Increasing the consistency and usefulness of architecture descriptions in large-scale agile development
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When developing software-intensive systems in large-scale agile organizations, it is of key importance to keep track of the systems' architecture and coordinate architectural decisions across team borders. However, enabling the required inter-team coordination and assuring the conformance between architecture descriptions and the implementation are known challenges. Inconsistencies emanate among multiple architecture descriptions, and between architecture descriptions and code. As a consequence, architecture descriptions are not always trusted and used to the extent that their authors wish for. This talk presents a study on architecture descriptions and how they can be used to support the coordination between teams in large-scale agile development. Based on two surveys, we shed light on the nature of architectural inconsistencies and their evolution over time. We conclude the talk with practical guidelines for architects that we developed and evaluated in close contact with industry.