Abstract
A short specific overview of an architecture is a powerful means during product creation. This article addresses how to create such an overview. One of the main issues is the need for breadth, what needs to be included and for whom, and the balancing act of providing sufficient depth, what are crucial details that are part of this top-level description. Also the way of describing is discussed, from stakeholder needs to ambiguity and the level of formalism.
### Approach to Create Architecture Overview

- **Identify scope:** *product, market, system, context*

- **Bottom-up fact finding and quantification**

- **Top-down identify** *stakeholders, concerns, views and models*

- **Determine most relevant issues:** *important, valuable, critical, costly*, ...

- **Define overview** *structure and presentation*

- **Iterate and communicate many times**
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OHTannotatedCAFCR

**CAFCR model**

- **Customer What**
  - Customer objectives
  - Application
  - Functional
  - Conceptual
  - Realization

- **Product How**
  - drives, justifies, needs
  - enables, supports
  - internal Operational view
    - (process, organization, people, sales, service, purchasing, manufacturing, suppliers)

**What** does Customer need in Product and **Why**?
IEEE 1471 view level

System → Architecture

Architecture Description → Stakeholder

Stakeholder has concern

consists of

view

model

defines

consists of

conforms to

covers

covers

has

Described by

viewpoint

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Architecture Overview

Architecture

Subset of which architect is aware

Flattened into

Architecture description

Actually written by architect(s)

overview
Role of Architecture Description

Problem space

"real world"

Solution space

Architecture description

Communication
documentation
archiving
...

System instance

Stakeholder

Highly simplified
very incomplete

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SAFSOPArchitectureDescription
Stakeholder of an Architecture Overview

Customer objectives

- customers
- application experts
- marketing, sales

Application

- software engineers
- hardware engineers
- testers

Functional

- maintainers
- other systems

Conceptual

- auditors
- quality officers
- managers

Realization

- production engineers
- service engineers
- purchasing managers

Internal Operational view
Form and Medium

Architecture description
book
mock-up
prototype
active content
dynamic content

The system
static view
dynamic view
The wonderful
view on ...

Mozilla Firefox
architecture description

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Payload: the Ratio between Content and Overhead

1. aap
2. noot
3. mies

and ca 50% text
Language Recommendations

* Keep your sentences short
* Prefer active verbs
* Use 'you' and 'we'
* Choose words appropriate for the reader
* Don't be afraid to give instructions
* Avoid nominalisations
* Use positive language
* Use lists where appropriate

from Plain English Campaign
http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/plainenglishguide.html
Ideal Structure does not Exist

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13 Gerrit Muller