Seven Habits of Highly Effective Architects

How to grow to an independent and interdependent visionary architect

“Balance is the Challenge”

Ger Schoeber
May 19th, 2011

introduction

Architecting Job

process
We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.
7 Habits, Steven Covey

The Independent Architect
1. Is Proactive
2. Begins with the End in Mind
3. Puts First Things First

The Interdependent Architect
4. Thinks Win-Win
5. Seeks First to Understand, then to be Understood
6. Synergizes

The Self-Rejuvenating Architect
7. Sharpens the Saw

From Dependence to Independence
1 – The Proactive Architect

RESPECTIBILITY: THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE YOUR RESPONSE.

Circle of Concern

No Concern

Circle of Influence

SATURN 2011
1 – The Proactive Architect

Circle of Concern

Circle of Influence

Reactive Focus

Circle of Concern

Circle of Influence

Proactive Focus

2 – The Architect with the End in Mind

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?” Alice asked the Cheshire Cat.

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.
2 – The Architect with the End in Mind

The mental plan: physical representation

3 – The Architect putting First Things First

I Urgent Important
- Crisis
- Pressing Risks
- Deadline

II Urgent Important
- Prevention
- Relationship building
- New Opportunities

III Urgent Not Important
- Interruptions
- Some calls
- Some emails
- Some meetings

IV Not Urgent Important
- Trivia
- Time wasters

Daily issues:
- Coaching
- Troubleshooting

Inspired by:
- "What Colours is Your Backlog?" by Philippe Kruchten

Architecture
- Vision
- Technical debt

First Step
From Dependence to Independence

From Independence to Interdependence
4 – The architect who thinks in Win-Win

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Win</th>
<th>Lose</th>
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The Architect who First seeks to Understand than to be Understood

Levels of Listening
- Ignore
- Pretend to Listen
- Selective Listening
- Attentive Listening
- Empathic Listening

Stakeholder needs/concerns
- Customers
- Management
- Engineers
- Suppliers
- ....

Vision
6 – The Synergetic Architect

the whole is more than the sum of the parts

From Interdependence to Self-Rejuvenation

CHANGE
7 – The rejuvenating Architect

Summary

- **Independence:**
  1. Proactive – you are the ‘programmer’
  2. End goal – plan with the end in mind
  3. Priorities – Important & not Urgent

- **Interdependence:**
  4. Win-Win – Mutual benefits
  5. Empathic – Listen and Experience
  6. Synergy – Finding the 3rd alternative

- **Self-Rejuvenation**
  7. Upward spiral – Balance energy, health, lifestyle

“Proactively able to create the best system by synergistically working together in a continuous fashion”
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s), Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People</td>
<td>Stephen R. Covey</td>
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<td>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</td>
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<td>What colours is your backlog?</td>
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Source of your development.

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