

LATE NIGHT DEVELOPMENT

FIELD NOTES

FIELD NOTE 06



The One-Page Architecture Decision Record

Capture consequential technical decisions before the reasoning disappears.

Meaningful choice -> Compare options -> Record tradeoffs -> Decide -> Revisit on trigger

WHAT TO CAPTURE

- Title, date, owner, and status.
- Business context, constraints, and non-negotiables.
- Decision and clear boundary of its scope.
- Two to four credible options, including doing nothing.

MAKE TRADEOFFS EXPLICIT

- Consequences: cost, risk, operations, lock-in, and delivery speed.
- Implementation path, guardrails, validation, and review trigger.
- Update status when the decision is superseded.

WRITING STANDARD

- State the decision in the first paragraph.
- Separate facts, assumptions, and preferences.
- Describe rejected options fairly for future readers.

DECISION PATTERN

- We will [choose] for [scope] because [constraints], accepting [tradeoff]; revisit when [trigger].

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