

Technology Selection For Software Engineering Teams

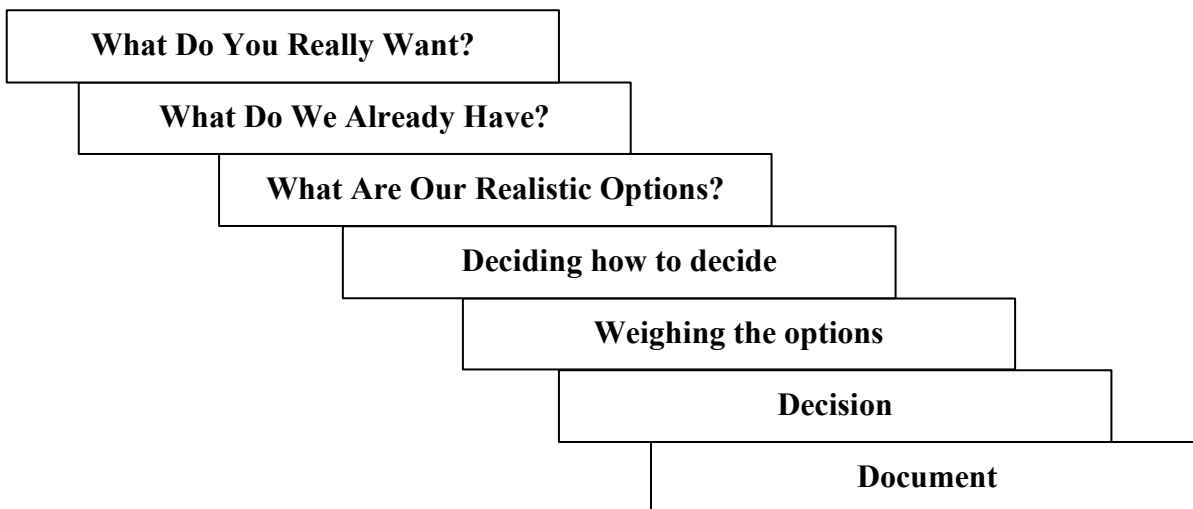
Asking the right question, wargaming the options, risk assessment, unbiased evaluation (from technical & business viewpoints), explaining/defending your choice

Overview

Regardless of how good one is as a housebuilder, building a house above sand, a swamp, soil or solid rock has profound implications for the longevity of that house. Similarly, the success of the software you write depends to a significant degree on its foundation. Virtually all software is layered above other software and is built using a variety of processes. Technology selection is often approached in a haphazard and rushed manner with little regard for the strategic implications of the decision.

This Technology Selection Workshop provides a clear documented decision-making process that helps your team arrive at a more considered judgement, mindful of potential risks and nuanced to the local situation.

Seven-Stage Strategy



- **What Do We Really Want?** – Often the initial question considered is not the real question that needs to be answered. Is there a more significant question "lurking behind" the initial question?
- **What Do We Already Have?** – Companies frequently under-appreciate what they already have in place, in terms of people, technologies and existing strategies
- **What Are Our Realistic Options?** – There are plenty of options, though after initial examination only a few remain as serious contenders
- **Deciding how to decide** – We consider how we are going to arrive at the decision
- **Weighing the options** – what are the pros and cons of each option; risk assessment
- **Decision**– Pick one option and articulate why this is the preferred approach.
- **Document** – Describe the decision making process, so that it is clear to all that the right decision was arrived at, due diligence was performed and there is a sound basis for the decision.

Features & Benefits

What Do We Really Want?	We need to identify and clearly articulate the question that will be the basis for the technology selection. By ensuring we are asking the right question, we achieve better added value from the decision.
What Do We Already Have?	By paying due cognizance to existing assets and previously made technical/organisational decisions that will not be altered, we leverage what we can and do not unduly affect existing systems and structures.
What Are Our Realistic Options?	By first identifying all the options, we have a comprehensive overview to ensure nothing is overlooked. Then by narrowing them down via a series of "what-if" exercises, we arrive at the realistic options which we can continue to examine in more depth.
Deciding How to Decide	By agreeing on selection criteria, as a separate step from the selection decision itself, we ensure a neutral decision-making process so we do not arrive at a pre-determined judgement
Weighing the Options	A fair evaluation of each option – from both technical and business viewpoints, leads to a quality decision.
Decision	A clear decision needs to be made that unambiguously identifies the selection.
Document	A short document is created as a product of the workshop that outlines the discussion leading up to the decision – useful for future referral and appreciating the thought processes that produced the decision.

Target Market

This workshop is aimed at software engineering teams that need to make an important selection concerning the foundation underlying their own software projects. This could be a choice regarding software platforms/engines, developer tools, core runtime technology, development methodologies or organisational structures.

Software Architect from Clipcode

The software architect that Clipcode provides will have a minimum of 10 years software engineering experience, dealing with all aspects of software development projects.

Who Should participate from the Client

The client decides which of its people should participate – usually it is 2-4 people and includes the project manager, project technical leads and/or senior software engineers. Depending on the project, it might also be advisable to have the company's Chief Technical Officer and a sample customer present.

How to proceed

If you need to make strategic decisions on technologies, and would like to arrange a Technology Selection Workshop in your company's offices, please contact Clipcode below. We need to discuss arrangements further, agree goals for the engagement and set a tentative schedule.



www.clipcode.net

If your dev team is starting an important project and needs help, please contact us via email at sales@clipcode.com to discuss how we can be of assistance.