

# Top Ten Reasons You Are Not an Architect.



Don MacVittie, 2009-27-03

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My title includes the word architect, and has at several enterprises (in Utilities, finance, and COTS software). For the last month or so, I have been pondering how funny that is. Today I share the top reasons my title (and possibly yours) makes me laugh...

**Reason #1:** Architects specify materials and get them.

**Reason #2:** Architects get a dedicated team for each bit of a project until that part is done, not 10% of four people's time over six months, assuming there is no emergency.

**Reason #3:** When things go wrong in implementation, if they're not blue-print problems, the architect isn't involved in resolving them.

**Reason #4:** An architect builds for 30 years or more, and gets a budget that reflects this fact.

**Reason #5:** An architect starts with a blank sheet of paper and creates.

**Reason #6:** Once a customer signs off on a blueprint, any changes they request during implementation they must pay for.

**Reason #7:** When an architect says "2x6 boards spaced 16 inches apart", any deviation from this specification is not allowed.

**Reason #8:** When re-working someone else's original, the architect is empowered to rip out the old and start fresh.

**Reason #9:** An architect can reasonably expect to sleep through every night of the year without a call from work.

**Reason #10:** By the time an architect's work is obsolete, he's likely retired, and more likely not to be involved in replacing it.

There's a comment section below, feel free to add yours. The tricks: try very hard to be generic – all IT architects, not just your flavor; and try not to mention the IT alternative. If you have to spell it out, it's probably not funny. Note that #2 is the only one I mention the IT version.

Until next time!

Don.

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