

A network diagram on the left side of the slide consists of several circular nodes of varying sizes and colors (red, orange, and maroon) connected by thin grey lines. The nodes are arranged in a non-linear fashion, with some larger nodes acting as central hubs.

# Value-driven Architecture Documentation

**Create living, minimal architecture docs**

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May 2019



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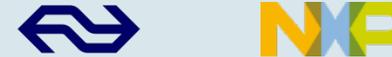
CGI

## RCDA

Founder / owner  
CGI's agile architecture approach



ProRail



## PhD



Improving Solution  
Architecting Practices



## Architecture

Practice Lead  
Reviewer  
Coach  
Agile transformer



14 Peer-reviewed pubs

2 Best paper awards

3 Best presn awards



## 2016

Linda Northrop Architecture  
Award



# Architecture Documentation Bloat

## Common causes

- Templates as knowledge repository
- “One size fits all” templates
- The Architecture Document as the (only) place to store knowledge about a solution

## Symptoms

- Long architectural feedback loop
- Too much up-front design
- Stakeholder indifference
- Delays, rework,...



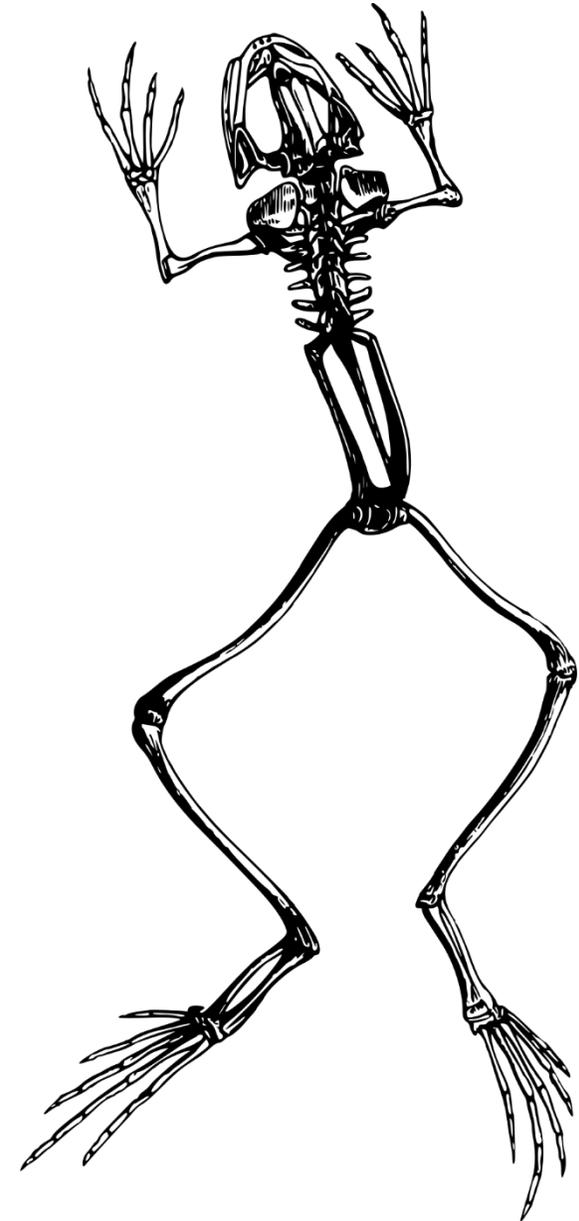
# Architecture Documentation Dea(r)th

## Common causes

- Schedule pressure
- Inability/unwillingness to reason at higher abstraction levels
- Fear of angering the Agile gods

## Symptoms

- Difficulties in maintenance & trouble-shooting
- Failing quality attributes (NFRs)
- Inconsistent user experience
- Rework, delays...



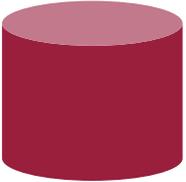
# Always mind the business value of what you're doing

## Separate architecture documentation goals

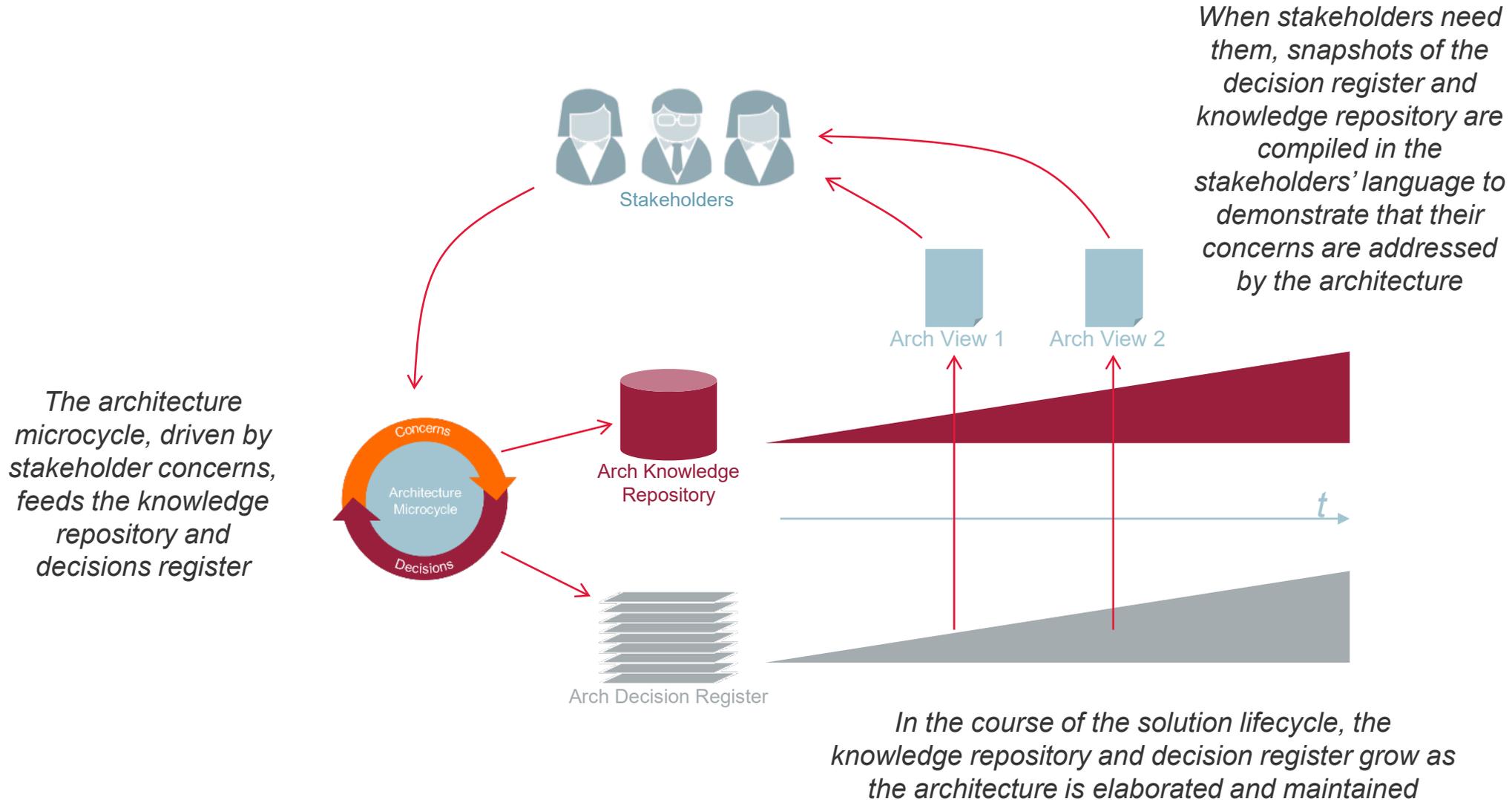
Documentation goal	Value
Evidence to stakeholders their concerns are being addressed	Stakeholder buy-in, business & technical fit of solution, risk & cost control
Storing architectural knowledge for later (delivery, operation)	Maintainability, testability, consistency, troubleshooting (reliability, availability)
Collaborate & communicate architectural decisions	Stakeholder buy-in, business & technical fit of solution, risk & cost control, compliance, consistency

Each of these goals requires its own **rhythm** and **language**

# Value-driven architecture documentation

	What	Why	How (examples)	When
 <p>Arch Views</p>	Evidence stakeholder concerns are addressed, in stakeholders' language	Collaborate with stakeholders (incl. delivery, operations) Support mgt decisions Pass project milestones	Presentations Wordy docs (Whiteboard) (Modeling tools for some stakeholders)	Project milestones Epic/story advance (On demand)
 <p>Arch Knowledge Repository</p>	Architecture models, patterns, analysis results, research outcomes, unfinished business	Collaborate on knowledge gathering Preserve knowledge for later (analysis, design, delivery, operation)	Wiki Modeling tools Content Mgt Systems	As knowledge becomes available
 <p>Arch Decision Register</p>	Architectural decisions, including status, rationale, consequences	Collaborate on decisions Communicate decisions Drive progress	Jira Wiki Content Mgt Systems	As soon as aware of need for decision

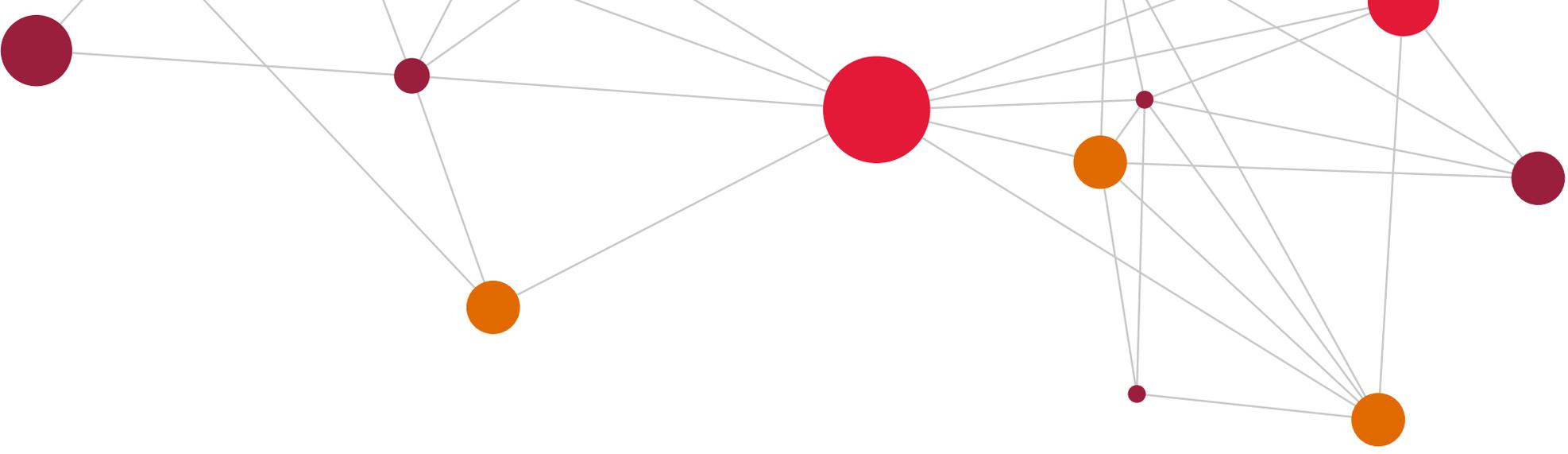
# Value-driven architecture documentation





## Our commitment to you

We approach every engagement with one objective in mind—to help clients succeed.



Contact us to continue the conversation.



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