

20.9 Decision Record Expectations

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The team should use implementation decision records for decisions that affect the shared baseline. A decision record should capture the decision, context, alternatives considered, selected option, consequences, and any remaining risks.

A decision record should exist when the team decides:

1. DDS product or products.
2. Runtime implementation language.
3. Java, Python, or other language version baseline.
4. Container runtime.
5. Repository platform.
6. Build tool or package manager.
7. Generated [Artifact](#) policy.
8. CI/CD runner environment.
9. Logging or Evidence format.
10. Significant Node or QoS convention.

Decision records should live in a controlled repository location, such as:

```
docs/decisions/
```

The handbook should reference decision records where they define baseline assumptions. The decision records should not replace the handbook. They explain why the team made a choice. The handbook explains how the team applies the choice.

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