DEVELOPERS ROAD AHEAD

A Complete Guide For Software Architects To Succeed At Work And Life

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The Mindset of an Architect

The Burning Why

Those who have a 'why' to live, can bear with almost any 'how'.

– Viktor Frankl, Nazi Camp Survivor
and Founder of Logo Therapy

First, find your "Why" you want to be better than what you are now. It is a very important step and you need to take a clean sheet of paper and write down three reasons why you need to become an architect.

It can be anything, all you need to know is the 'why' because it helps you stay focused on your goal and the prize that you want to win.

It helps you keep away from many distractions and you can always align every action of yours with your own identified 'why'.

Say you are binge-watching a TV series and you came to realize you are wasting your time more than you should be, all that you need to think of is the three 'why' you wrote and whether your current action will get to your WHY or not. Now you can still watch it or switch off the TV and do something that will lead to your WHY.

I am not against any entertainment or any TV series because it has helped me to socialize with my CTO and Sales director, because it shows you have specific interests and you can break the ice when you are having dinner with them. This is better than not knowing what to talk about.

So, if you are doing what you are doing because it will help you get what you want, please continue that action wholeheartedly without any

guilt. In the next chapters, you will also learn how you can do all these activities like binge-watching TV series and socializing with friends and still be super productive.

If you don't feel it is good for what you want in life, then don't do it.

Below are samples I think will help you to find your own WHY you want to become an architect. Be honest and dig deep into your motive. Don't be ashamed or guilty to write any of your wishes, because most of the desires in the world are universal. No desire is directly connected with what we say or think. It is always primal. It is either to avoid pain or to get pleasure. These desires could be:

- To get promotion to the next level
- I might lose my current job
- I hate a person in my company and want to prove I am technically better than him
- I feel insecure when people around me talk about the latest technology, but I cannot contribute anything to the conversation
- Give back to the community by learning and doing a lot

Being honest about why you want what you want is the first step. Until you figure out why you need to be a better architect, you cannot go any further.

> *"What is most personal is most universal."*
>
> *– Carl R. Rogers, Famous Psychotherapist*

Please be extremely honest about your WHY and you don't have to show this to anyone.

Until you find your Why, you will not even complete this book. If you want to learn more and do more, you need motivation.

For Self-motivation to happen, you need to know why you need it. Otherwise, you will feel all excited reading the book and want to try everything, but once you close this book and wake up tomorrow, you

will go back to the regular eight hours job with a salary and will fall into your own habit.

Some of the common examples of desires which helps you to make a change in your life and improve yourself to the next level are:

To Get Promotion to the Next Level

Frustration with the current situation is a good place to be, because it helps us to change what we have been doing for a very long time. Until we are frustrated, we will not make changes in our lives. We might be frustrated with our current salary and we want to increase the value of whatever we are earning.

The good news is that it is actually more possible in our software industry than in any other industry. I really wonder why people want to increase their salary but will never really take any steps even to update their resume and attend a couple of interviews.

We get very comfortable with the job we are working on, but with a little frustration piling up every day. We come home, watch television, and distract ourselves from that frustration. If you want to self-motivate yourself, frustration is good.

So if you are frustrated because your salary is less, don't distract yourself from it, let it grow. Then our brain will find a way to remove the frustration, and then you will see all the opportunities around you which you were blind to so far because you got comfortable with what you were doing and distracted yourself away from them by watching television, movies, or unprofitable socializing/gossiping.

Lose My Current Job

In our technology industry, there are too many changes every day, so that keeping up with technology changes is always a nightmare for everyone. How much ever you keep yourself updated, your knowledge will become obsolete within days.

People are contributing to Open-source technologies every day. People find their pain points in the technology or their day-to-day activities and then do something a little better, and it gets into an upward

spiral, and so the technology and technique gets better and better every day.

Keeping up with millions of contributions from every developer is very tough. So, people with less experience learn a new technology better because the entry point for the new technology is easier than the old one. So we are stuck with older technologies and we become obsolete. We don't have time to upgrade ourselves, because there are lots of firefighting and pressing issues in our everyday jobs.

So new technology is adopted by less experienced people and we are stuck with our old technologies, which lets us be obsolete sooner and the less experienced people will take our jobs. But we have covered extensively about this problem, later in our book, on how to keep yourself current and still do firefighting every day. This is the common WHY for every developer who wants to improve their life.

Hate a person in my company and want to prove I am technically better than him
Enemy-centric frustration is common, but I would not keep it as part of my life goals because once you have won over that enemy you will only feel empty.

We are humans, right? You identifying the Why is more important, if the enemy is fueling your growth, please use it as a fuel to get better. Friends help us to go through sorrows, building Why around an enemy makes us better.

Keep the enemy centric Why and grow, but make sure you come back to this Why and change to something like contributing back to society and our community, where we have got a lot from the community without paying even a dime, e.g., Stack Overflow, YouTube videos, meetups, etc.

I feel insecure when people around me talk about the latest technology, but I cannot contribute anything to the conversation.
We have all been there, we all feel left out in a conversation when people talk about new technology and we cannot contribute anything to the conversation. This is a good part of the frustration. We can do something

about it. Rejection is one of the greatest motivators. In brain science, the part that gets activated when you get physically hurt is the same part that gets activated when you are rejected by society or peer groups. So this can motivate you a lot if you don't distract yourself and use this rejection to grow better.

Give back to the community by learning and doing a lot

Giving back to society is better than anything else in the world because it makes us really good and there's no joy in the world greater than giving something to someone. But just don't write this in your five Whys at the end of the chapter until you absolutely feel so.

Your Turn—Fill in the Blank below

_____

_____

_____

Be absolutely honest, the more honest it is, the better your outcome will be. The sillier and more selfish it sounds, the better it is. Because it is a better place to start from and work the way upwards.

Everybody starts anything with a selfish motive, and we get better and find out that is not enough, so we move away from selfishness and move toward better goals. Can you see the billionaire becoming a philanthropist, e.g., Bill Gates? We can never feel good or feel that something is getting accomplished without giving something back to society.

Write down three Why you want to become an architect, you can repeat any one of the above ones or write your own. But make sure you write them. Writing is a neuromuscular activity that helps you to achieve a lot.

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Thinking Long Term

"We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run,"

– Roy Amara, past president of
The Institute for the Future

We live in an instant gratification world where people want everything now. Long term thinking is having a purpose in life that is larger than you, where you get up every day and work on the purpose which you have defined for yourself, the one thing you think is of utmost importance in your life.

Long term vision can be becoming CEO of a company or becoming the best dad in the world, or anything that is larger than your whole life. A purpose that might take even more than one lifetime to succeed… We will be looking into application suggestions later in the chapter to help you.

If we do not have a long-term perspective, we tend to think on very narrow lines, and our whole life will be based on current pressing problems and only working on other people's agenda.

If we have a long-term perspective, problems in our life become challenges and opportunities. You tend to not waste your energy on small and mundane things that eat up your time.

People around you will sense your higher burning purpose and you will be attracting lots of people in your life who have the same kind of long term thinking, and you synergize with them to achieve your long term purpose. You will get greater and highly influential people's relationships without doing much to build a network.

Long term purpose lets us start our day with great motivation, instead of waking up every day thinking, again another week to pass by, and waiting for the weekend to relax and rejoice.

Once you have a higher purpose, waking up and planning on getting closer every day to the purpose you have decided is the best feeling you can ever get. You tend to rejoice every day as if it is the greatest opportunity to complete the mission for the day.

"Begin with the end in mind"

– Stephen Covey, author of
7 Habits of highly effective people

Your purpose will help you start every day, every week, every new year with the end in mind. It will help you to always seek and make you curious about what it takes to get closer to your higher purpose.

Thinking long term and having a perspective always helps us to make lots of decisions in a more profitable way which is beneficial to everyone.

If you don't have thoughts on long term purpose, you will be working on fulfilling other people's agenda and their purpose in life. I am not suggesting you to quit your job and start your own company, so you don't have to work for other people's purposes. If you don't have a long-term purpose in life you will be working for someone whose purpose in life does not match with your life.

Everyone in this world has a purpose that we need to fill, we need to find what it is and fulfill the purpose for which we are born. Each of us is unique and we have something to offer to this world. We should be offering something back to this world by all means.

Even being a self-fulfilled happy person, will itself be a great offering back to this world, because happiness is contagious. All emotions are contagious and when we are not in a good mood, we tend to spread it to others and you can always see how one guy in our team brings the whole energy down in a second.

Being happy and fun is the biggest gift you can give back to society. For, being happy without any external factors takes lots of hard work, self-evolution, and mastering your own emotions which you can achieve by working every day on a large purpose, so petty things don't bother you.

> *"You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle…"*
>
> **– Steve Jobs**

The above quote from Steve Jobs sums it all. You need to find what you love in your life and do it so that it gives something back to society.

We are here to serve all living beings; finding what your major purpose is will help you get to what you want in life.

Once you find your major purpose, you will find ways to get better at what you do, you attract everything in your life and you attracted this book also to your life because you want to get better.

Nobody can define what your purpose is, you have to find what your purpose in life is on your own.

"Ultimately, man should not ask what the meaning of his life is, but rather must recognize that it is he who is asked. In a word, each man is questioned by life; and he can only answer to life by answering for his own life; to life, he can only respond by being responsible."

– Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning

In the book, '*Man's search for meaning*'**,** Victor Frankl, talks about his experience in the Nazi death camp. He asks every man to find his own purpose on his own, and then answer his life with his purpose. He talks about what made him survive the death camp, that it was his having a long term vision, and how he visualized teaching the surviving strategies he followed when he was in the camp to the college students, once he gets out of the camp.

He found that his purpose was to teach people how people cannot take away their freedom even in the worst place like a Nazi camp.

How to Find My Purpose?

As in **Viktor E. Frankl's** quote, you need to find your own purpose, this book only gives you some suggestions about what you can do.

I came back from the USA for my sister's marriage, after completing three years of stay there. When I wanted to return, my visa extension was rejected due to changes in the US travel policy twice. I had all my plans with the USA as the basis.

Once my visa got rejected, I felt some kind of empty feeling because all my plans were around the USA and had become obsolete and I felt empty about it. I started looking out for things to fill my void, and then I come across this idea of finding your own purpose from a Video.

In that video, they spoke about locking yourself in a room until you find your true purpose in life. Luckily, I didn't have to lock myself for days. But I was thinking of this concept for a very long time.

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