

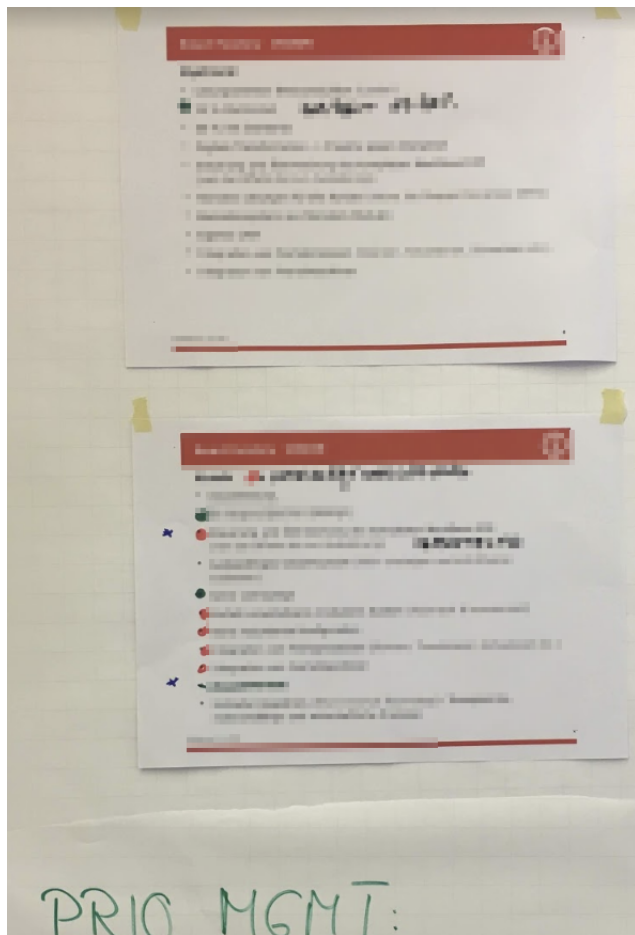
# Architecture Workshop with Legacy Systems

This is an agenda I used recently in a 2-day workshop on a future architecture with lots of existing system and Code legacy („brownfield project“):

1. What is the **Business Vision**?
2. What is the **current** Architecture?
3. What drives the **future** Architecture?
4. How could an **ideal system** look like?
5. **How do we get there?**
6. What to **buy** vs What components/interfaces to **build**?

We started with the business vision and management priorities and the current architecture situation. From there we elaborated an ideal system with potential strategies to get there.

Business Vision



Business Vision and Management Priorities

- From the business vision, derive influencers on the architecture
  - What makes us cringe?
  - What makes us no worry?
- Collect Functional and Nonfunctional items

---

## Current Architecture



Working on the

current Architecture

- Identify
  - pain points
  - user activities
  - top 5 use cases that drive the architecture
- Create different models (Yes, many) of the architecture to share understanding
- What is slowing us down?
- How long are the feedback cycles of work in the teams?
- How can we enable Continuous Delivery?

---

### Future System

What is the ideal system? How does it look like?  
Where do we predict changes to happen in the future?

- Work in smaller groups and capture ideas
- Capture different approaches and compare
- Data flow, security, user interaction
- Use Event Storming to find user interaction points

Gather and merge ideas into architecture model(s)

- \_\_\_\_?
- Use C4 Context and Component Diagrams

# Architecture Workshop with Legacy Systems

by Peter Gfader - <https://beyond-agility.com/architecture-workshop-agenda-in-a-brownfield-environment/>

---

- How can we minimize the blast radius of issues and incidents? → How can we create autonomy in teams?
  - Collect Glossary with common terms for shared understanding
- 

How to get there?

- What next?
    - Collect baby steps to get there
    - Collect big bang to get there
    - **Buy or Build?** Sub systems?
  - Brainstorm activities and trade offs
  - Create a backlog of work
- 

Pain Points

There are lots of points we address in the training or by running the workshop with your real operational systems architecture, like:

- How do we know “Enough modeling is enough”?
  - When should we take which decision?
  - When do we start to digitize the models? (Why should we?)
  - Which notation makes sense?
  - What is a great architecture?
- 

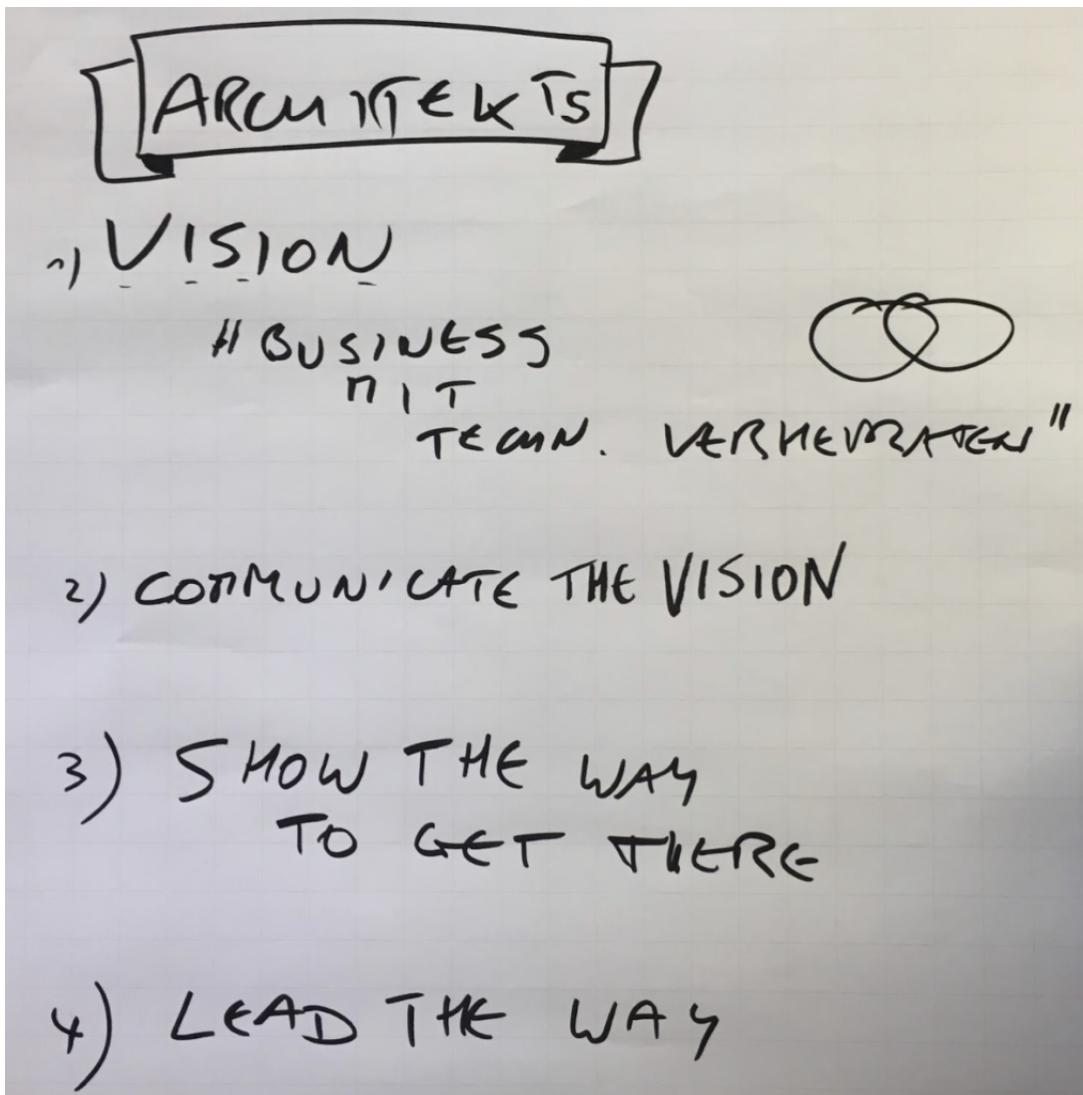
Tools we ?

Here some tools we use in this Architecture workshop

- Our brains
  - Clear communication and common understanding
  - C4 Models
  - Clean Architecture
  - Wardley Mapping
  - Impact Mapping
-

- Domain Driven Design
- Event Storming
- User Story Mapping
- Ports and Adapters or also known as Hexagonal Architecture (by Alistair Cockburn)
- The Universal Architecture (Concept by JB Rainsberger)
- Pen, Paper, Post-Its

What does an Architect do? (Yes, the role)



From Business

Vision to Leading the way.



[Send Peter a tweet](#)

We Go Beyond Agile

Beyond Agility  
Zürich - Switzerland