

# ANDRES KOITMÄE

## BUILDING DATA PLATFORMS: ARCHITECTS VS ENGINEERS



30.09.2025  
Mövenpick Hotel, Tallinn





# Building data platforms: architects vs engineers

Andres Koitmäe

Milrem Robotics

Software Technical Lead (Data)

30.09.2025

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# Agenda

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- Intro
- Problem statement
- Personas
- Stories
- Summary
- Q & A





# About me

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- 24 years in IT & data
- Experience from public and private sector
  - Agricultural Registers & Information Board
  - Nortal
  - Solita
  - Ericsson
  - Milrem Robotics
- Different roles
  - DBA, Data Engineer, Database Architect, etc.



# Problem statement

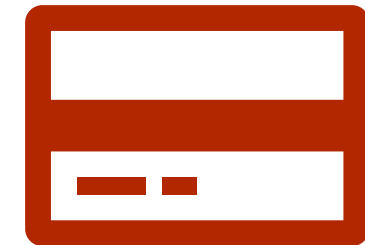
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Why?



What?



How?

# Personas

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- Engineers
  - Grumpy Senior Developer
  - Business friendly Senior Analytics Engineer
  - Random data person
- Architects
  - Frech & tech savvy
  - Long-term architect
  - Enterprise/Corporate minded

Do we have  
the same  
goal?

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Build vs buy

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Technological elegance vs  
business value

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Safe choice vs innovation

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# Story 1

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- No actual platform just some fragments
- No architect
- Outdated technology





# Planning

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- Engineers must take their career planning into account.
- Building data platform without architectural vision is a road towards failure.



# Story 2

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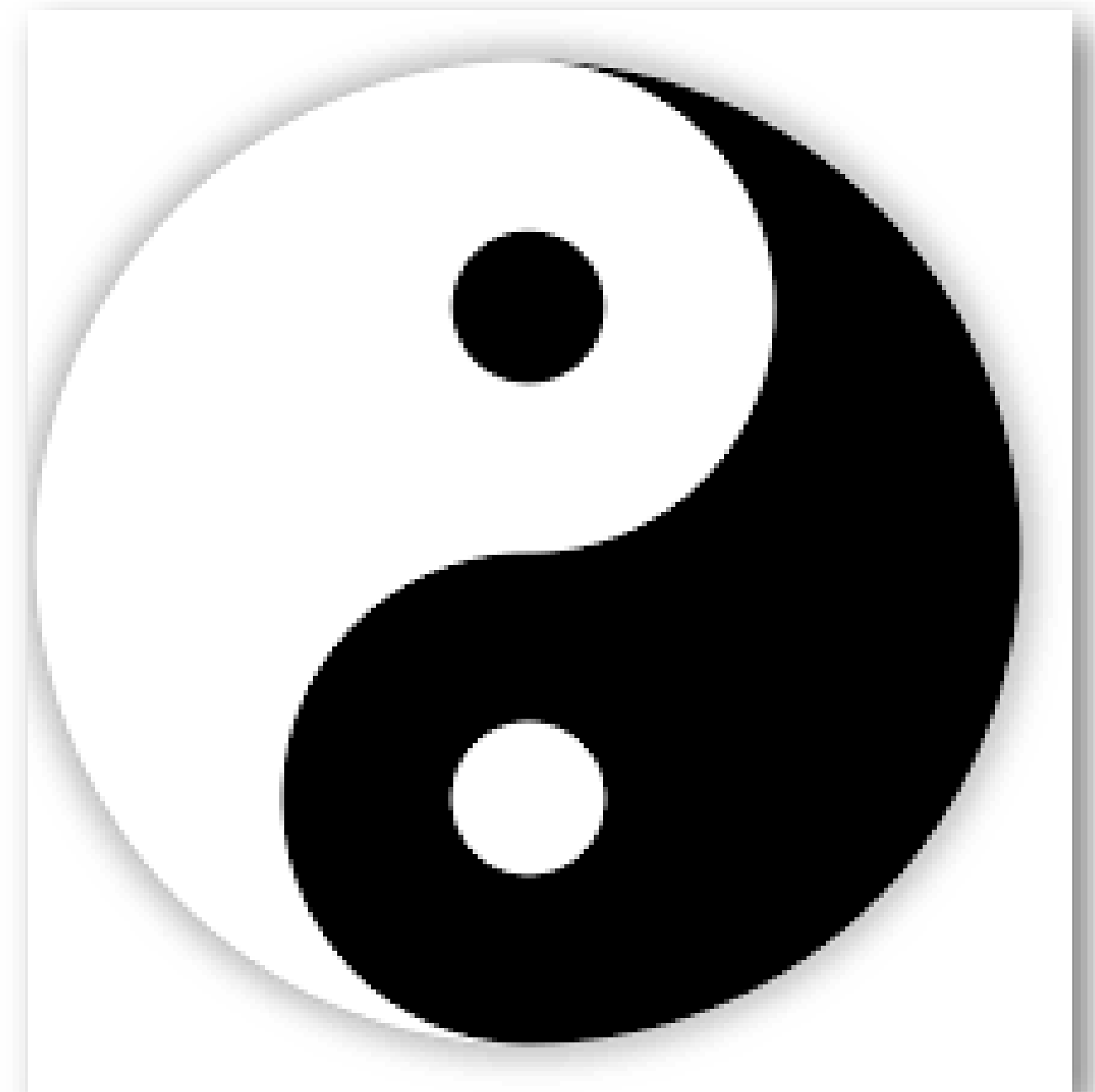
- Bleeding edge technology (solution architecture)
- Organization not ready for innovation



# Forerunner

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- Engineers
  - Find a way to sell the idea to architect(s) by showing opportunities
- Architects
  - Find a way to sell the idea to engineers by showing opportunities

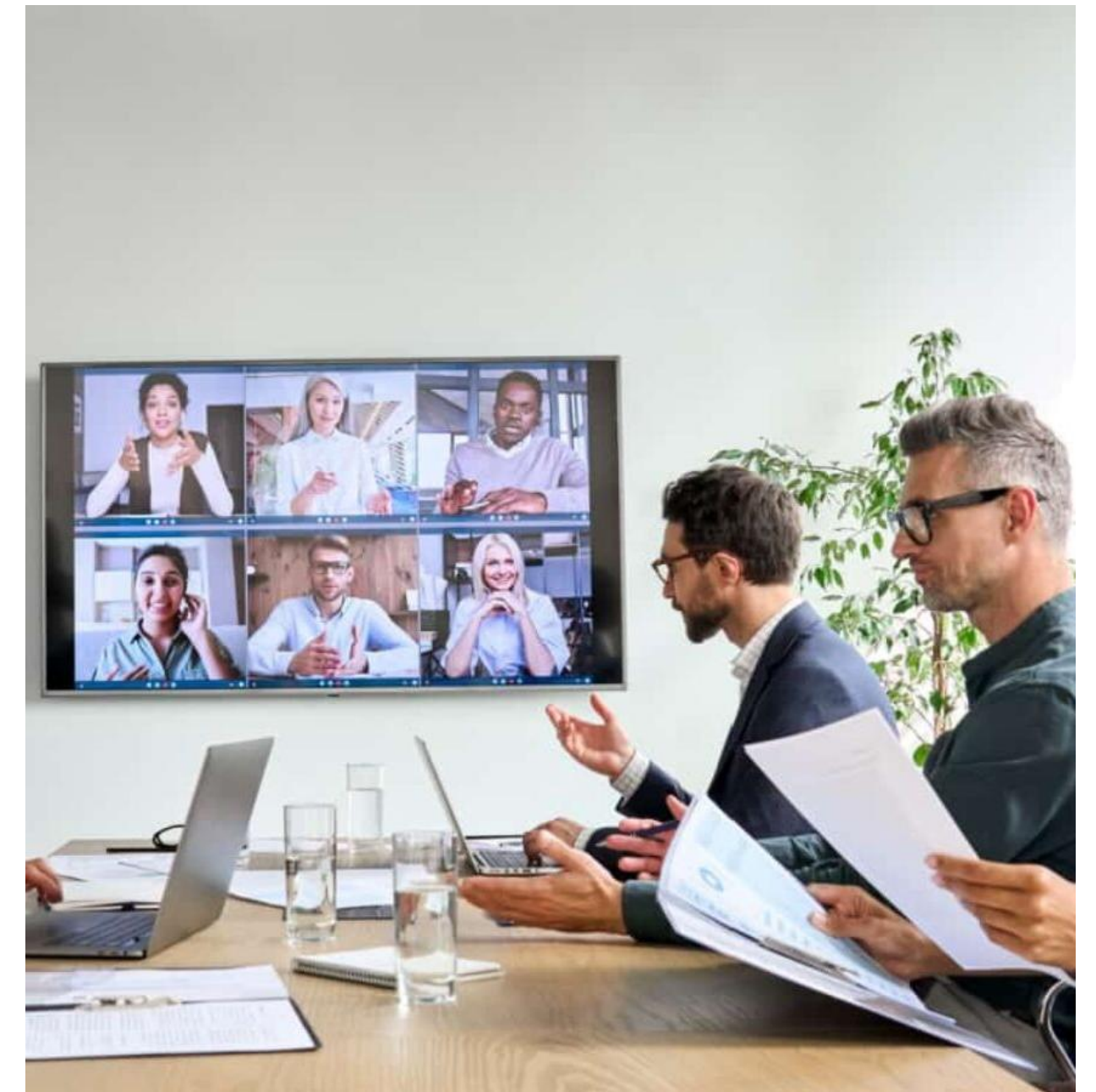




# Story 3

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- Corporation
- Lots of people but very few decisionmakers
- Outcome
  - Nothing gets done
  - Questionable technology choices
  - Frustration



# Architecture committee/board

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- Common in bigger organization
  - In theory a good way to ensure that solutions are compliant with company rules
  - In practice very often total waste of time and source of demotivation



# Summary

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- Never forget who pays the bills
- Be a nice person & try to understand your opponents
- Do not make unnecessary compromises
- Keep in mind that it's just a work.



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