

What is Technical Debt?

Technical debt is a concept that reflects the omission of steps or shortcuts when developing or managing a project instead of applying the best overall solution from the beginning. This concept asks the question "What's the cost tomorrow of a shortcut from yesterday?"

Each time you make a sub-optimal technology decision, you're incurring debt for future reengineering and refactoring of the cost of that decision.

Technical Debt can be the result of premature adoption of a technology, inadequate integration into production, incomplete specifications, poor design, and engineering not considering Quality and Manufacturing from the beginning of the project.

Many times, this happens because the focus is to deliver on Time and on Budget but remember that an insecure project will have consequences later. A project that has poor usability will have adoption problems, problems that consultants or contractors may want to incur in order to bill extra hours later.

Remember incurring technical debt will collect later with compound interest.