

Technical debt

Methaphor - concept in software development that reflects the implied cost of additional rework caused by choosing an easy (limited) solution now instead of using a better approach that would take longer

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Snippet from [Wikipedia: Technical debt](#)

Technical debt (also known as **design debt** or **code debt**, but can be also related to other technical endeavors) is a concept in software development that reflects the implied cost of additional rework caused by choosing an easy (limited) solution now instead of using a better approach that would take longer.

As with monetary debt, if technical debt is not repaid, it can accumulate 'interest', making it harder to implement changes. Unaddressed technical debt increases software entropy. Similarly to monetary debt, technical debt is not necessarily a bad thing, and sometimes (e.g., as a proof-of-concept) is required to move projects forward. On the other hand, some experts claim that the "technical debt" metaphor tends to minimize the ramifications, which results in insufficient prioritization of the necessary work to correct it.

As a change is started on a codebase, there is often the need to make other coordinated changes in other parts of the codebase or documentation. Changes required that are not completed are considered debt, and until paid, will incur interest on top of interest, making it cumbersome to build a project. Although the term is used in software development primarily, it can also be applied to other professions.

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External links:

- <https://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebt.html>
- <https://www.productplan.com/glossary/technical-debt/>
- <https://www.agilealliance.org/introduction-to-the-technical-debt-concept/>
- <https://www.cmswire.com/information-management/the-long-term-impacts-of-ongoing-technical-debt/>

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Last update: **2021/07/29 17:28**

