LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE to documentation

Kaitlyn Tierney krtierney.com

Like board games



- Like board games
- Learn new things

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers
- Distill vague requests into actionable queries

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers
- Distill vague requests into actionable queries
- Love booleans and databases

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers
- Distill vague requests into actionable queries
- Love booleans and databases
- Good at documentation

Let's talk about your documentation problem

It's hard

It takes time

It's hard to maintain

We don't see the value

Too much of a good thing

Can't find what you need



Discoverability



Software engineer Librarian characteristics

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers
- Distill vague requests into actionable queries
- Love booleans and databases
- Good at documentation

Software engineer Librarian characteristics

- Like board games
- Learn new things
- Look things up
- Use computers
- Distill vague requests into actionable queries
- Love booleans and databases
- Good at documentation
- Master's degree in library science















Engineering Wiki

∠ 2 backlinks

All things engineering: processes, best practices, setup guides, and more!

Guides & Processes

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- **6** Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- **Engineering Guidelines**
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- AB A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions

Villianin

- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

Infrastructure

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

Librarian tips

0. Take a backup

1. Start sorting









bin







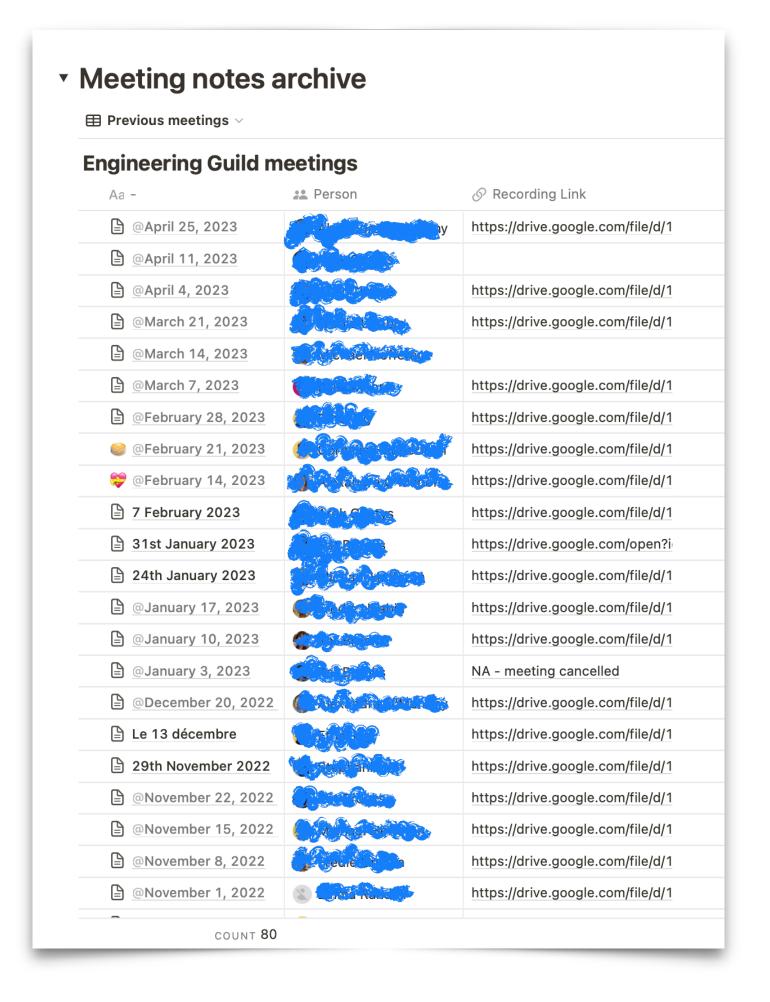




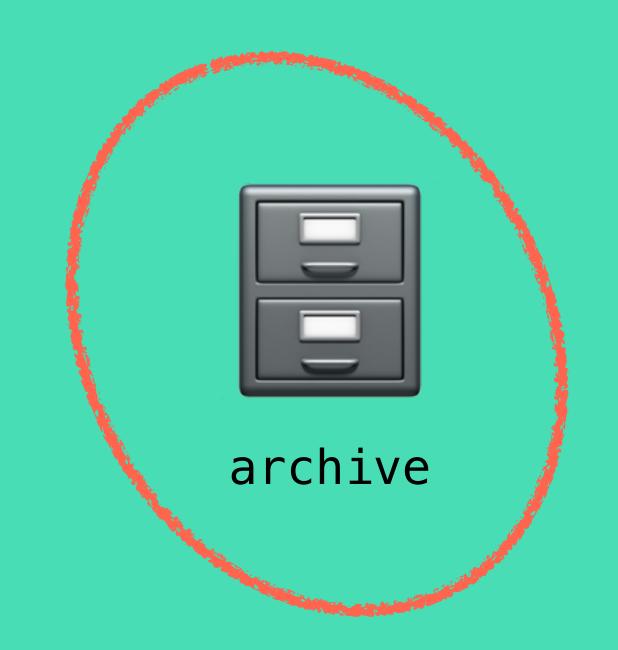
bin

Digital ephemera

Working docs



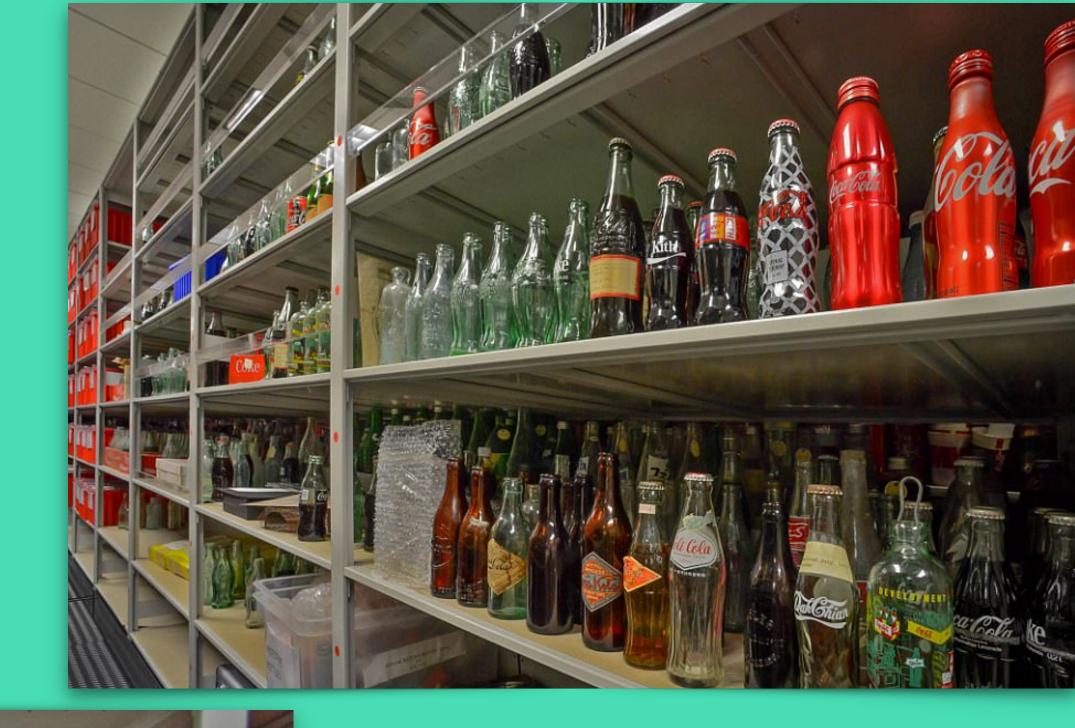






bin

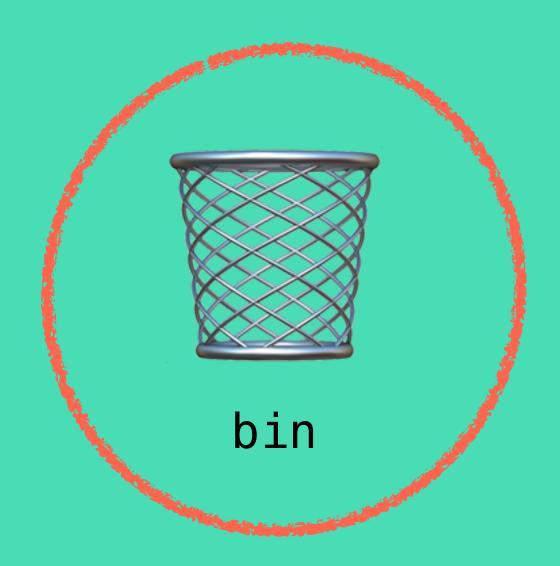












2. Create your taxonomy

∠ 2 backlinks

- Onboarding
- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- Company Rituals
- Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix
- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- AWS
- Data storage
- Incident Response
- Data security
- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services
- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing



Engineering Wiki

∠ 2 backlinks

All things engineering: processes, best practices, setup guides, and more!

Guides & Processes

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- **Incident Response**
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- **Engineering Guidelines**
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- ₩ Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

Look for patterns

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

Content follows form

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- **TODO:** How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- **Heroku**
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- **Heroku**
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- **Using the Wiki**
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
 - Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- **Heroku**
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- **Heroku**
- aws AWS
- Data storage

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **M** Company Rituals

Collaboration

- **Engineering on Slack**
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

Define topic headings

3. Set your style

∠ 2 backlinks

	Onboa	arding
--	-------	--------

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- Company Rituals
- Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix
- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- AWS
- Data storage
- Incident Response
- Data security
- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services
- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

Engineering Wiki < Example>

∠ 2 backlinks

Guides & Processes

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- Company Rituals

Collaboration

- Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- AWS
- Data storage

∠ 2 backlinks

Guides & Processes

- Using the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- Company Rituals

Collaboration

- Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

Infrastructure

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- AWS
- Data storage



Engineering Wiki < Example>

∠ 2 backlinks

Guides & Processes

- Jusing the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- i Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **Company Rituals**

Collaboration

- # Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage



∠ 2 backlinks

Guides & Processes

- Jusing the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- **Engineering Guidelines**
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- AB A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- **Company Rituals**

Collaboration

- # Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

Infrastructure

- Continuous Integration
- main and DNS setup
- **H** Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage



Engineering Wiki < Example>

∠ 2 backlinks

All things engineering: processes, best practices, setup guides, and more!

Guides & Processes

- Jusing the Wiki
- Onboarding
- Incident Response
- Data security

Codebase

- Development Lifecycle
- ing Engineering Guidelines
- Applications
- Services

Testing

- Automated Testing
- Browser support
- TODO: How to QA
- Penetration testing
- A/B testing

People

- Who's Who
- Progression & Promotions
- Tech Leading at Farewill
- Company Rituals

Collaboration

- # Engineering on Slack
- Proposals and ADRs
- Skills Matrix

- Continuous Integration
- Domain and DNS setup
- Heroku
- aws AWS
- Data storage

Optimise for readability



Incident Response

Owner Last edited time

Kaitlyn Tierney May 19, 2023 10:47 AM

∠ 11 backlinks



Something is wrong with production

🥁 Oh no, I've deployed a bad change

Something is literally on fire

Mhen we know a traffic spike is expected...

Mho is on-call?

Further reading

An incident occurs when something goes wrong with our products, services or internal tools. To respond effectively, we seek understand what happened, and fix it. We record what has happened, and try to learn from it to prevent the same or similar thing going wrong in future.

This full process—identifying a problem, fixing it, and using our learnings to mitigate against future occurrences—is what we mean when we talk about "incident response".

Because we have responsibilities to various regulatory authorities, it's essential that we follow our documented procedures for incident response. We must respond to incidents in a timely manner, involving stakeholders across the business to ensure our response is adequate and compliant with our regulatory requirements.

For external services, we have a Slack channel for \bigsecolor{1}_\textsup \bi

Something is wrong with production

- Quick Guide to incident.io
- Triaging an incident
- Responding to an active incident
- 3 Post-incident response
- Incident post-incident reviews
- Na Books
- Oh no, I've deployed a bad change

- Something is literally on fire
 - Data Recovery
- When we know a traffic
- sinke is expected...
- Big traffic plan
- **Mho is on-call?**
- Out of hours production alerts

- Something is wrong with production
- Quick Guide to incident.io
- Triaging an incident
- Responding to an active incident
- Post-incident response
- Incident post-incident reviews
- 1 Run Books
- Oh no, I've deployed a bad change
- Rolling back changes

Example incidents

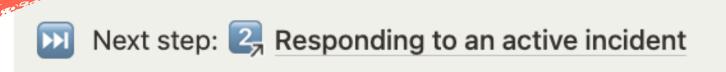
- We deploy a new version of our Wills app that breaks a customer journey, we need to identify the problem, debug it and revert the change.
- Google docs has an issue that means we can't create new docs and therefore we can't create new wills for customers. We need to find a work around so that our will writers can continue to serve customers until Google docs recovers.
- We realise that a database instance is about to run out of disk space and we need to take action urgently to prevent disruption to online services.

What is not an incident

The most common type of issue which wouldn't be classed as an incident is something where something isn't working on one individual's computer.

In which case it's probably something for #tech-support.

- My computer can't connect to the internet, so I can't work.
- I am locked out of my account, and it's disrupting my work.





Responding to an active incident

∠ 1 backlink

- If you're not yet sure of the scale and severity of the incident, go back to Triaging an incident.
- We use <u>incident.io</u> to manage our incident response. Check out the Quick Guide to incident.io to get started.

Creating a new incident

Helping out on an existing incident

Acting as an Incident Lead

Assign other roles

Coordinate the response

Update the incident status

Complete the post-incident review

Acting as Communications Lead



Using the Wiki

Contributing

Content guidelines

Good wiki content can be...

Contributing

A good wiki is a collaborative effort. Here are a few ways you can help:

- 1. If you spot something outdated, incorrect, or missing here, take a crack at fixing it yourself.
- 2. If you'd like a hand or have any questions, pop into #eng-wiki on Slack and our resident docenthusiasts will be happy to help.
- 3. Try to stick to the content guidelines below—they're designed to keep our docs accessible to everyone and as useful and maintainable as possible
- 4. To avoid things getting too cluttered, consider asking in Slack for a second opinion before adding new top-level docs to the wiki's main page.

Content guidelines

- This wiki is predominantly for engineers and engineering managers, but we want to make it
 approachable and understandable. A technical product owner or engineer just starting out
 should be able to have their questions answered by reading a relevant wiki page when one is
 available. (When one isn't available, we may want to document the answer for the next person
 who has the same question)
- Feel free to use technical language as-needed. But aim for readability where possible: short, declarative sentences.
- Use the industry-standard terms to make things easier to search for.
- Try to strike a balance between keeping things concise and providing enough context.
- Feel free to link out to external docs for tools we use. But when you spot dead links, try to update them.
- Consider the information architecture of topics ordered in the sidebar when adding a new page

Good wiki content can be...

- Evergreen, or things that change infrequently
- Impacting multiple product teams or related to multiple codebases
- Referred or shared with others often

Content guidelines

- This wiki is predominantly for engineers and engineering managers, but we want to make it
 approachable and understandable. A technical product owner or engineer just starting out
 should be able to have their questions answered by reading a relevant wiki page when one is
 available. (When one isn't available, we may want to document the answer for the next person
 who has the same question)
- Feel free to use technical language as-needed. But aim for readability where possible: short, declarative sentences.
- Use the industry-standard terms to make things easier to search for.
- Try to strike a balance between keeping things concise and providing enough context.
- Feel free to link out to external docs for tools we use. But when you spot dead links, try to update them.
- Consider the information architecture of topics ordered in the sidebar when adding a new page

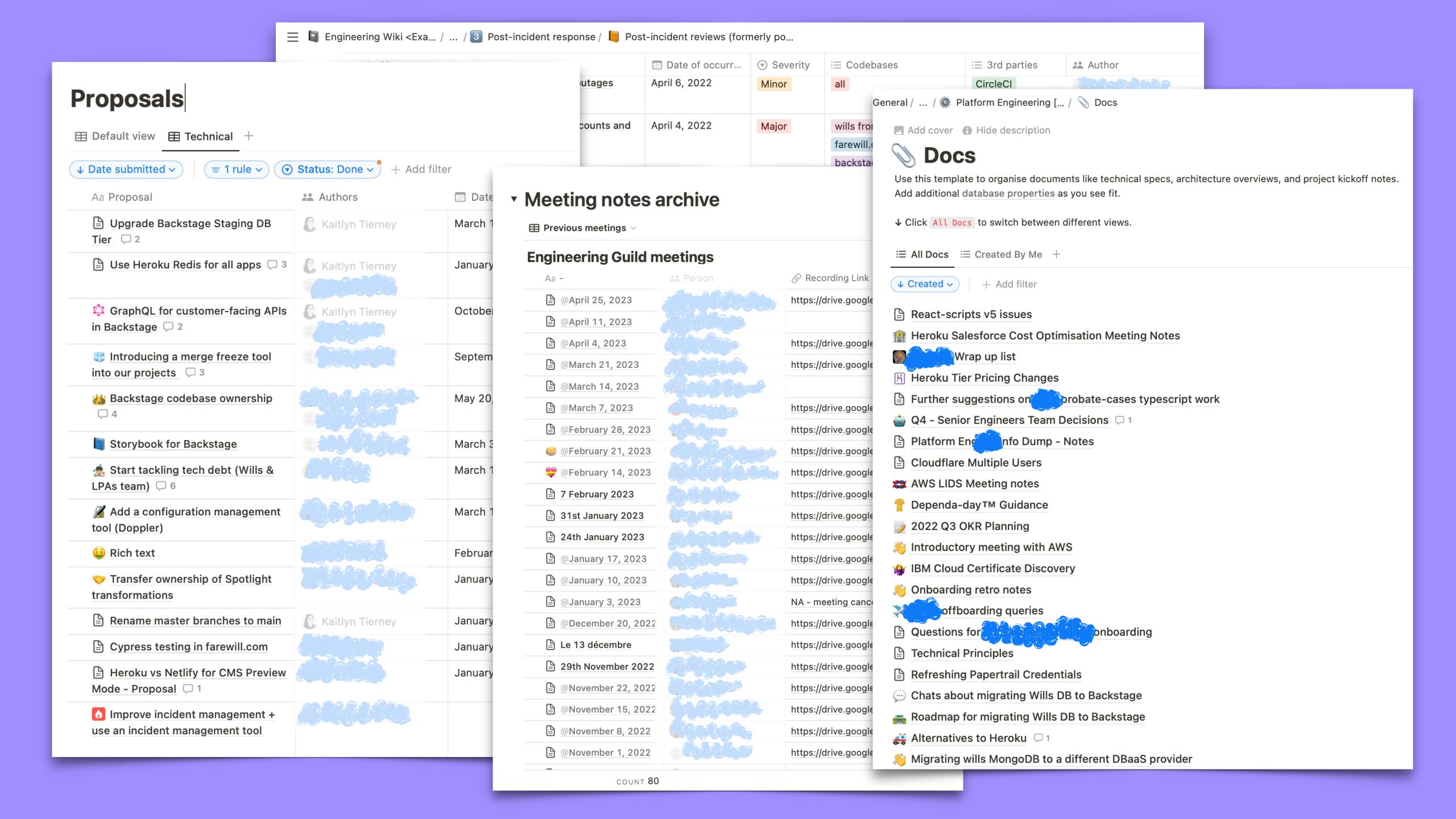
Good wiki content can be...

- Evergreen, or things that change infrequently
- Impacting multiple product teams or related to multiple codebases
- Referred or shared with others often

4. Find what you need



Create a finding aid



Optimise search results

Add metadata



Software Architecture

Owner Last edited time Tags

Kaitlyn Tierney Today 10:41 AN Diagrams Architecture

∠ 1 backlink

This page collects links to architectural diagrams and other documents relevant to our overall software architecture, or the architecture of individual projects. For more fine-grained architectural discussion, please see our database of Architecture Decision Records.

Architectural Overview

Architecture Diagram for Backstage on Miro

Created by c. 2022

Contains details about Backstage, Farewill.com, Wills app, MongoDB, Redis, Postgres

backstage-architecture.png

backstage-get-contacts and

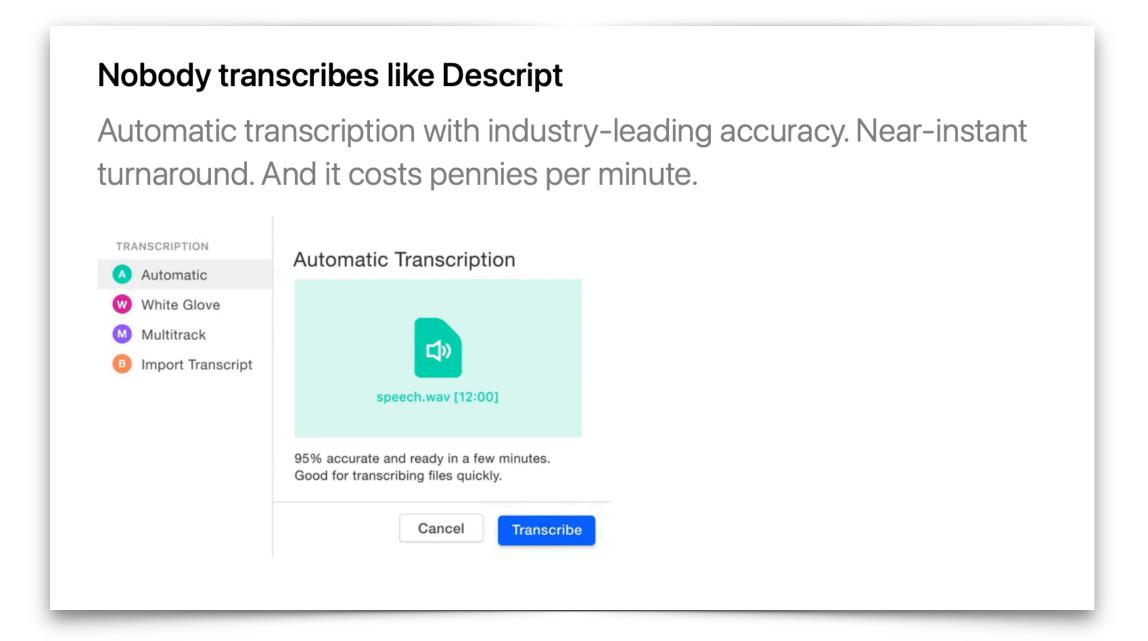
Diagrams on Github

We have a <u>GitHub repository for diagrams</u>, which can be helpful for visualising how services are <u>connected</u>. It contains sequence diagrams which are created using mermaid. Diagrams in this repository were primarily created or updated prior to 2021.

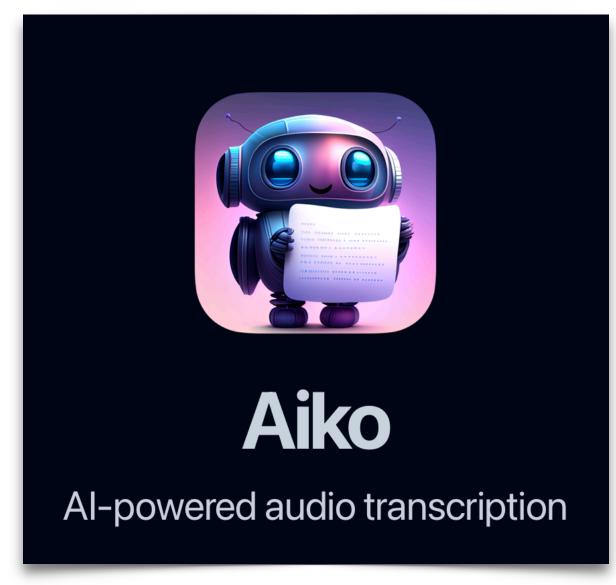
Services

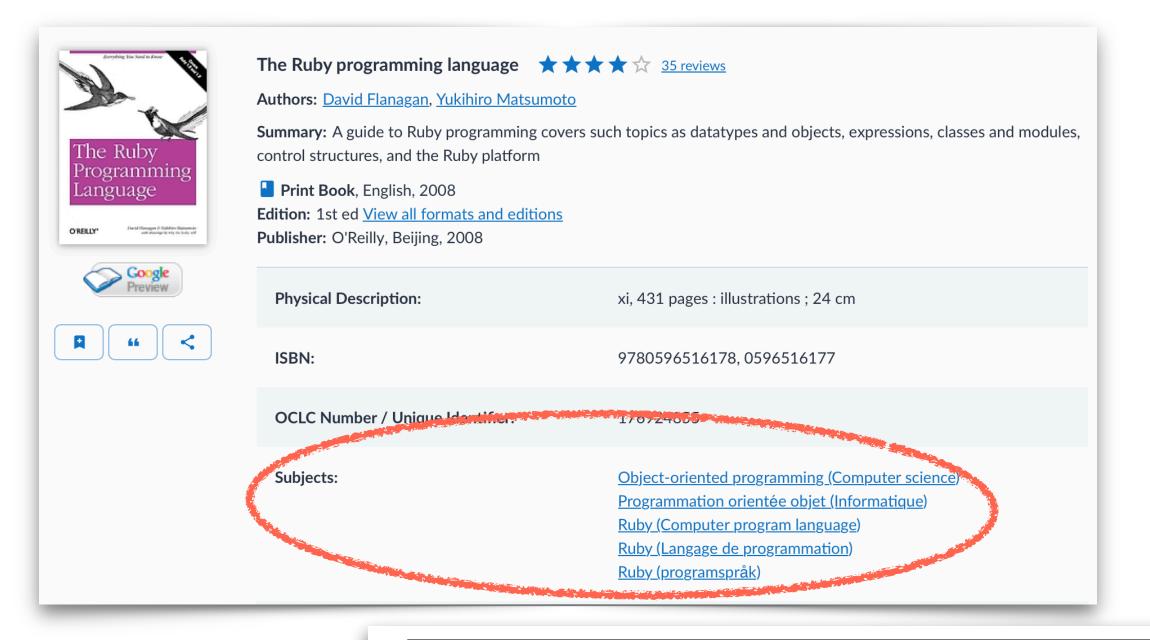
An overview of internal and external services on Miro

Created by c. 2021



Add transcripts





Use keywords



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

NeuroImage





Slow phase-locked modulations support selective attention to sound

Magdalena Kachlicka^a, Aeron Laffere^a, Fred Dick^{a,b}, Adam Tierney^{a,*}

^a Department of Psychological Sciences, Birkbeck, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX, England ^b Division of Psychology & Language Sciences, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, England

ACCLE INFO

Keywords:
Attention
Auditory
Temporal
EEG

ABSTRACT

To make sense of complex soundscapes, listeners must select and attend to task-relevant streams while ignoring uninformative sounds. One possible neural mechanism underlying this process is alignment of endogenous oscillations with the temporal structure of the target sound stream. Such a mechanism has been suggested to mediate attentional modulation of neural phase-locking to the rhythms of attended sounds. However, such modulations are compatible with an alternate framework, where attention acts as a filter that enhances exogenously-driver neural auditory responses. Here we attempted to test several predictions arising from the oscillatory account by playing two tone streams varying across conditions in tone duration and presentation rate; participants attended to one stream or listened passively. Attentional modulation of the evoked waveform was roughly sinusoidal and scaled with rate, while the passive response did not. However, there was only limited evidence for continuation of modulations through the silence between sequences. These results suggest that attentionally-driven changes in phase alignment reflect synchronization of slow endogenous activity with the temporal structure of attended stimuli.

But don't rely on search exclusively

Redundancy = reliability

What tool to use?



Request a demo

Log in

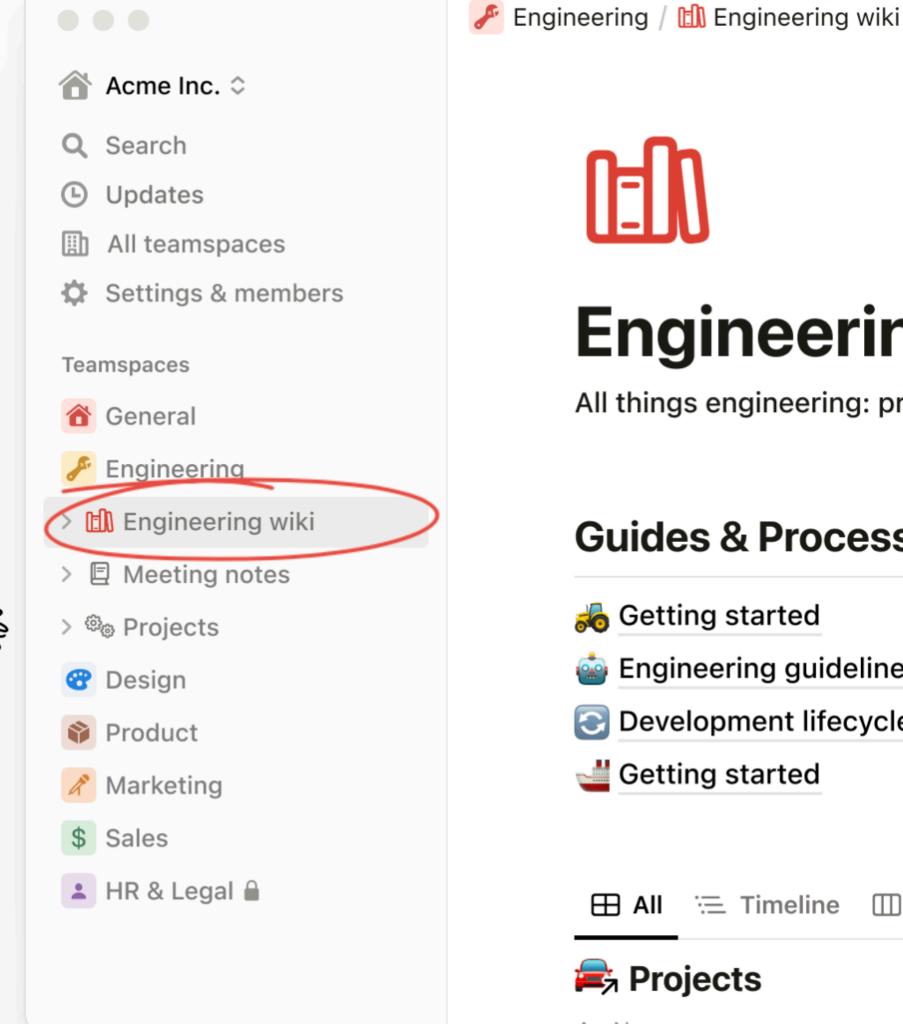
▼ Team

Get Notion free



It's hard to move fast if you can't find anything. Centralize all your knowledge in Notion.

Explore →

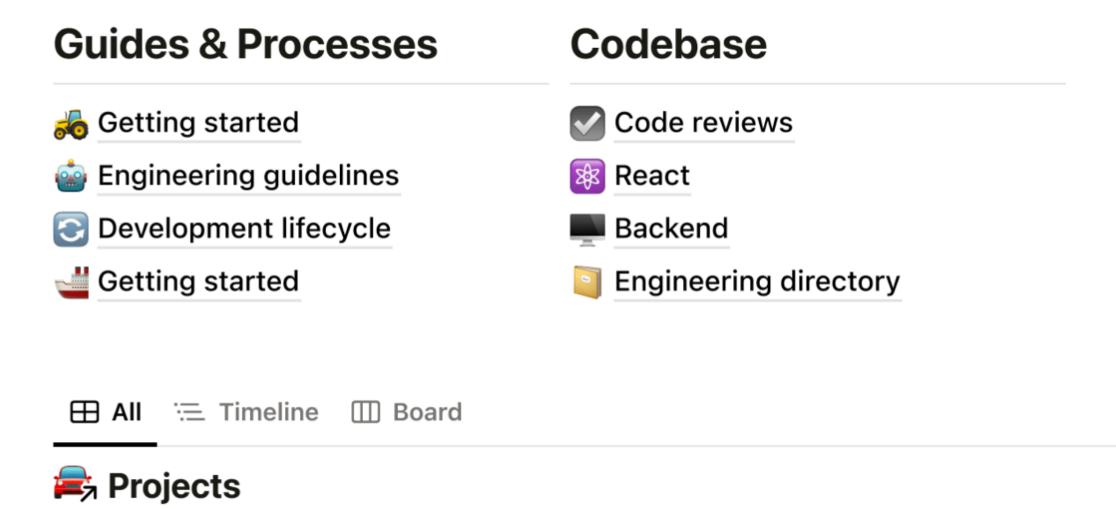




Δa Nama

Engineering wiki

All things engineering: processes, best practices, setup guides, and more!



• Product owner





Engineering Product Security Open Source Enterprise Changelog

Free trial

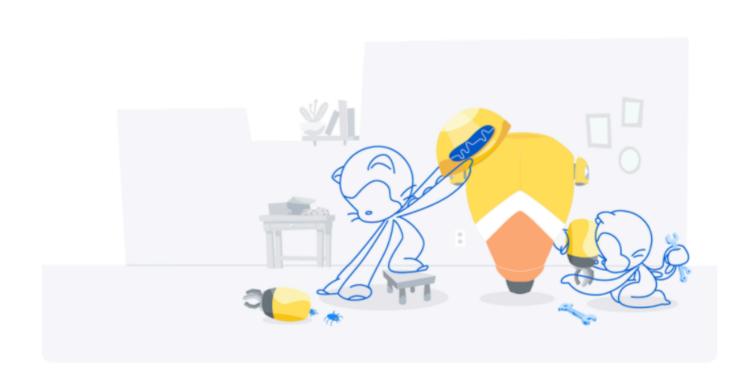
More ∨

Contact sales

Q

GitHub Blog Search

Search Results for: wiki

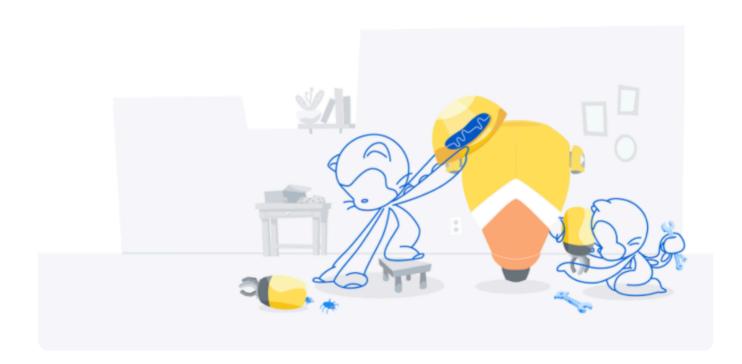


Changelog

Wikis now support math and Mermaid diagrams

Wikis now support math and Mermaid diagrams

Kevin Duck August 9, 2022

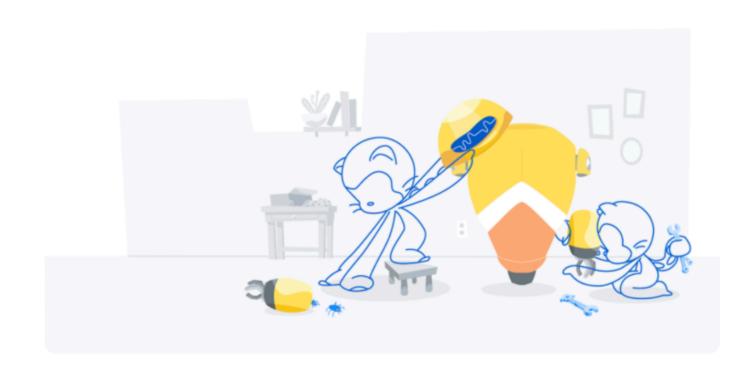


Changelog

Upload images to Wiki pages

Upload images to Wiki pages

Sidi Merzouk February 14, 2022



Changelog

Table of content for Wikis

Table of content for Wikis

phanatic August 19, 2021

Sign in

Build your best ideas together, in Google Docs

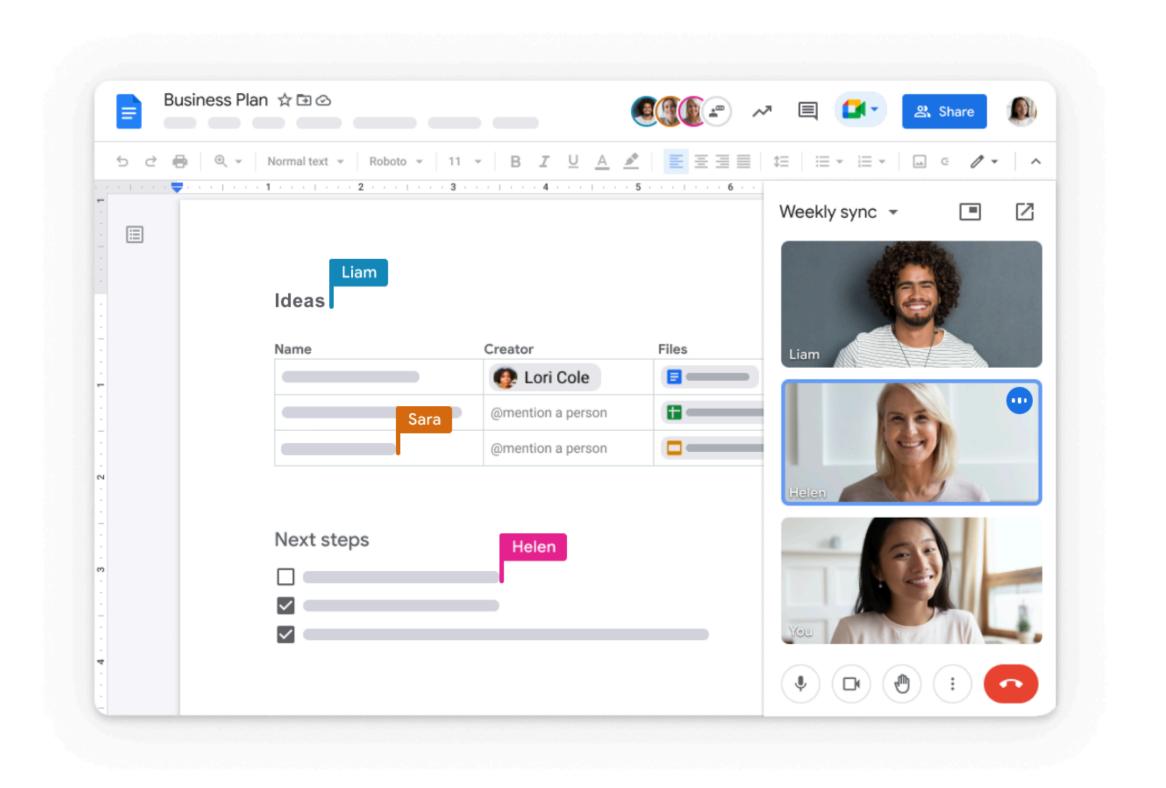
Create and collaborate on online documents in realtime and from any device.

Try Docs for Work

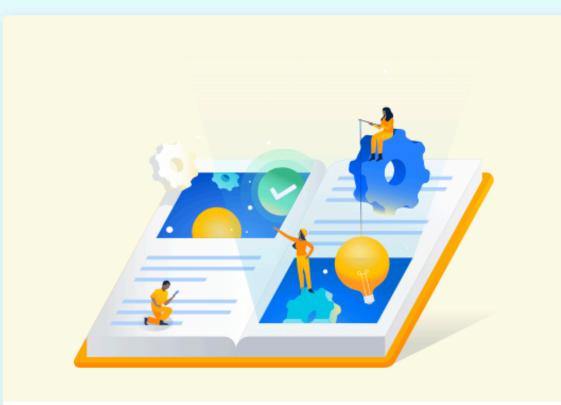
Go to Docs

Don't have an account?

Sign up for free







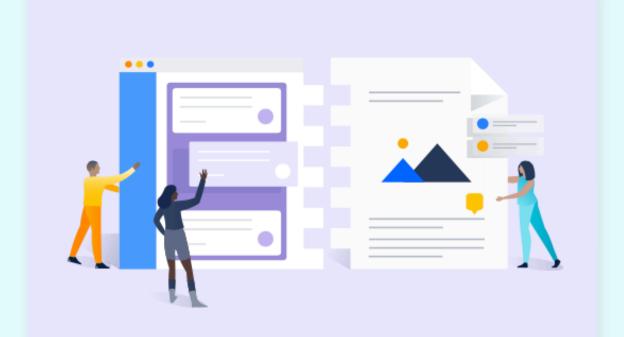
Features

Resources

A shared knowledge hub for every team

Make it easy for teams to find and contribute critical company knowledge.

View use case →



Templates

Streamline work with Confluence and Jira

Connect Confluence to Jira Software to organize, manage, and ship projects faster.

View use case →



Take the work out of teamwork

Collaborate openly and efficiently without meetings or emails.

View use case →

How would you like to use Confluence?

Explore all the ways all kinds of teams use Confluence as their collaborative knowledge hub.

See all use cases →

5. Share widely

Start small

Solicit feedback

Find your champions

Trust in the process

Show your work



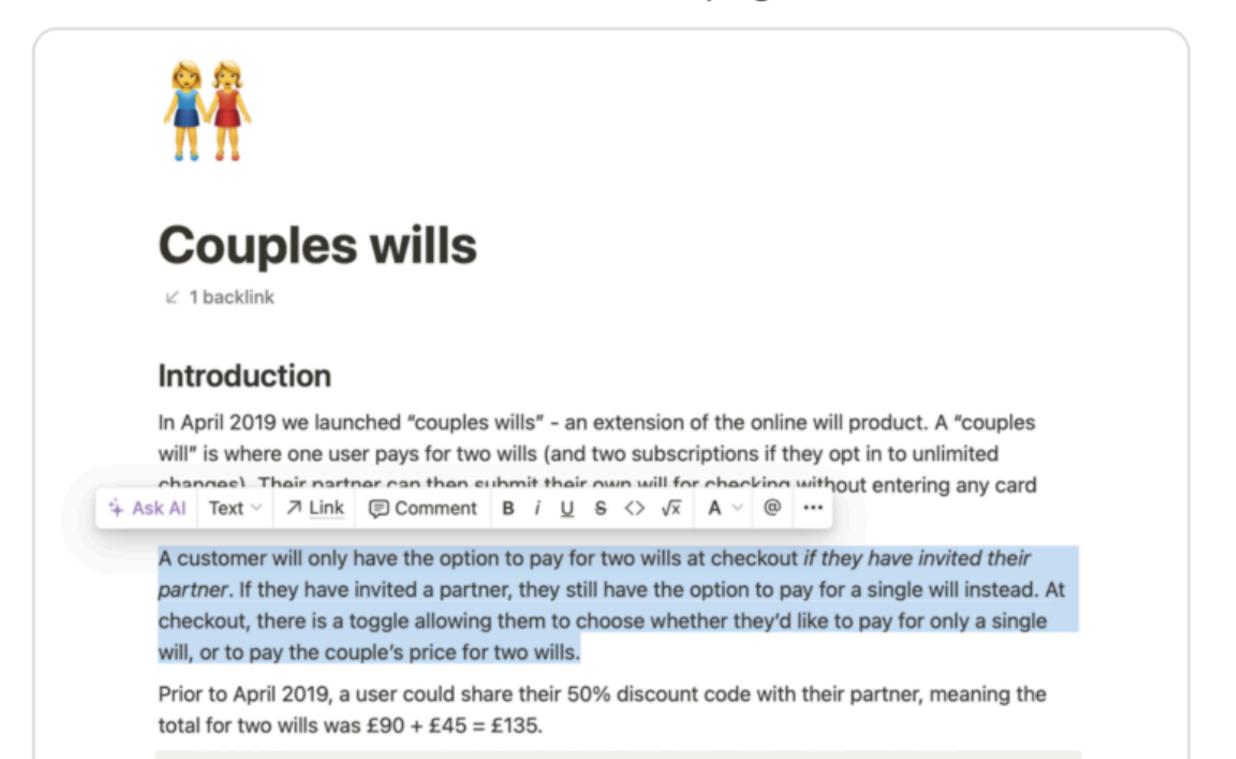
I think there's still outstanding questions that don't have well formed answers yet, but I know they're being discussed / in the backlog currently. So I can update the docs after they're worked through (edited)



Kaitlyn Tierney < 1 minute ago

I think the question you had is pretty straightforward but wasn't very clear from the existing doc, so I just added this paragraph to the top to make things a bit more clear! Let me know if you think that helps or if there's anything else you'd like the doc to cover.

Screenshot 2023-05-15 at 09.52.58.png ▼





Hey! A couple of wills app questions:

- as a user in the wills app, can you purchase a couples will at checkout without having invited a partner?
- as a user in the wills app that has invited a partner, can i then choose to only purchase my own single will at checkout, and allow the invited partner to take care of their own purchase?

2 replies



- as a user in the wills app, can you purchase a couples will at checkout **without** having invited a partner? No, you have to have invited them to Farewill (it's triggered by the <code>linked_user</code> document). Even if the user has told us they're married / cohabiting / etc, if their partner isn't invited to Farewill, they cannot purchase a couples will.
 - as a user in the wills app that has invited a partner, can i then choose to only purchase my own single will at checkout, and allow the invited partner to take care of their own purchase?

Yes, there is a toggle that allows the user to switch between paying for both / paying for only their will. The default is paying for both.



Kaitlyn Tierney 1 minute ago

Hey @_____ we have some product documentation around Couples Wills here on Notion. Could you take a look through there and see if:

- a) your questions would have been answered by reading it, and
- b) update the docs if not, so that it's documented if anyone else has the same questions later on?







Outreach

Pairing: not just for code!

Incentivise

Share ownership

Reap the rewards

- 0. Take a backup
- 1. Start sorting
- 2. Create your taxonomy
- 3. Set your style
- 4. Find what you need
- 5. Share widely

Focus on the why

Example 1

ADR advice process

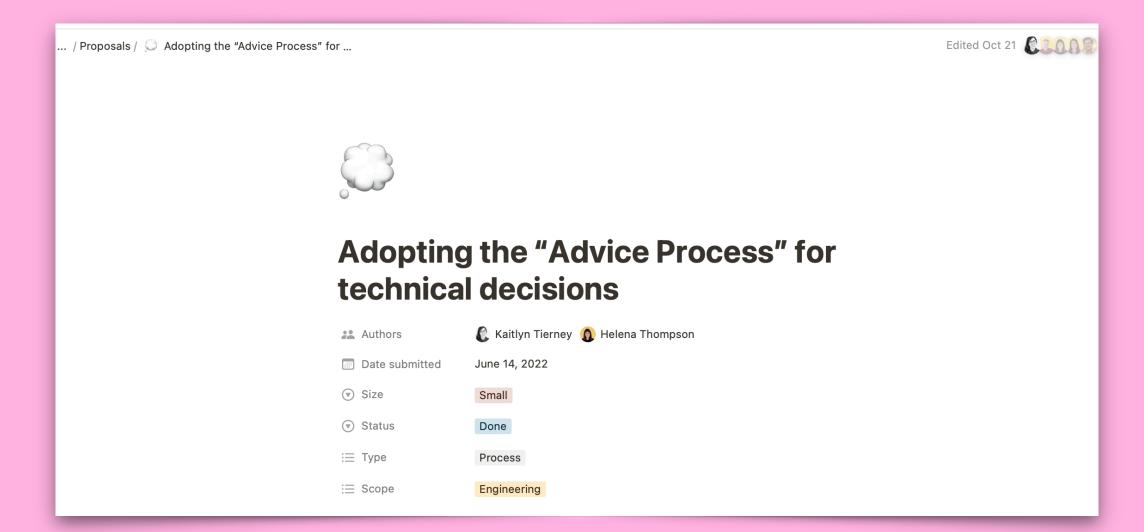




A Commune in the Ivory Tower?

- A new approach to architecture decisions

Andrew Harmel-Law introduces a mindset and an associated set of practices which do away with the traditional idea of "Architects" while bringing the practice of "Architecture" to the fore.



Supporting changes

This updated ADR process would include the following small changes:

- Updating the ADR template to include a new section for "Advice", in which advice can be recorded.
- Updating the Engineering Guild meeting template to include a section for ADRs to be discussed.
- Storing all ADRs in Notion, instead of in a project's repository, for better visibility and to make it easier to capture which ADRs have a 'Proposed' status.
- Updating our ADR documentation to reflect these changes and to highlight great example
 ADRs for engineers to draw inspiration from.

This is a low-risk initiative. If we try it for a few months and it doesn't add value, or engineers don't seem to get any benefit or enjoyment out of it, or no learnings result, then we can abandon it. But we think it's a good bet that discussing how we plan, architect, and build software, as a group, will lead to better software with more internal consistency, and happier, more engaged engineers, and will cut down on siloes of knowledge within teams.

Proposal

Thus, we propose to introduce a lightweight version of the "Advice Process" [2] into our engineering workflow. The original "Advice Process" as defined by its authors is as follows:

The Rule: anyone can make an architectural decision.

The Qualifier: before making the decision, the decision-taker must consult two groups: The first is everyone who will be meaningfully affected by the decision. The second is people with expertise in the area the decision is being taken.

We'd like to bring this in even for smaller, non-architectural decisions—most particularly when they impact on *shared codebases* like Backstage, but also any time it seems like a decision could spark interesting technical discussion, or might benefit from some wider consultation. Realistically, we're not often (hopefully) architecting new systems, but we do have a lot of little decisions that are made on a regular basis, all of which can add up to making our codebases less easy to understand, or harder to maintain, if we don't agree on how to approach things.

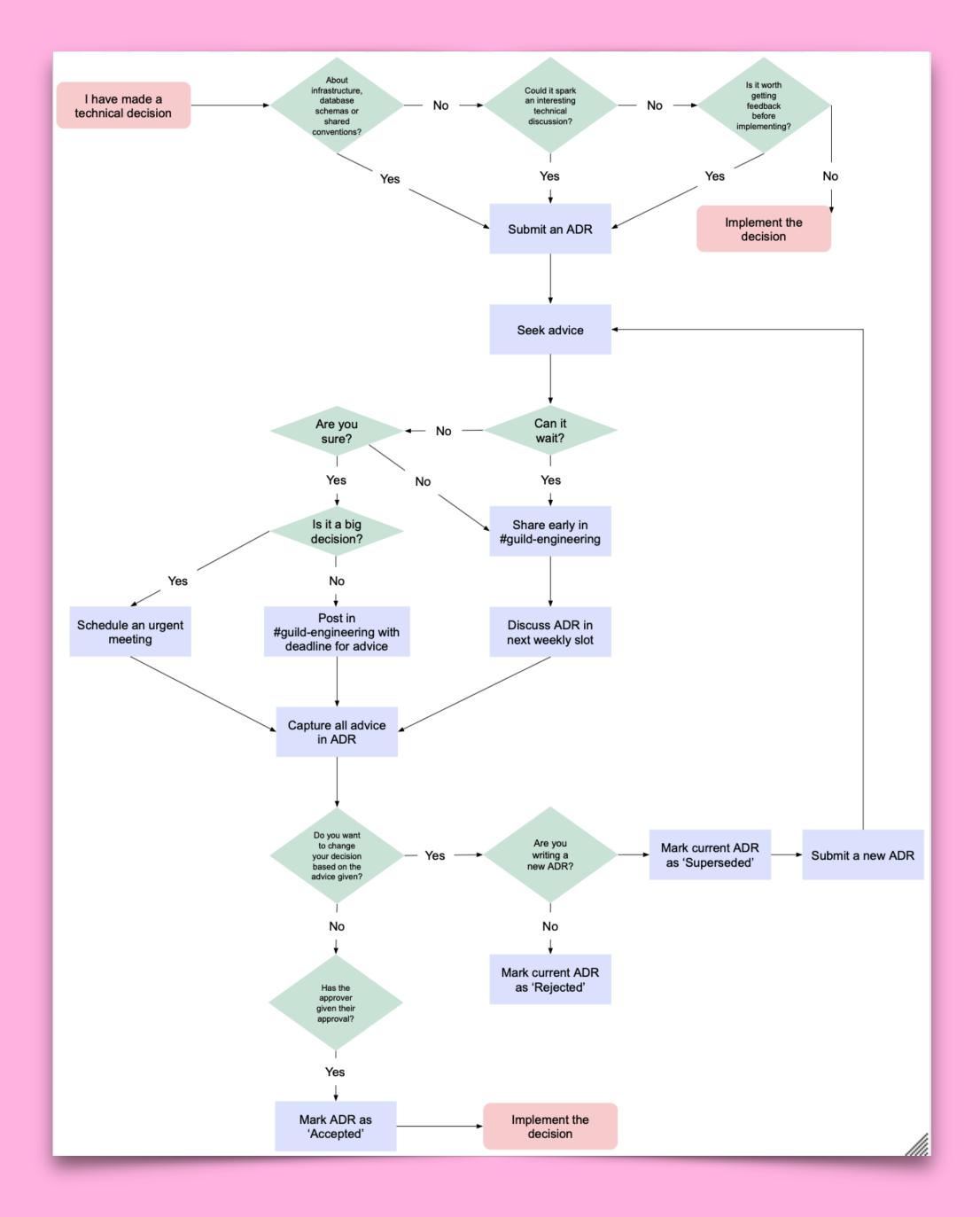
Suggested Implementation

If we agree on the proposal in principle, we have mapped out a suggested way of implementing the "Advice Process" into our existing practices.

Updated ADR process

We could update our ADR process to facilitate these consultations. This would entail:

- 1. For each decision, write a lightweight ADR (using our existing Architecture Decision Records database). These can be short and sweet, and ideally would be written about any software design decision that impacts on other engineers—anything from adding a new column or table to a database, to introducing a new pattern or shared type to a codebase.
- Once a 'Draft' ADR is ready to be shared, it is 'Proposed' and posted in #guild-engineering.
 This gives people an opportunity to think about the ADR and leave advice ahead of discussing in person.
- 3. All ADRs that are 'Proposed' are then discussed in the next Engineering Guild meeting. The ADR author gives an overview, clarifies any existing advice and seeks further advice.
 - For more urgent work, schedule an advisory meeting, inviting any engineers who care to attend, and any other affected people.



Architecture Decision Records

Owner Verification Last edited time

Kaitlyn Tierney Until July 31, 2023 Today 12:10 PM

∠ 4 backlinks

□ Add comment

We use <u>architecture decision records</u> (ADRs) to propose and document technical decisions we make on our projects.

Each ADR has an identical format, comprised of the following sections:

- Title Short description stating the architecture decision
- Status Draft, Proposed, Accepted, Superseded, Rejected
- Approver The person whose approval is required for acceptance
- Context Motivation behind a decision
- Decision Decision and corresponding justification
- Consequences Impact of a decision, whether positive, negative or neutral
- Advice Capturing advice given when the ADR is proposed

When should I write an ADR?

As a result of a successful proposal (Adopting the "Advice Process" for technical decisions), we're trialing writing ADRs for a wider pool of decisions (not just big architectural decisions). This is to help promote more technical discussions guild-wide which should level up the quality of our software as well as provide more opportunities for learning and development.

An ADR should be written *before* implementation so that we're not wasting engineering time. That said, a prototype implementation (i.e. not production-ready code) can be useful evidence in your ADR to illustrate an approach and its trade-offs. Prototyping is a great way of failing and learning quickly to gain confidence in our decisions.

We should write an ADR whenever we're proposing to change our:

- Infrastructure (example: 🖺 Heroku Advanced Scheduler)
- Database schema, for major architectural changes (example: Representing crematoria providers in the database)
- Shared conventions (example: 🔢 Set port numbers in Doppler for local development)

We also encourage ADRs to be written *whenever* a decision could spark interesting technical discussion or might benefit from wider consultation.

Although it might seem like additional effort to write an ADR, it should save us a bunch more time down the line! It might take ~30 minutes to write an ADR but that



Kees Heuperman 13:58

Having a record of the motivation behind decisions is incredibly valuable



Alexandra O'Mahony 14:44

I'm a big convert to ADRs! It's helpful for the person working on it to have their thoughts organised in one place and the feedback I've received has had a massive impact on my personal development and on making better decisions as a team (edited)

is that too wordy??

I LOVE ADRs!



Stephanie Ye 13:57

"Why on earth did they build it like this???" is a question every programmer has screamed silently into the void. With ADRs, you can at least do your screaming in a more informed manner.

Example 2

Applying for regulation



Software Development Lifecycle

∠ 6 backlinks



Last updated: 21/12/2022



This page documents our Software Development Lifecycle. The requirements listed here exist to ensure we meet the requirements that allow us to be compliant with PCI-DSS

The requirements outlined by this document should be followed at all times. If you have questions or suggestions, drop a message in #guild-engineering.



This page uses synced blocks which are embedded across other relevant engineeringrelated documentation pages. As a result, this page has restricted write access to prevent any accidental changes being made (via editing the content of the synced blocks in the other pages) without review. If you'd like to suggest a change to anything in this document please reach out to

Code storage

Secret management

Shared logins

Development machines

Dependency management

Secure development

Branch Protection Rules

Writing code

Testing

Pull requests

Code storage

- 1. All of our code is stored in projects on GitHub under the Farewill organisation.
- 2. Projects are marked as "private" by default, unless the VP Engineering has discussed and agreed that a project may be made public.



Changing the visibility of an existing project from private to public requires planning to ensure that any potentially confidential information that could lead to security or privacy issues is scrubbed from the repositories code and commit history.

Secret management

See R Doppler.

- 1. All new projects should store environment variables and secrets in 武 Doppler. This helps us ensure that we have an easily auditable trail of any changes made to these values.
- 2. If we become aware that any secrets relating to any of our production environments have been inadvertently leaked, firstly, don't panic!
 - 1. Raise an incident so that appropriate remedial action can be taken and so that we have an audit trail of the event.
- 2. Ensure that all potentially compromised secrets are rotated.

Secure development and deployment guidance

Owner

Last edited time



November 22, 2022 4:09 PM

∠ 2 backlinks



This page contains information from our 🤶 Software Development Lifecycle. Please ensure you are familiar with and comply with the requirements outlined there to help keep our systems secure.

It is important that we consider security as a primary concern throughout our development and deployment processes.

Requirements

- 1. Ensure security is considered as part of each piece of product work. If there are likely to be potential security related decisions made as part of a piece of work, record the potential risks, options and chosen approach in an ADR.
- 2. If you discover a vulnerability raise an incident to handle investigating and performing the remedial action required.
- 3. If you are concerned about a potential vulnerability or other security issue, discuss with the relevant product engineering team or the guild immediately so we can investigate and (if necessary) respond and mitigate the issue (raising an incident if necessary).
- 4. Ensure pull request templates in GitHub contain a checklist item reminding engineers to consider (and document) any implications on security when completing the self-review checklist for a pull request.
- 5. Any potential security risk(s) identified at any point in time should be logged in the \mathbb{N} Risk register.

Example 3

The QA Stub

Codebase



Development Lifecycle

Engineering Guidelines

Applications

Services

Testing

Automated Testing

Browser support

TODO: How to QA

Penetration testing

A/B testing

Collaboration









Infrastructure

Continuous Integration

Domain and DNS setup

H Heroku

Docker

aws AWS

IBM Cloud

Data storage

* Terraform



TODO: How to QA

Owner Last edited time

Kaitlyn Tierney March 9, 2022 10:30 AM

.

This template explains our QA process for shipping bug-free software.

QA Philosophy

Processes

Making Code Changes

Reviewing Code

QA

QA Philosophy

 $+\,\,::\,\,$ Write about your approach to QA and why it's critical to success.

Processes

Making Code Changes

- Test PRs rigorously before requesting review.
- Include test cases you've checked for in your PR description.

Reviewing Code







- 2023-03-14 10:12: The new probate Acquisition Flow was put live This is the point at which the incident began
- 2023-03-22 12:16: it was discovered that ads were still pointing to old pages
- 2023-03-22 19:50: it was discovered that the CTAs on the old pages were not working (unresponsive when clicked)
- 2023-03-22 20:15 : all ads were switched to point towards the new pages

What could have gone better?

- We should have a single well-tested component for links, instead, we have multiple components with confusing behaviour. This will be easier to fix when we remove the unused landing pages and drastically decrease the amount of existing components and lines of code.
- 2. We should have tested the PR better during PR review
- 3. We should have confirmed that the expected changes in the ad account had been executed
- 4. We should have end-to-end journey tested when the ads performance dropped

Commercial Impact

36% below target on prospects during the period in question, having been only 4% under target on prospects in the preceding 7 days. Also 60% below target on prospects in the days following the change. Approximate revenue impact of £59k.



What could have gone better?

- 1. We should have a single well-tested component for links, instead, we have multiple components with confusing behaviour. This will be easier to fix when we remove the unused landing pages and drastically decrease the amount of existing components and lines of code.
- 2. We should have tested the PR better during PR review
- 3. We should have commined that the expected changes in the ad account had been executed
- 4. We should have end-to-end journey tested when the ads performance dropped

- 0. Take a backup
- 1. Start sorting
- 2. Create your taxonomy
- 3. Set your style
- 4. Find what you need
- 5. Share widely

0. Take a backup

1. Start sorting

- 2. Create your taxonomy
- 3. Set your style
- 4. Find what you need
- 5. Share widely

Just make a start

It will never be perfect

...Preferably today

Kaitlyn Tierney k@krtierney.com