

GUIDED DECISION CANVAS

WHAT PROBLEM ARE WE REALLY SOLVING?

Scenario 1:
Your team is debating between building a custom logging system vs. integrating an off-the-shelf tool.

We need a scalable logging system that helps us diagnose production issues faster and more reliably.

Scenario 2:
One engineer wants to focus on tech debt, while the product manager pushes for shipping a new feature.

We need to maintain a healthy codebase while meeting business goals this quarter.

WHAT MUST A GREAT SOLUTION INCLUDE?

- Easy to maintain and onboard new devs
- Scales with our user base
- Alerting and search capabilities
- Integrates with existing stack

- Doesn't block critical features
- Addresses tech debt that slows us down
- Easy to communicate to stakeholders
- Balances long-term and short-term needs

WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE AND HOW DO THEY COMPARE?

Option	Maint.	Scale	Alerting	Integration
Build in-house	⚠️	✅	⚠️	✅
Use DataDog	✅	✅	✅	✅
Use Open Source XYZ	⚠️	✅	✅	⚠️

Option	Delivery Risk	Debt Relief	Stakeholder Clarity
Delay feature 2 weeks for refactor	⚠️	✅✅✅	⚠️
Split sprint: 60% feature, 40% debt	✅	✅✅	✅
Prioritize feature, log tech debt	✅	⚠️	✅

