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Software architecture is about the high-level structure of software. But it is a mistake to think of software architecture only in terms of components and connectors. Architectural knowledge is not limited to the software structure proper, but also covers the design decisions that led to that structure and the rationale for those decisions.

The GRIFFIN project (2005-2009) has been a research project in which a consortium of academic and industrial partners investigated present-day problems related to the management of architectural knowledge. This thesis contains the results of the doctoral research performed by two of the GRIFFIN researchers. After a general introduction of architectural knowledge management and related challenges the thesis particularly focuses on two challenges, namely how architects can effectively share architectural knowledge, and how auditors can discover relevant architectural knowledge.

Rik Farenhorst (1981) was born in Hoorn (NH) and attended Atheneum at Scholengemeenschap Tabor, location Oscar Romero. He studied Computer Science at the VU University Amsterdam, and performed his doctoral research at the same university.

During his research, Rik has focussed on how architects can be helped in effectively sharing architectural knowledge. He has carried out four years of research at one of the industrial partners of the GRIFFIN project, and worked part-time as an IT architect in the same organization. In this latter role he was primarily involved in assisting students with their thesis research. He also participated in the organization's efforts to advance 'working under architecture'.

Remco de Boer (1979) was born in De Goorn (NH) and lived much of his youth in Etten-Leur. He attended Atheneum, first at the Katholieke Scholengemeenschap Etten-Leur and later at Scholengemeenschap Tabor, location Werenfridus in Hoorn. He studied Econometrics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and obtained his master's degree in 2002 with a major in Business Informatics.

During and after his studies Remco worked as a software developer and later as a researcher knowledge technologies. He has been involved in various national and international research projects in the field of knowledge technology and knowledge management. In 2005 he started his doctoral research at the VU University Amsterdam. His research focused in particular on how independent auditors of software products can be helped to (re)discover relevant architectural knowledge.

Architectural Knowledge Management
Supporting Architects and Auditors

Rik Farenhorst
Remco C. de Boer



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VU University Amsterdam

