Principles Template

Principle Name	*Give the principle a catchy name.*
Description	*Statement of the principle.*
Rationale/Benefits	*Describe the reasoning behind the principle. Where applicable, provide traceability to business or architectural objectives.*
Implications	*Identify implications such as actions that need to be undertaken, and constraints implied by the principle.*
Counterargument	*Describe the reasonable counter to this principle.*

Architectural Principles

Principles

- Architectural principles are statements of preferred architectural direction or practice.

Guidelines for Creating Principles

- In each principle, clearly state a chosen direction
- Each principle should be stated in such a way that you will know if the architecture has the characteristics expressed by the principle
- Each principle should have a counter-argument; that is, they should not be platitudes or general features that are desirable regardless of the system
- Principles should be simply stated and understandable
- Principles need to be rationalized, stating why the principle is preferred, drawing on business-related factors where possible
- The implications of adopting the principle should also be identified
- Base principles on experience (graphical history, literature, etc.) to repeat what worked and avoid what did not work
- For each quality goal, consider whether there is a principle that will guide structuring decisions to achieve the goal

- Ref: Tapscott and Caston, 1995

Uses of Principles

Architectural principles
- help establish a context for architectural decisions by using business criteria to rationalize basic architectural choices, and
- eliminate the need for evaluating endless alternatives in the modeling stages by agreeing up front on preferred directions." Tapscott and Caston, 1995 p.241