

# Architecture Decision Checklist

The 15 Questions We Ask Before Writing Line One

## SECTION 1: DATABASE DECISION

Questions 1-5

- 1. What are your primary data access patterns?  
*Relational queries, document lookups, time-series, graph traversal*
- 2. Do you need ACID transactions across multiple tables?
- 3. Will you need complex reporting or analytics queries?
- 4. What is your expected data volume in 12 months?  
*< 1GB | 1-100GB | 100GB+*
- 5. Can PostgreSQL handle your use case?  
*If YES -> start there. Only specialize with measured evidence.*

## SECTION 2: ARCHITECTURE PATTERN

Questions 6-10

- 6. How many developers will work on this codebase?
- 7. Do different teams need independent deploy schedules?
- 8. Can you clearly define bounded contexts / domain boundaries?
- 9. What is your expected user count in 12 months?  
*< 50K users -> monolith is correct*
- 10. Do you have DevOps capacity for distributed systems?  
*If NO -> stay monolithic until you do*

## SECTION 3: AUTHENTICATION

Questions 11-15

- 11. Do you need multi-factor auth within 6 months?
- 12. Will you need SSO or enterprise auth integrations?
- 13. Do you have a dedicated security engineer?  
*If NO -> do not build custom auth*
- 14. Can you maintain session mgmt, token rotation, logout?  
*If NO -> buy auth from a provider (Supabase, Clerk, Auth0)*
- 15. Have you created an auth abstraction layer?