

ARCHCONF2026

Software Architecture Conference

December 7 - 10, 2026 - Clearwater, FL

Software Architecture · Generative AI · Domain Driven Design · Kubernetes · Microservices · Cloud Native Architecture · Machine Learning · Enterprise Security · Soft Skills · Measuring and Profiling · Distributed Teams

Is your team ready for this fast changing world? Will your organization adapt and change? *ArchConf* is an opportunity to meet with your peers, focus on Enterprise Software, and learn about Architecture in the modern IT organization.

ArchConf is dedicated to exploring and pushing the boundaries of software architecture. Whether you are an aspiring architect, a seasoned developer, or manager looking to stay ahead in the fast-paced tech landscape, this is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the latest trends, best practices, and innovations that are shaping the future of software design.

Why Attend ArchConf?

ArchConf 2026 is a one of a kind education event for software architects and technical leads/developers. Presented to you by the No Fluff Just Stuff Software Symposium Series.

Learn from the Best Speakers

Our speakers are not vendor representatives. They are industry recognized experts. They are published authors, consultants, executives, and open source leaders.

In-Depth 90-Minute Sessions

Our longer session format, workshops, and multi-part sessions allow speakers to go in-depth and teach the detailed concepts you need to know.

Agile Practices

Speakers at ArchConf emphasize and present on topics such as: Test Driven Development, Continuous Integration, Code Quality Measurements, Code Smells, Team Building, and Customer Collaboration.

Scalable Systems

The Cloud is changing the way we build systems. ArchConf will help you navigate the players and build effective scalable solutions.

Develop Your Soft Skills

Effective engineers need significant technical depth and breadth and domain knowledge. In addition, there is another perhaps more vital aspect of being an architect - the soft skills. Communication, leadership, persuasion, and more.

Cloud Architectures

ArchConf will explore different cloud computing architectures and how you can take advantage of them.

<https://archconf.com>

ArchConf

-Session Schedule-

(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Monday, Dec. 7

8:00 - 9:00 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: OPTIONAL ONE DAY WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

9:00 - 5:00 PM - Sessions

Session #1 : Securing the Agentic Frontier Architecture Risk and Practice by Brian Sletten

While people are fixating on the threat AI brings to cybersecurity as a discipline, there's the considerably more pedestrian but crucial perspective of securing these systems. The role of the CISO is expanding beyond security practices to include risk management, compliance, and more and these role expansions will cascade through the organization. Agentic systems collapse traditional boundaries between user, system, and adversary. Not only do they introduce new risks, they challenge foundational assumptions in security engineering. Identity and authorization grants are fluid based upon contextual composition, behavior becomes non-deterministic, and threat models become continuous, not static. What are the risks, challenges, and opportunities that are unleashed at the intersection of security postures, agents with agency, ambient authority, context-specific interactions, and engineering discipline? How does one grow this capability in an organization and how does one align their career in this direction.

Session #2 : An Engineers Guide to the Semantic Layer Critical Infrastructure by Michael Carducci

Gartner just named the semantic layer a non-negotiable foundation for AI. Almost nobody in the industry knows what that means yet, or why it should worry them.

Session #3 : AI Era System Design Architecture Mastery Katas by Rohit Bhardwaj

Classic system design teaches you how to scale requests. AI-era architecture teaches you how to scale reasoning, retrieval, tokens, tools, trust, and cost. In the AI era, the best architects do not just draw boxes. They design authority, evidence, fallback, observability, and cost controls into every system. Modern system design has entered a new era. It's no longer enough to optimize for uptime and latency — today's systems must also be AI-ready, token-efficient, trustworthy, and resilient. Whether building global-scale apps, powering recommendation engines, or integrating GenAI agents, architects need new skills and playbooks to design for scale, speed, and reliability. This full-day workshop blends classic distributed systems knowledge with AI-native thinking. Through case studies, frameworks, and hands-on design sessions, you'll learn to design systems that balance performance, cost, resilience, and truthfulness — and walk away with reusable templates you can apply to interviews and real-world architectures.

Session #4 : Mastering Software Architecture Patterns and Antipatterns by Raju Gandhi

An architecture pattern is a reusable solution to a commonly occurring problem in software architecture within a specific context. However, lurking alongside these patterns are their dangerous counterparts—anti-patterns—that, while appealing in theory, can lead to costly and far-reaching consequences in practice.

Session #5 : Event Driven Architecture by Daniel Hinojosa

Event-driven architecture (EDA) is a design principle in which the flow of a system's operations is driven by the occurrence of events instead of direct communication between services or components. There are many reasons why EDA is a standard architecture for many moderate to large companies. It offers a history of events with the ability to rewind the ability to perform real-time data processing in a scalable and fault-tolerant way. It provides real-time extract-transform-load (ETL) capabilities to have near-instantaneous processing. EDA can be used with microservice architectures as the communication channel or any other architecture. In this workshop, we will discuss the prevalent principles regarding EDA, and you will gain hands-on experience performing and running standard techniques.

5:00 - 6:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: REGISTRATION - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

6:30 - 7:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: OPENING NIGHT DINNER - OPAL BALLROOM

7:30 - 8:30 PM : OPENING NIGHT KEYNOTE

8:30 - 10:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION - POOL LAWN

Tuesday, Dec. 8

7:30 - 8:30 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: LATE REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

8:30 - 10:00 AM - Sessions

Session #6 : Becoming an Architect Nurturing Essential Skills for Success by Ken Sipe

Embarking on the journey to become an architect requires more than technical expertise; it demands a diverse skill set that combines creativity, leadership, communication, and adaptability. You may be awesome as a developer or engineer, but the skills needed to be an architect are often different and require more than technical awareness to succeed.

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(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Session #7 : When Code is Cheap Architecture is Everything by Michael Carducci

As code generation becomes increasingly automated, our role as developers and architects is evolving. The challenge ahead isn't how to get AI to write more code, it's how to guide it toward coherent, maintainable, and purposeful systems.

Session #8 : AI Inference at Scale Reliability Observability Cost Sustainability by Rohit Bhardwaj

AI inference is no longer a simple model call—it is a multi-hop DAG of planners, retrievers, vector searches, large models, tools, and agent loops. With this complexity comes new failure modes: tail-latency blowups, silent retry storms, vector store cold partitions, GPU queue saturation, exponential cost curves, and unmeasured carbon impact.

Session #9 : The Role of Enterprise Architecture in an everchanging landscape by Raju Gandhi

Enterprise Architecture (EA) has long been misunderstood as a bottleneck to innovation, often labeled the "department of no." But in today's fast-paced world of Agile, DevOps, Cloud, and AI, does EA still have a role to play—or is it a relic of the past?

Session #10 : Identity Tokens and Access Control by Daniel Hinojosa

Authentication and authorization are foundational concerns in modern systems, yet they're often treated as afterthoughts or re-implemented inconsistently across services. In this talk, we'll explore Keycloak, an open-source identity and access management system, and how it fits into modern application architectures. We'll break down what Keycloak actually does (and what it doesn't), explain the role of JWTs and OAuth2/OpenID Connect, and examine how identity, trust, and access control are handled across distributed systems. We'll also compare Keycloak to secret management systems like Vault, clarify common misconceptions, and walk through integrations you will need with Spring, Quarkus, and other frameworks. By the end, you'll understand when Keycloak is the right tool, how to integrate it cleanly, and how to avoid the most common architectural mistakes.

Session #11 : Automating Security Fixes with OpenRewrite by Brian Sletten

Security problems empirically fall into two categories: bugs and flaws. Roughly half of the problems we encounter in the wild are bugs and about half are design flaws. A significant number of the bugs can be found through automated testing tools which frees you up to focus on the more pernicious design issues. Even in the time of AI, there's a discussion to be had. In addition to detecting the presence of common bugs as we have done with static analysis for years, however, we can also imagine automating the application of corrective refactoring. In this talk, I will discuss using OpenRewrite and the Moderne cli to fix common security issues and keep them from coming back.

10:00 - 10:30 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: AM BREAK - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

10:30 - 12:00 PM - Sessions

Session #12 : Operationalizing AI From Prototype to Production by Ken Sipe

Building an AI model is the easy part—making it work reliably in production is where the real engineering begins. In this fast-paced, experience-driven session, Ken explores the architecture, patterns, and practices behind operationalizing AI at scale. Drawing from real-world lessons and enterprise implementations, Ken will demystify the complex intersection of machine learning, DevOps, and data engineering, showing how modern organizations bring AI from the lab into mission-critical systems.

Session #13 : Why AI Acceleration Keeps Slowing You Down by Michael Carducci

AI is accelerating software development at an unprecedented pace, but many teams are discovering a frustrating reality: faster coding isn't translating into faster delivery. The reason is counterintuitive. When you accelerate one part of a system, you don't improve the system... you stress it. More code becomes more review, more coordination, more cognitive load, and ultimately, less flow.

Session #14 : Architecting Microservices for Agentic AI Integration by Rohit Bhardwaj

Autonomous LLM agents don't just call APIs — they plan, retry, chain, and orchestrate across multiple services. That fundamentally changes how we architect microservices, define boundaries, and operate distributed systems. This session delivers a practical architecture playbook for Agentic AI integration — showing how to evolve from simple request/response designs to resilient, event-driven systems. You'll learn how to handle retry storms, contain failures with circuit breakers and bulkheads, implement sagas and outbox patterns for correctness, and version APIs safely for long-lived agents. You'll leave with reference patterns, guardrails, and operational KPIs to integrate agents confidently—without breaking production systems.

Session #15 : Measuring your architecture by Raju Gandhi

It's not just architecture—it's evolutionary architecture. But to evolve your architecture, you need to measure it. And how does that work exactly? How does one measure something as abstract as architecture? In this session we'll discuss various strategies for measuring your architecture. We'll see how you know if your software architecture is working for you, and how to know which metrics to keep an eye on. We'll also see the benefits of measuring your architecture.

Session #16 : DataMesh and Open Metadata by Daniel Hinojosa

Data Mesh rethinks data architecture in organizations by treating data as a product, owned and operated by bounded context teams rather than centralized platforms. This way, data owners can describe, enrich, and prove data sources to prevent any malicious poisoning.

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Session #17 : Full Stack Engineering Identity Access and Zero Trust by Brian Sletten

A standalone workshop on the identity layer of modern systems — the cryptographic substrate that secures every API call, every service-to-service connection, and every user session. We'll cover OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect in depth, JWT pitfalls that have caused real production breaches, modern session security with DPoP and sender-constrained tokens, passkeys and WebAuthn, service-to-service authentication patterns, and authorization beyond simple role-checking. Two short hands-on exercises, several real breach case studies, and a focus on the misconfigurations that actually cause incidents.

12:00 - 1:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: LUNCH - OPAL BALLROOM

1:00 - 2:30 PM - Sessions

Session #18 : Standing up Enterprise Architecture by Ken Sipe

The organization has grown and one line of business has become 2 and then 10. Each line of business is driving technology choices based on their own needs. Who and how do you manage alignment of technology across the entire Enterprise... Enter Enterprise Architecture! We need to stand up a new part of the organization.

Session #19 : Architecting the Future Evolving Legacy Systems with the TailorMade Architecture Model by Michael Carducci

Modernizing legacy systems is often seen as a daunting task, with many teams falling into the trap of rigid rewrites or expensive overhauls that disrupt the business. The Tailor-Made Architecture Model (TMAM) offers a new approach—one that is centered on incremental evolution through design-by-constraint. By using TMAM, architects can guide legacy systems through a flexible, structured modernization process that minimizes risk and aligns with both technical and organizational needs.

Session #20 : Beyond APIs Orchestration Patterns MCP for MultiAgent Systems by Rohit Bhardwaj

Enterprises are moving from single AI agents to networks of agents that trigger thousands of API calls, retries, and tool-chains per prompt. Without orchestration discipline and APIs built for AI-scale, systems buckle under bursty load, retry storms, cache-miss spikes, inconsistent decisions, and runaway costs. This talk shows how to combine MCP (Model Context Protocol) with proven inter-agent orchestration patterns — Supervisor, Pub/Sub, Blackboard, Capability Router — and how to harden APIs for autonomous traffic using rate limits, dedupe, backpressure, async workflows, resilient caching, and autoscaling without bill shock.

Session #21 : Documenting your architecture by Raju Gandhi

In this session we will discuss the need to document architecture, and see what mechanisms are available to us to document architecture—both present and future.

Session #22 : Hexagonal Architecture by Daniel Hinojosa

This workshop will explore the principles of the Ports and Adapters pattern (also called the Hexagonal Architecture) and demonstrate how to refactor legacy code or design new systems using this approach. You'll learn how to organize your domain logic and move UI and infrastructure code into appropriate places within the architecture. The session will also cover practical refactoring techniques using IntelliJ and how to apply Domain Driven Design (DDD) principles to ensure your system is scalable, maintainable, and well-structured.

Session #23 : Full Stack Engineering Identity Access and Zero Trust (continued) by Brian Sletten

A standalone workshop on the identity layer of modern systems — the cryptographic substrate that secures every API call, every service-to-service connection, and every user session. We'll cover OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect in depth, JWT pitfalls that have caused real production breaches, modern session security with DPoP and sender-constrained tokens, passkeys and WebAuthn, service-to-service authentication patterns, and authorization beyond simple role-checking. Two short hands-on exercises, several real breach case studies, and a focus on the misconfigurations that actually cause incidents.

2:30 - 3:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: PM BREAK #1 - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

3:00 - 4:30 PM - Sessions

Session #24 : Navigating the Cloud as a Cloud Architect by Ken Sipe

In the age of digital transformation, Cloud Architects emerge as architects of the virtual realm, bridging innovation with infrastructure. This presentation offers a comprehensive exploration of the Cloud Architect's pivotal role.

Session #25 : An Engineers Guide to the Semantic Layer Critical Infrastructure (continued) by Michael Carducci

Gartner just named the semantic layer a non-negotiable foundation for AI. Almost nobody in the industry knows what that means yet, or why it should worry them.

Session #26 : Run an AWS GenerativeAI WellArchitected Review by Rohit Bhardwaj

A live, end-to-end walkthrough of an AWS Well-Architected Review for a GenAI app. You'll learn how to apply the AWS Generative AI Lens across the six pillars, then add Bedrock Guardrails and Knowledge Bases (RAG) to raise reliability, safety, and accuracy. You'll leave with a reusable checklist and a prioritized remediation plan.

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Session #27 : From Cloud Complexity to DevOps Simplicity by Sumir Arora

Cloud and Kubernetes environments get complicated less because the tools are bad and more because every team wires them differently—config drift, snowflake clusters, manual handoffs, and pipelines nobody fully trusts. This session shows how a Git-driven model cuts that overhead: one source of truth, automated provisioning, and delivery you can actually reason about.

Session #28 : Hexagonal Architecture (continued) by Daniel Hinojosa

This workshop will explore the principles of the Ports and Adapters pattern (also called the Hexagonal Architecture) and demonstrate how to refactor legacy code or design new systems using this approach. You'll learn how to organize your domain logic and move UI and infrastructure code into appropriate places within the architecture. The session will also cover practical refactoring techniques using IntelliJ and how to apply Domain Driven Design (DDD) principles to ensure your system is scalable, maintainable, and well-structured.

Session #29 : The Evolution of RAG Context by Brian Sletten

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) systems have emerged to provide guardrails to spirited non-determinism of unfettered Large Language Models. While useful, they are clearly not enough even in the more advanced configurations of query rewriting, domain/chunk-size alignment, and re-ranking activities. At the edge of energetic AI wave is a new form of token generation involving concepts and actions that will take things even further.

4:30 - 5:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: PM BREAK #2 - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

5:00 - 6:30 PM - Sessions

Session #30 : Solution Architecture Kata by Ken Sipe

TBD

Session #31 : An Engineers Guide to the Semantic Layer Critical Infrastructure (continued) by Michael Carducci

Gartner just named the semantic layer a non-negotiable foundation for AI. Almost nobody in the industry knows what that means yet, or why it should worry them.

Session #32 : Claude Certified Architect Readiness for Developers by Rohit Bhardwaj

Certification-readiness talk with architecture scenarios, exam-domain mapping, practical examples, and production-design guidance. Claude is no longer just a chatbot for writing answers. It is becoming part of how developers design, build, review, and automate software. Claude Code can help developers work across repositories, Claude Code GitHub Actions can respond to issues and pull requests, MCP can connect Claude to external tools and systems, and the Claude Agent SDK enables developers to build custom agentic workflows. This creates a new skill requirement for architects: knowing how to design Claude-powered systems that are safe, measurable, governable, and production-ready. This talk provides a practical readiness roadmap for developers and architects preparing for Claude architecture work and Claude certification-style expectations. We will cover Claude platform fundamentals, Claude Code workflows, MCP/tool governance, Agent SDK patterns, API design, RAG, evals, observability, security, and enterprise deployment concerns. Participants will also work through certification-style scenarios that test architectural judgment, not memorization.

Session #33 : Architecting Scalable Clouds Integrating AI by Sumir Arora

The hard part of AI in the cloud isn't scaling anymore—it's governing agents that act on your infrastructure on their own.

Session #34 : Architectural Patterns Focus EventDriven Architecture Messaging by Daniel Hinojosa

Join us for an indepth exploration of cuttingedge messaging styles in your large domain.

Session #35 : The Evolution of RAG Context (continued) by Brian Sletten

Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) systems have emerged to provide guardrails to spirited non-determinism of unfettered Large Language Models. While useful, they are clearly not enough even in the more advanced configurations of query rewriting, domain/chunk-size alignment, and re-ranking activities. At the edge of energetic AI wave is a new form of token generation involving concepts and actions that will take things even further.

6:30 - 7:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: DINNER - OPAL BALLROOM

7:30 - 9:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION I - OPAL BALLROOM

Wednesday, Dec. 9

8:00 - 9:00 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: BREAKFAST - OPAL BALLROOM

9:00 - 10:30 AM - Sessions

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(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Session #36 : Mastering Solutions Unraveling the Role of Solution Architects by Ken Sipe

In the ever-changing landscape of technology, Solution Architects stand as the linchpin between complex business challenges and innovative technological solutions. This presentation dives deep into the world of Solution Architects, exploring their pivotal role in crafting tailored, efficient, and scalable solutions. From deciphering intricate business requirements to orchestrating seamless integrations, Solution Architects navigate a maze of technologies to deliver outcomes that align perfectly with organizational goals. Join us as we unravel the key responsibilities, skills, and methodologies that empower Solution Architects to transform abstract ideas into tangible, impactful solutions, shaping the future of businesses in a digital age.

Session #37 : GraphRAG Explainable AI Building Trustworthy LLM Outputs by Rohit Bhardwaj

Most enterprise LLM failures aren't technical — they're trust failures. Models hallucinate, drift from source truth, or produce outputs with no provenance. For regulated industries, that's unacceptable. This session introduces GraphRAG — a breakthrough approach combining knowledge graphs (Neo4j) with retrieval-augmented generation to deliver traceable, explainable, and auditable AI outputs. You'll learn how to design, evaluate, and deploy GraphRAG architectures aligned with the EU AI Act, NIST AI Risk Management Framework, and enterprise AI governance standards.

Session #38 : The Agentic Architect Session I by Dave Hendricksen

2025 shattered the old cadence of software architecture. AI agents now co-author code and refactor, compliance expectations tightened, and cost/latency signals moved inside everyday design loops. Static diagrams, quarterly review boards, and slide-driven governance can't keep up. This curated set of 3 sessions will help equip senior technologists to evolve from document stewardship to adaptive integrity management—blending human judgment, executable principles, and guided agent assistance. Architecture is shifting from static designs to adaptive, agent-driven execution. Come to the Agentic Architect session if you want to see: - how the role of architecture is evolving in the agentic era - practical tips and tricks for how to embrace the new agentic toolset - how to lean into architecture as code - cut decision time from weeks and days to hours - stop redrawing diagrams forever

Session #39 : Exploring Architecture Patterns for Modern Systems by Raju Gandhi

An architecture pattern is a reusable solution to a commonly occurring problem in software architecture within a specific context. Architecture patterns affect the "ilities" of a system, such as scalability, performance, maintainability, and security as well as impact the structural design of the system.

Session #40 : Architectural Patterns Focus Transactions by Daniel Hinojosa

We take a look at another facet of architectural design, and that is how we develop and maintain transactions in architecture. Here we will discuss some common patterns for transactions

Session #41 : Architect as a Systems Thinker Turning Strategy into Action by Javiera Laso

In this hands-on session, participants will learn how to bridge the gap between technical strategy and execution using systems thinking principles. Through some exercises, software architects will practice mapping business goals, constraints, and feedback loops, then translate them into a clear and adaptable technical roadmap. This presentation focuses on helping architects/engineers to move from abstract vision to actionable outcomes, aligning architecture with value, sequencing initiatives, and communicating trade-offs effectively to stakeholders.

10:30 - 11:00 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: AM BREAK - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

11:00 - 12:30 PM - Sessions

Session #42 : Architectural Principles Building the Foundations of Design Excellence by Ken Sipe

In the realm of architecture, principles form the bedrock upon which innovative and enduring designs are crafted. This presentation delves into the core architectural principles that guide the creation of structures both functional and aesthetic. Exploring concepts such as balance, proportion, harmony, and sustainability, attendees will gain profound insights into the art and science of architectural design. Through real-world examples and practical applications, this session illuminates the transformative power of adhering to these principles, shaping not only buildings but entire environments. Join us as we unravel the secrets behind architectural mastery and the principles that define architectural brilliance.

Session #43 : From Brute Force to Brilliance Algorithmic Thinking in the Age of AI by Rohit Bhardwaj

Coding interviews and production systems share the same challenge: transforming vague problems into correct, efficient, and explainable solutions. This talk introduces a 7-step algorithmic thinking framework that begins with a brute-force baseline and evolves toward an optimized, production-grade solution—using AI assistants like ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot to accelerate ideation, edge-case discovery, and documentation, without sacrificing rigor. Whether you're solving array or graph problems, optimizing data pipelines, or refactoring legacy logic, this framework builds the discipline of clarity before optimization—and shows how to use AI responsibly as a thinking partner, not a shortcut.

Session #44 : Agentic Architecture in Action Session II by Dave Hendricksen

2025 shattered the old cadence of software architecture. AI agents now co-author code and refactor, compliance expectations tightened, and cost/latency signals moved inside everyday design loops. Static diagrams, quarterly review boards, and slide-driven governance can't keep up. This live demo session takes the patterns from "The Agentic Architect" and runs them end-to-end starting with a blank slate.

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Session #45 : Avoiding the Traps AntiPatterns in Modern Software Architecture by Raju Gandhi

Architecture is often defined as "hard to change". Within software architecture, an architecture pattern is a reusable solution to a commonly occurring problem in software architecture within a specific context. Architecture anti-patterns are their diabolical counterparts—wherein they sound good in theory, but in practice lead to negative consequences. And given that they affect both the architectural characteristics and the structural design of the system, are incredibly expensive and have far-reaching consequences.

Session #46 : Architectural Patterns Focus Data by Daniel Hinojosa

This session will focus on data governance and making data available within your enterprise. Who owns the data, how do we obtain the data, and what does governance look like?

Session #47 : The Cost of Good Intentions AntiPatterns in Architecture Modernization by Javiera Laso

Modernizing legacy systems seemed exciting...until I found myself absorbed in rewrites, facing business blockers, and watching tech debt pile up instead of shrink. In this talk, I'll share the biggest traps I've seen and experienced firsthand while working on modernization efforts in large organizations—and what helped us avoid (or recover from) them. From picking the wrong architecture patterns too early to losing stakeholder trust halfway through, I'll walk through real examples of what not to do, along with the principles and strategies that helped us get back on track. Whether you're breaking down a monolith or updating a business-critical system, I'll help you steer clear of common pitfalls and make smarter, more sustainable decisions. What This Talk Will Answer: -What are the most common and costly mistakes teams make during architecture modernization? -How do you choose between refactoring, rewriting, or rearchitecting a legacy system? -How can Domain-Driven Design reduce risk and improve focus in modernization efforts? -What strategies keep modernization aligned with business priorities and avoid loss of momentum? -How do you avoid turning tech upgrades into long-running, low-impact projects?

12:30 - 1:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: LUNCH - OPAL BALLROOM

1:30 - 3:00 PM - Sessions

Session #48 : The Operating Limits of Microservices by Ken Sipe

Reliable systems are not accidents. They are designed with explicit operating limits. This session translates lessons from high-risk domains into practical engineering guardrails for microservices: latency budgets, timeout strategy, retry discipline, concurrency limits, and blast-radius controls.

Session #49 : Refactoring REST APIs for the Last Time Strategies for a FutureProof Design by Michael Carducci

REST APIs often fall into a cycle of constant refactoring and rewrites, leading to wasted time, technical debt, and endless rework. This is especially difficult when you don't control the API clients. But what if this could be your last major API refactor? In this session, we'll dive into strategies for designing and refactoring REST APIs with long-term sustainability in mind—ensuring that your next refactor sets you up for the future.

Session #50 : Architectural Seismic Shifts Exploration Session III by Dave Hendricksen

2025 shattered the old cadence of software architecture. AI agents now co-author code and refactor, compliance expectations tightened, and cost/latency signals moved inside everyday design loops. Static diagrams, quarterly review boards, and slide-driven governance can't keep up. 2025 delivered unprecedented architectural disruption.

Session #51 : Secure by Design Building ZeroTrust API Architectures in the Cloud by Sumir Arora

API security goes beyond protecting endpoints—it requires defense across infrastructure, data, and business logic. In this talk, I'll present a structured approach to implementing Zero Trust security for APIs in a cloud-native architecture.

Session #52 : Architecture Systems Thinking by Jeremy Deane

Modern architecture consists of complex, interconnected systems that exhibit both positive and negative emergent behaviors. As a result, traditional reductionist approaches to analysis and design are insufficient for defining precise requirements, designing distributed systems, or identifying root causes in production. In today's landscape, it is crucial for architects to understand and apply Systems Thinking.

Session #53 : Web Security for APIs by Brian Sletten

There's a clear need for security in the software systems that we build. The problem for most organizations is that they don't want to spend any money on it. Even if they did, they often have no idea how much to spend. No particular initiative is likely to imbue your system with "security", but a strong, deep defensive approach is likely to give you a fighting chance of getting it right. Web Security as applied to APIs in particular are an important part of the plan. In this workshop, we'll show you how approaches to defining "enough" as well as concrete techniques to employ incrementally in your designs. In this workshop, we will pick a hands on framework for implementation, but the ideas will generally be standards-based and transcend technology choice so you should have a strategy for mapping the ideas into your own systems.

3:00 - 3:15 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: PM BREAK #1 - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

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3:15 - 4:45 PM - Sessions

Session #54 : Architectural Awareness Engineering Superskill by Ken Sipe

Awareness is the knowledge or perception of a situation or fact, which based on myriad of factors is an elusive attribute. Likely the most significant unasked for skill... perhaps because it's challenging to "measure" or verify. It is challenging to be aware of aware, or is evidence of it's adherence. This session will cover different levels of architectural awareness. How to surface awareness and how you might respond to different technical situations once you are aware.

Session #55 : Claude Code Architecture From Vibe Coding to Governed Engineering Systems by Rohit Bhardwaj

Claude Code is not just a coding assistant. Used casually, it can create fast prototypes. Used architecturally, it can become a powerful engineering accelerator for discovery, refactoring, test generation, documentation, architecture reviews, and modernization. This talk teaches architects, tech leads, and senior developers how to use Claude Code as part of a governed software delivery system. We will explore how to structure repositories, write effective CLAUDE.md guidance, create architecture guardrails, generate tests, review AI-produced code, and use Claude Code without turning your codebase into an ungoverned "vibe coding" experiment. The core message is simple: Claude Code should not replace architecture judgment. It should amplify it. Anthropic's own Claude documentation emphasizes prompting clarity, examples, structured guidance, and agentic workflows, which makes architecture-level instructions especially important when using Claude in engineering systems.

Session #56 : CoDL and CaDL Architecture Description Languages for Governance and LLM by Paul Preiss

Most architecture documentation lives in slide decks and wikis — formats that humans struggle to act on and LLMs can't reason over reliably. This talk introduces CoDL (Constraints Description Language) and CaDL (Capabilities Description Language) as lightweight, structured notations for expressing architecture in a form that both governance processes and AI tooling can consume. Drawing on the BTABoK's Architecture Description competency — which emphasises producing structured, stakeholder-relevant, and traceable representations of systems — the session shows how formalising architectural intent into machine-readable schemas unlocks new possibilities: automated compliance checks, LLM-driven design critiques, and governance workflows that run without manual chasing.

Session #57 : Breaking the Silo Scalable API Governance and Platform Automation with GitOps by Sumir Arora

In this session, I'll walk through how we helped a large enterprise address fragmented API practices and inconsistent governance by building a platform-first approach to API delivery.

Session #58 : Crafting Consistent APIs at Scale Embracing Linting Reusable Models by Travis Gosselin

In an era where digital transformation and AI adoption are accelerating across every industry, the need for consistent, scalable, and robust APIs has never been more critical. AI-powered tools—whether generating code, creating documentation, or integrating services—rely heavily on clean, well-structured API specifications to function effectively. As teams grow and the number of APIs multiplies, maintaining design consistency becomes a foundational requirement not just for human developers, but also for enabling reliable, intelligent automation. This session explores how linting and reusable models can help teams meet that challenge at scale.

Session #59 : Web Security for APIs (continued) by Brian Sletten

There's a clear need for security in the software systems that we build. The problem for most organizations is that they don't want to spend any money on it. Even if they did, they often have no idea how much to spend. No particular initiative is likely to imbue your system with "security", but a strong, deep defensive approach is likely to give you a fighting chance of getting it right. Web Security as applied to APIs in particular are an important part of the plan. In this workshop, we'll show you how approaches to defining "enough" as well as concrete techniques to employ incrementally in your designs. In this workshop, we will pick a hands on framework for implementation, but the ideas will generally be standards-based and transcend technology choice so you should have a strategy for mapping the ideas into your own systems.

4:45 - 5:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: PM BREAK #2 - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

5:00 - 6:30 PM - Sessions

Session #60 : 3rd Generation Agentic AI by Michael Carducci

Every generation of system integration has made the same mistake: a standard protocol with bespoke incantations on top. Telnet. CORBA. SOAP. even REST APIs. And now? MCP and tool schemas (the JSON WSDL). We can do better.

Session #61 : Addressing the HigherOrder Challenges of Technology Complexity by Darrell Rials

We live in a world of complexity. Complex societies, complex language and mathematics and science – all navigable. Indeed, if we are to thrive individually and collectively, navigating this complexity is essential. We software professionals – current, semi-current (former), and near-future – have ourselves given rise to layers upon layers of systems and software complexity. We didn't (always) anticipate the extant environmental challenges, but the systems we built inevitably interacted with other complex systems. We often knowingly create this multiplier effect on complexity, out of necessity. But how do we navigate it? Certainly, our tools help us, but they are mere tools, powerful though they are. Are we really that unsure of our capabilities? We don't have to be!

ArchConf

-Session Schedule-

(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Session #62 : Relating Business Model Product Features and Fitness Functions by Paul Preiss

Architecture too often floats free of the business model that funds it, producing technically coherent systems that fail to deliver the outcomes that actually matter. This talk builds a full, traceable chain from business model canvas — how the organisation creates and captures value — through product feature decisions, down to the fitness functions and quality attributes that determine whether the system can actually support those features at scale. Using BTABoK's Business Model and Product & Project concepts as the foundation, the session demonstrates how each layer constrains and informs the next: a subscription revenue model demands very different availability and onboarding characteristics than a transactional one, and those differences must propagate into explicit architectural decisions, not just intuition.

Session #63 : Architecture Tradeoffs by Jeremy Deane

Software architecture involves inherent trade-offs. Some of these trade-offs are clear, such as performance versus security or availability versus consistency, while others are more subtle, like resiliency versus affordability. This presentation will discuss various architectural trade-offs and strategies for managing them.

Session #64 : AI Enablement in the SDLC A Strategy Sampler by Travis Gosselin

AI enablement isn't buying Copilot and calling it done; it's a system upgrade for the entire SDLC. Code completion helps, but the real bottlenecks live in reviews, testing, releases, documentation, governance, and knowledge flow. Achieving meaningful impact requires an operating model: guardrails, workflows, metrics, and change management; not a single tool.

Session #65 : From APIs to MCPs Making Microservices AgentReady with Semantic Context by Rohit Bhardwaj

LLM agents don't just fetch data—they decide and act. To support planning and chaining, microservices must expose not only endpoints but also semantic context: what entities mean, which states are valid, which actions come next, and why decisions were made. This talk shows how to evolve from data-only APIs to MCP-aware, semantically rich services using JSON-LD/Schema.org, Hydra-style affordances, domain events, and OpenAPI metadata. You'll learn retrofit vs greenfield paths, see cross-industry demos, and leave with a migration checklist that makes your services truly agent-ready.

6:30 - 7:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: DINNER - OPAL BALLROOM

7:30 - 8:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION II

8:30 - 10:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: WEDNESDAY EVENING RECEPTION - POOL LAWN

Thursday, Dec. 10

8:00 - 9:00 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: BREAKFAST

9:00 - 10:30 AM - Sessions

Session #66 : Automating Designs A Basis for LLMBased Design Loops with BTABoK CLIMCP by Paul Preiss

LLMs are already being used to generate code, but using them to generate and validate architecture is a fundamentally harder and more interesting problem. This talk introduces a practical approach to LLM-based design loops built on the BTABoK CLI and MCP (Model Context Protocol), where structured architecture artefacts — canvases, decisions, fitness functions — become the inputs and outputs of iterative AI-assisted design cycles. Rather than asking an LLM to freeform a system design, the loop grounds generation in BTABoK schemas, validates outputs against CoDL/CaDL constraints, and surfaces gaps for human review.

Session #67 : Architecture Blindspots Biases and Blunders by Michael Carducci

Architectural decisions are often influenced by blindspots, biases, and unchecked assumptions, which can lead to significant long-term challenges in system design. In this session, we'll explore how these cognitive traps affect decision-making, leading to architectural blunders that could have been avoided with a more critical, holistic approach.

Session #68 : 12 Essential Technical Skills for Software Architects by Dave Hendricksen

This session will focus on the essential technical skills that are needed by software architects on a daily basis from ideation to product delivery. For many architects, maintaining your technical skills can be a challenge.

Session #69 : Systems Architecture Guilds As Architectural Solutions Accelerators by Darrell Rials

As software professionals, we deal with complexity and uncertainty on a daily basis. In fact, we are often masters at understanding all the various forms of systems complexity, and often are proficient at coherently communicating designs and solutions. Unfortunately, within and amongst organizations, we set ourselves up as "the expert" -- as prima donnas, if you will. Oftentimes, we set up unnecessary psychological competitions amongst peers, rather than treating peers and the wider software community as just that: collaborative and self-improving communities. Surely, there are better ways of working as a community and a society that promote individual and community growth, learning, and exponential improvement.

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-Session Schedule-

(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Session #70 : Securing LLMs in Production From OWASP Top10 to Guardrails that Work by Rohit Bhardwaj

Large Language Models unlock new capabilities—and expose brand-new attack surfaces. From prompt injection and data exfiltration to model denial-of-service and insecure plugin calls, adversaries are exploiting weaknesses traditional AppSec never anticipated. The new OWASP LLM Top-10 provides a shared vocabulary for AI risks; this session turns that list into actionable engineering practice. You'll learn how to threat-model LLM endpoints, design guardrails that actually block malicious behavior, sandbox tools and plug-ins with least privilege, and align your mitigations to the NIST AI Risk Management Framework for audit-ready governance.

Session #71 : Enforcing Architecture Decisions Using Tests by Javiera Laso

In the fast-paced world of software development, maintaining architectural integrity is a continuous challenge. Over time, well-intended architectural decisions can erode, leading to unexpected drift and misalignment with original design principles. This hands-on workshop will equip participants with practical techniques to enforce architecture decisions using tests. By leveraging architecturally-relevant testing, attendees will learn how to proactively guard their system's design, ensuring consistency, scalability, and security as the codebase evolves. Through interactive exercises and real-world examples, we will explore how testing can serve as a powerful tool for preserving architectural integrity throughout a project's lifecycle. Key Takeaways Participants will learn to: Write architecture-driven tests that validate and enforce design constraints. Identify architectural drift early and prevent unintended changes. Maintain consistent, scalable, and secure architectures over time. Collaborate effectively within teams to sustain architectural excellence. Prerequisites Basic Understanding of Software Architecture: Familiarity with architectural patterns and principles Experience with Automated Testing: Understanding of unit, integration, or system testing concepts Collaboration and Communication Skills: Willingness to engage in discussions and teamwork Experience working with Java Optional Familiarity with Static Analysis and Code Quality Tools: Knowledge of tools like ArchUnit, SonarQube, or custom linters is beneficial but not required Experience with Large-Scale Systems: Prior work on complex systems can enhance the

10:30 - 11:00 AM : ARCHCONF 2026: AM BREAK - OPAL BALLROOM FOYER

11:00 - 12:30 PM - Sessions

Session #72 : The Three Types of Architecture Decisions by Paul Preiss

The Architecture Decision Record has become a staple of modern architecture practice, but most teams treat all decisions the same way — and pay for it later in rework, confusion, and decisions that quietly rot. This talk makes the case that architecturally significant decisions fall into at least three distinct categories — structural decisions that shape the system's fundamental form, cross-cutting decisions that enforce constraints across components, and local decisions that make sense only in narrow context — each requiring different levels of rigour, different audiences, and different lifecycle management. Grounded in the BTABoK's Decisions concept, which frames decision-making as a core architecture artefact rather than a byproduct of design, the session gives practitioners a practical classification model they can apply immediately.

Session #73 : The Art of Being an Architect by Michael Carducci

The hardest part of software architecture isn't the technology, it's the people. Every architecture lives or dies by its ability to influence behavior, build consensus, and turn vision into change. In this session, Michael Carducci explores the real work of being an architect: communicating clearly, guiding decisions, and driving meaningful change in complex organizations. Drawing from decades of experience and the principles behind the Tailor-Made Architecture Model, Carducci shows how to identify where change is needed, package ideas for adoption, and lead with both clarity and empathy.

Session #74 : Architecture Resiliency by Jeremy Deane

No matter the techniques used to make enterprise solutions Highly Available (HA), failure is inevitable at some point. Resiliency refers to how quickly a system reacts to and recovers from such failures. This presentation discusses various architectural resiliency techniques and patterns that help increase Mean Time to Failure (MTTF), also known as Fault Tolerance, and decrease Mean Time to Recovery (MTTR).

Session #75 : Systems Architecture Guilds As Architectural Solutions Accelerators (continued) by Darrell Rials

As software professionals, we deal with complexity and uncertainty on a daily basis. In fact, we are often masters at understanding all the various forms of systems complexity, and often are proficient at coherently communicating designs and solutions. Unfortunately, within and amongst organizations, we set ourselves up as "the expert" -- as prima donnas, if you will. Oftentimes, we set up unnecessary psychological competitions amongst peers, rather than treating peers and the wider software community as just that: collaborative and self-improving communities. Surely, there are better ways of working as a community and a society that promote individual and community growth, learning, and exponential improvement.

Session #76 : Optimize Your Work and Life with Your Own AI Agent by Ken Sipe

AI agents are not just for developers. They are personal operating systems for your professional and personal life. In this session, Ken shares what it actually looks like to live and work with a personal AI agent — from morning briefs to travel ops to speaking pipeline automation — and provides a practical framework you can start deploying the same week.

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-Session Schedule-

(event schedule as of September 23, 2026)

Session #77 : Enforcing Architecture Decisions Using Tests (continued) by Javiera Laso

In the fast-paced world of software development, maintaining architectural integrity is a continuous challenge. Over time, well-intended architectural decisions can erode, leading to unexpected drift and misalignment with original design principles. This hands-on workshop will equip participants with practical techniques to enforce architecture decisions using tests. By leveraging architecturally-relevant testing, attendees will learn how to proactively guard their system's design, ensuring consistency, scalability, and security as the codebase evolves. Through interactive exercises and real-world examples, we will explore how testing can serve as a powerful tool for preserving architectural integrity throughout a project's lifecycle. Key Takeaways Participants will learn to: Write architecture-driven tests that validate and enforce design constraints. Identify architectural drift early and prevent unintended changes. Maintain consistent, scalable, and secure architectures over time. Collaborate effectively within teams to sustain architectural excellence. Prerequisites Basic Understanding of Software Architecture: Familiarity with architectural patterns and principles Experience with Automated Testing: Understanding of unit, integration, or system testing concepts Collaboration and Communication Skills: Willingness to engage in discussions and teamwork Experience working with Java Optional Familiarity with Static Analysis and Code Quality Tools: Knowledge of tools like ArchUnit, SonarQube, or custom linters is beneficial but not required Experience with Large-Scale Systems: Prior work on complex systems can enhance the

12:30 - 1:00 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: LUNCH

1:00 - 2:30 PM : ARCHCONF 2026: CLOSING PANEL DISCUSSION