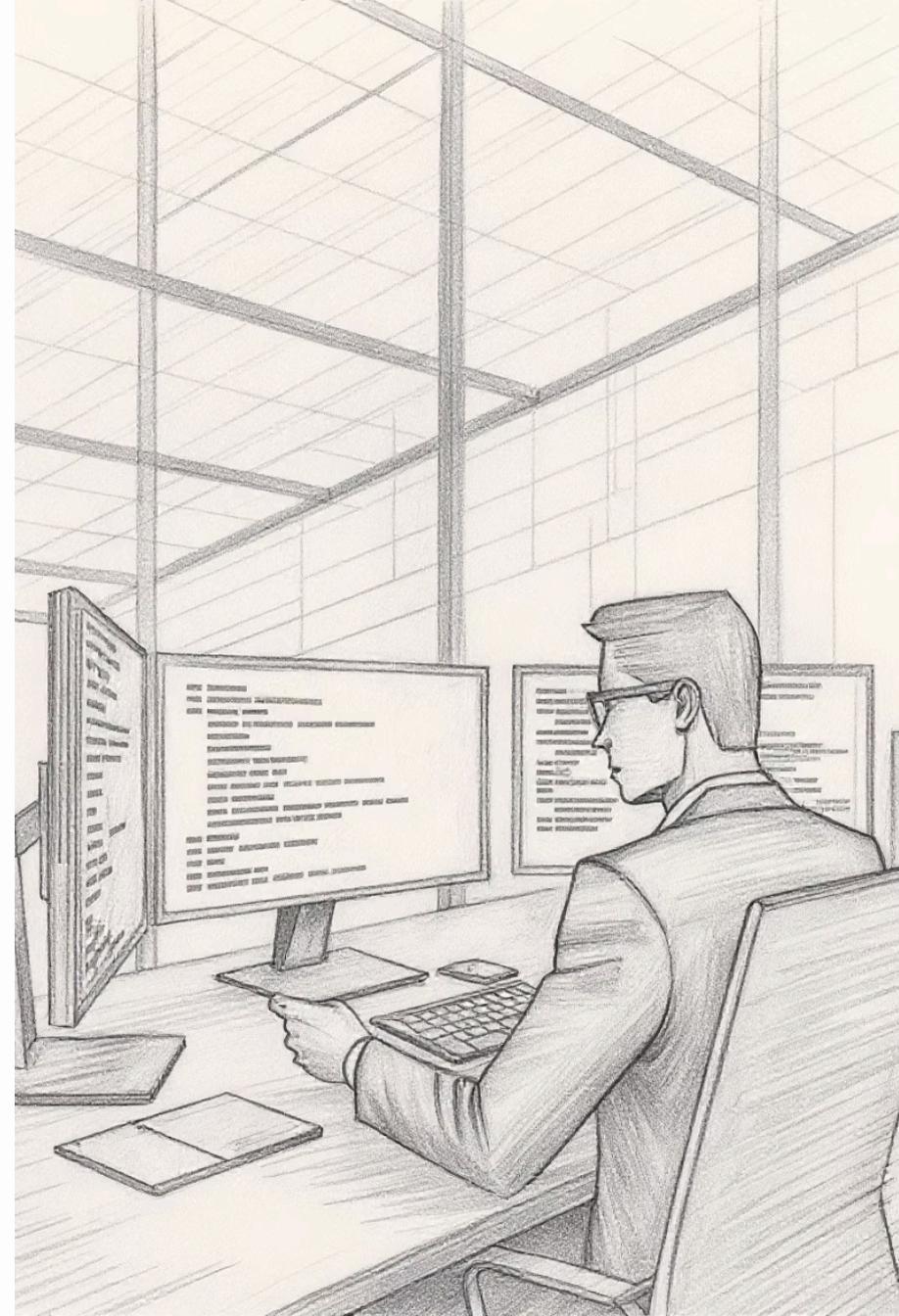


Module 3.3: Finding a Tech Consultant (part-time)

It can make or break your project. Let's explore options based on budget and project complexity.



Team up with part-time tech person

The "Say Yes To Everything" Trap

Many founders hire the cheapest developers who "say yes to everything." This approach leads to critical issues:

- Poor code quality
- Broken deadlines
- App stability issues
- Technical debt

The Solution: Independent Oversight

Hire a part-time technical consultant for few hours per week.

They will:

- Review code and development practices.
- Provide assessments of project progress.
- Offer early warnings.

Early Issue Detection

Catch quality problems before they consume your budget.

Performance Insight

Identify and address team performance challenges effectively.

Reduced Transition Risk

Minimize the risk of discovering poor quality during developer transitions.

Option A: Fractional CTO

Best for \$50K+ projects

What They Do

- Review architecture before start
- Check code quality every 2-4 weeks
- Validate developer timelines
- Advise on technical decisions

Where to Find

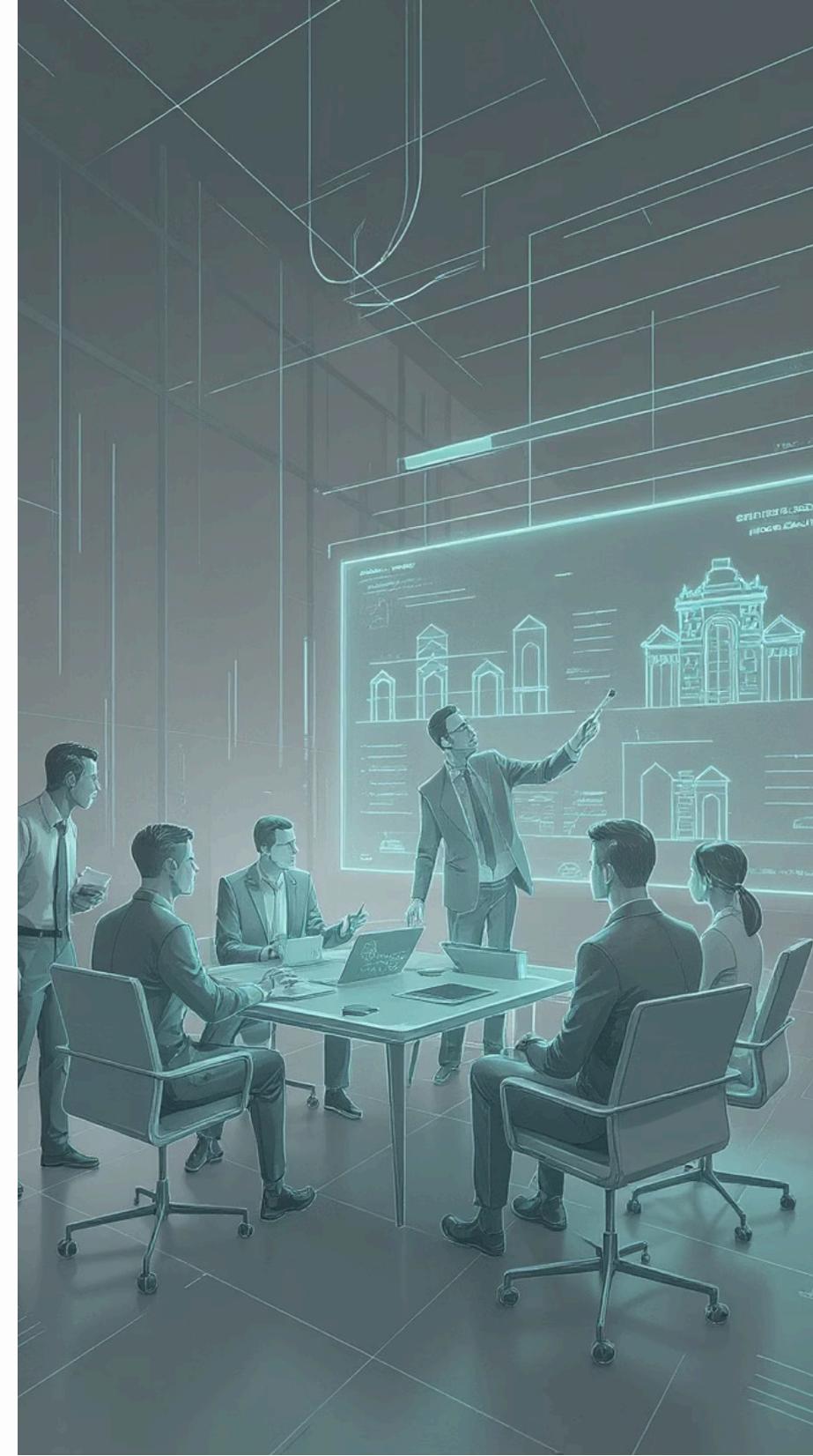
- YCombinator Work at a Startup board
- Toptal (expensive but vetted)
- UpWork (cheaper, not vetted)
- Local startup meetups
- LinkedIn + "fractional CTO" search

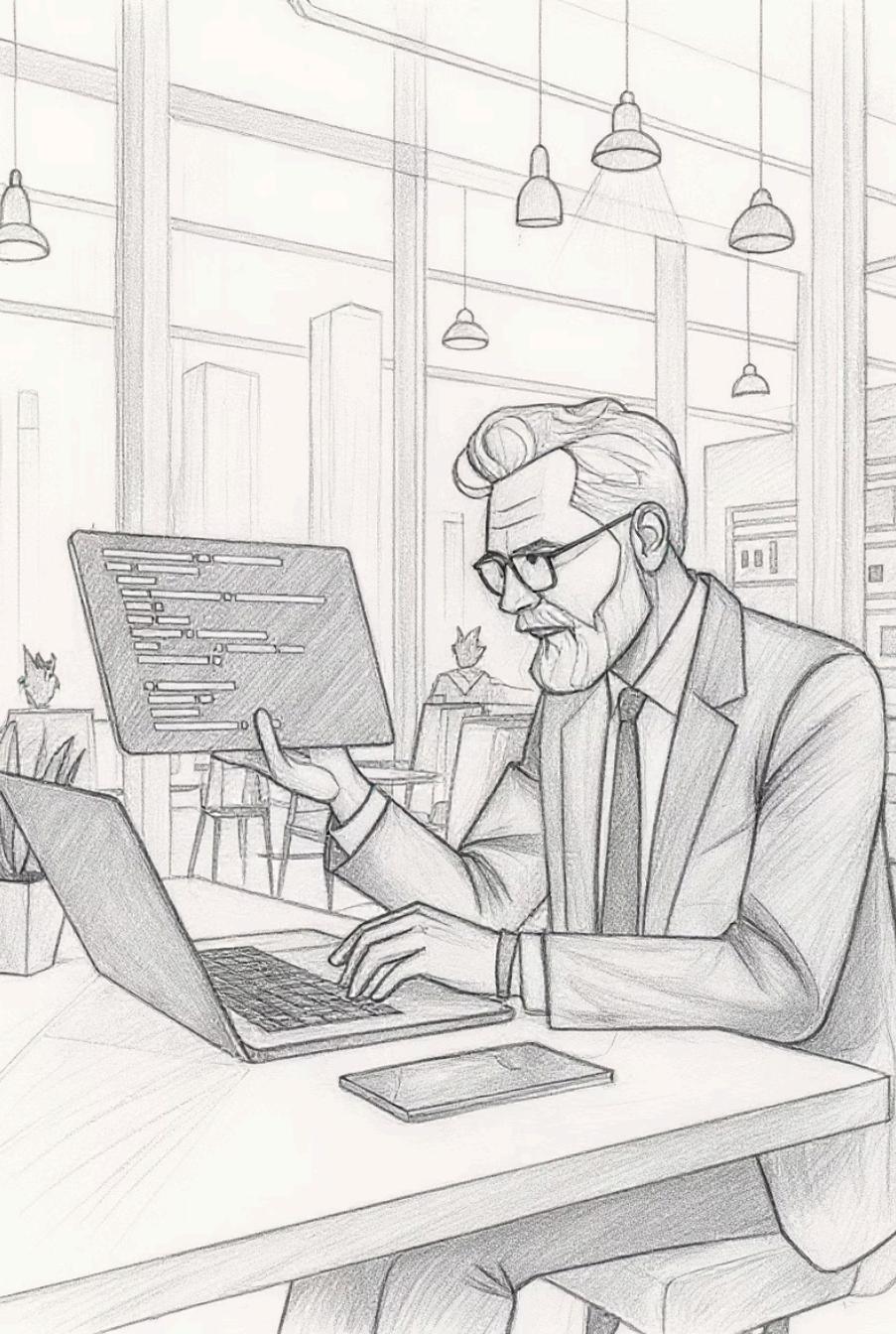
Cost

\$100-200/hour,
5-10 hours/month = \$500-2,000/month

When You Need This

Budget over \$50K or building with backend complexity, multiple integrations, or plans to scale past 1,000 users





Option B: Technical Advisor

Good for \$20-50K projects

What They Do

- Initial architecture review (2-4 hours)
- Monthly code review (1-2 hours)
- Available on Slack for quick questions

Cost

\$2,000-4,000 retainer for 3 months

Where to Find

Same places as fractional CTO, but look for senior developers who do consulting part-time.

Option C: Pay-Per-Review

Minimum for under \$20K

What They Do

- One-time architecture review before you start (\$500-1,000)
- Code review every month (\$300-500 each)

Platforms

- Codementor
- UpWork
- Post on relevant Reddit communities (r/forhire)



- ❏ **Budget-friendly alternative:** Buy Claude subscription, ask to review/act like architect. Ask the same questions. Not as good as a person with higher risks, but better than nothing.

The Questions They Should Answer

📌 **Pro tip:** Ask in your network. It works better and you might pay less.

Give your technical reviewer this checklist. If they can't answer these clearly, find someone else:

1

Before Starting (Architecture Review)

1. "Is this tech stack appropriate for what we're building?"
2. "What are the 2-3 biggest technical risks?"
3. "Can another developer pick this up if needed?"
4. "What will break first when we scale?"
5. "Is the timeline realistic?"

2

During Development (Code Review)

1. "Is the code maintainable by another developer?"
2. "Are they building technical debt?"
3. "What's not being done that should be?"
4. "How hard would it be to switch developers?"
5. "Rate code quality 1-10 and explain why."