

ARCHITECTURE THINKING MINDSET / DISCOVER PHASE / SCOPING

Define Architecture Principles

Setting constraints and guidelines that need to be considered for developing the architecture.

Why To Define Architecture Principles

“Architecture Principles” define the constraints your architecture must deal with. Their purpose is to serve as guidelines you need to consider when developing the architecture.

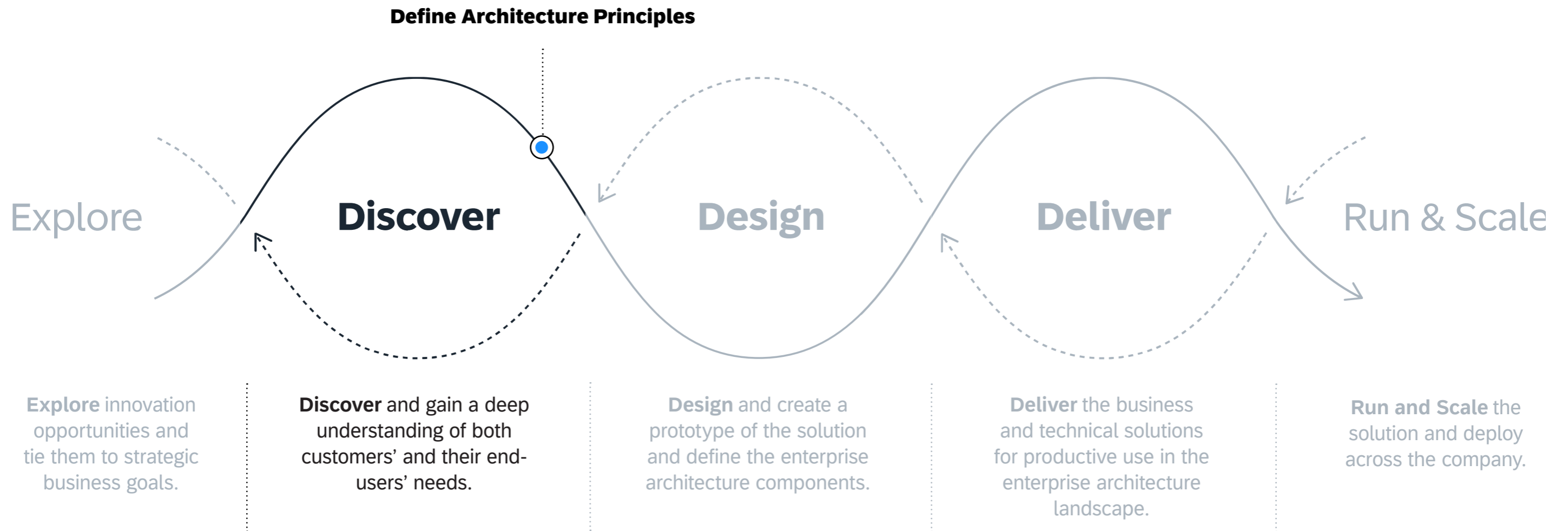
These rules or constraints being described by the Architecture Principles have been defined in the past and are valid for the entire company. They define corporate standards and strategic decisions that should be followed for the sake of TCO, operational efficiency and compliance as well as other business benefits.



When To Define Architecture Principles

We use this activity to outline the constraints your architecture must consider. Within the the Discover Phase, defining Architecture Principles normally happens at the start of the business domain of Enterprise Architecture, after performing Design

Thinking activities. To create Architecture Principles, it is necessary to have the **Statement of Architecture Work** and Corporate Guidelines.



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

How To

Define Architecture Principles



Duration
Approx. 30 - 60 Minutes



Participation
1 - 3 People



Roles
Architects



Use Input From

- **Statement of Architecture Work**
- **Corporate Guidelines**

Steps

- 1 Identify constraints you need to take into consideration while developing the architecture.
- 2 Understand the business benefits when following the architecture principles.
- 3 Outline the impact of following the principles in your architecture development.
- 4 Mark the pain points and moments of truth.

Expert Tips

Instead of simply copying and pasting all defined principles, identify those that are relevant to your architectural work. For this evaluation, you take the **Statement of Architecture Work** and its defined scope into consideration.

Example

Architecture Principles

Name	Preferred IT vendor strategy	BP_020
Statement	Consider applications from Rocket Chips strategic IT partners first: Microsoft and SAP	
Rationale	Rocket Chips has long relationships to its IT partners (vendors and services) which are based on corporate contracts to ensure best license prices, interoperability and integration, maintenance and premium support (e.g., 24x7).	
Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizations may not be able to select the best fit-for-purpose application from an ISV when our partners offer similar capabilities. Although, the individual cost may be competitive, the overall corporate expenditures are easier to control through our partner contracts.• Maintenance and support contracts are already in place through corporate contracts.• International availability can be ensured.	