

Thoughts about the Role of Software Architects (Abstract)

Dr. Wolfgang Weck

Independent Software Architect, Zürich

www.wolfgang-weck.ch

There is an increasing trend to refer to any kind of structure in a software system as “architecture”. As a consequence, every person, not exclusively programming in a directly executable programming language, tends to be called “software architect”. If this professional title just becomes a synonym or even a replacement of “software engineer”, it loses every distinguishing profile at the same time.

Such a development is not desirable, as the tasks of software architects can be and should be markedly separated from those of software engineers. Such a separation effectively enhances the status of both titles by assigning each its respective specializations and competences.

The talk “Thoughts about the Role of Software Architects” defines the technical aspects of division of labor as the central task of software architects. Starting from there, we review the consequences regarding goals of architecture, quality, economics, and organization.

Dr. Wolfgang Weck takes over various tasks in software architecture design, interface management, and architecture reviews. He is author of the chapter about the role of software architects in the German handbook of software architecture (dpunkt-Verlag, 2006). He lectures at Universities of Applied Sciences in Switzerland and Germany. Since he received a doctoral degree from the Polytechnical University Zürich (ETH), he has been both working with, and researching in depth concepts and application of component software and the related architectural approach.