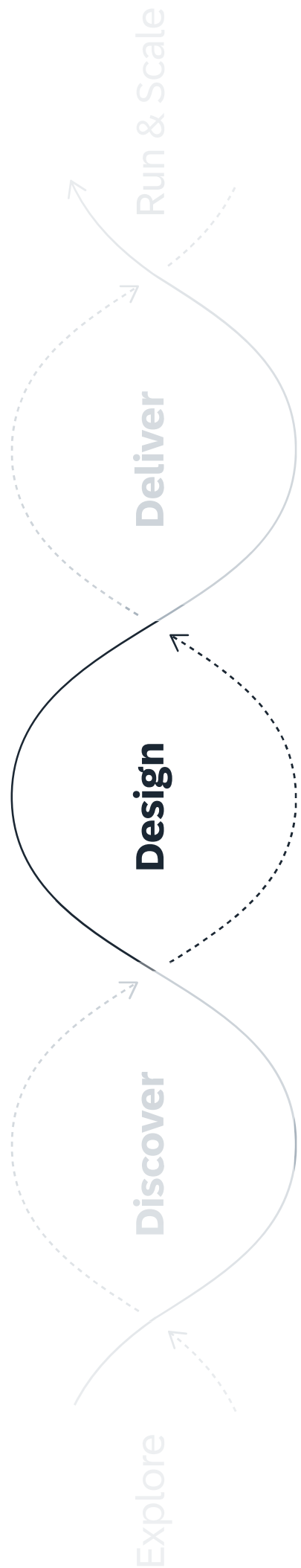
Make a List of the Architectural Decisions

Document your architectural decisions and reasoning.

Why To Make a List of Your Architectural Decisions

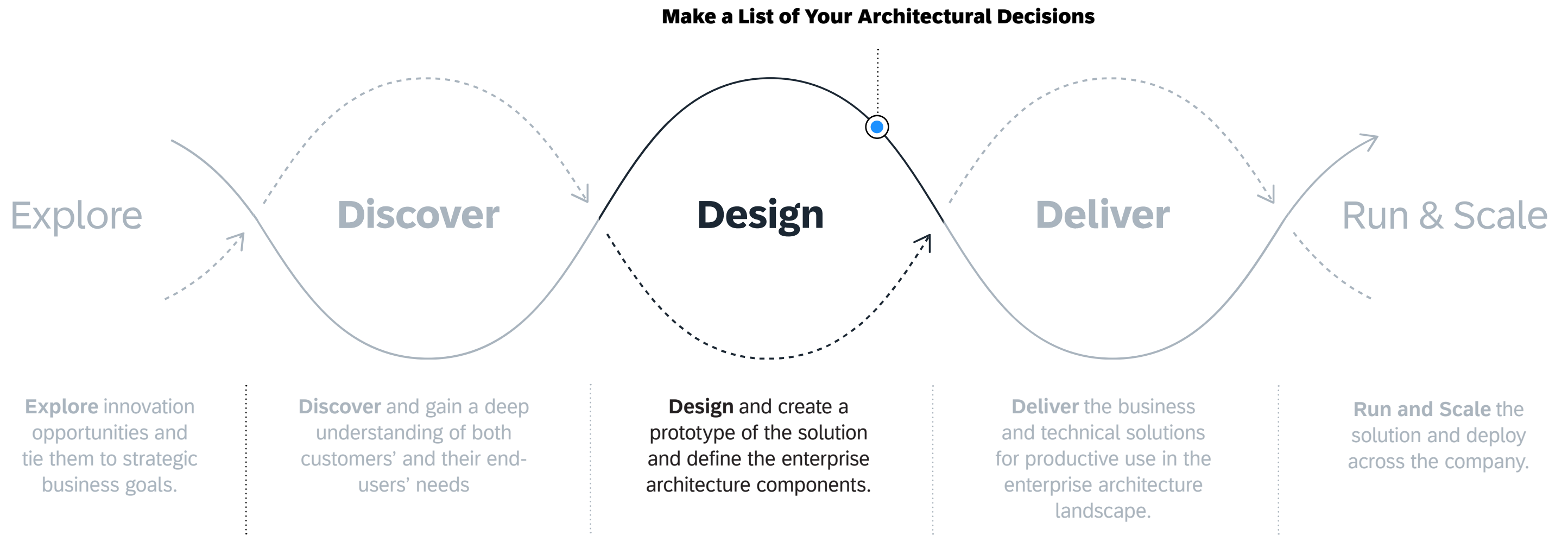
The purpose of an “Architectural Decisions List” is to document architectural discussions and capture the reasoning behind each decision made.

Provide detailed documentation of the architectural decisions chosen to implement the target architecture.



When To Make a List of Your Architectural Decisions

The Architectural Decisions List is created during the Design phase after the **Solution Realization Diagram**.



Learn more about SAP's Human-Centered Approach to Innovation: <https://apphaus.sap.com/approach>

How To

Make a List of Your Architectural Decisions



Duration
Ongoing During the Project



Participation
1 Person



Roles
Architect



- Use Input From
- **Generate a Solution Concept Diagram**
 - **Craft a Solution Realization Diagram**
 - **Visualize the Software Distribution Diagram**
 - **Draw an Environments and Location Diagram**

Steps

- 1 Every time you consider two or more alternatives in the architecture, you should remind yourself to write down the reasoning behind your decision for one of the alternatives.
- 2 Note the reason why you have chosen the alternative. Was it due to corporate strategy? Maybe there is a corresponding architecture principle that you considered during the decision? You can also include a SWOT analysis to explain the reasoning of your decision.

Expert Tips

Throughout the creation of your architecture, you make different decisions. For example, you decide to use one solution building block from vendor A instead of an alternative from vendor B.

Or, you decide to implement a required solution building block on your own instead of purchasing a building block. All of these decisions are documented for future reference, providing the reasoning behind each choice.

Documenting your architectural decisions is a recurring task, and it is likely that you will add decisions at later stages of your architecture development. An example is when you think about the deployment of your architecture in the context of the **Environments and Location Diagram**.

Example

Architectural Decisions List

Ref	Decision	Reasoning
<i><unique identifier></i>	<i><short description of the decision></i>	<i><details about the reason for the decision and possible alternatives that were considered></i>
An_100 September-2020	Provide embedded analytics to support profitability analysis of budget requests.	To offer an integrated user experience and integrated end-to-end experience, SAP Analytics Cloud, embedded edition is used and integrated into the “Budget Request & Review application”.
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