

System Context Architecture

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1 Purpose of this Document

This document defines the system boundaries, key external interfaces, and overall context of the [System Name] system. It serves as the foundation for more detailed architecture views.

2 System Overview

System Name: [Full system name]
System Type: [SaaS|Mobile|Enterprise|IoT|etc.]
Business Domain: [Domain area]
Scale: [Users/transactions/data volume/etc.]
Criticality: [Mission critical|Business critical|Supporting|etc.]

Architecture Style: [Microservices|Monolithic|Event-driven|etc.]

3 System Context Diagram

```
graph TD
    subgraph "System Boundary"
        A[Core System] --- B[Component 1]
        A --- C[Component 2]
    end
    D[External System 1] --- A
    E[External System 2] --- A
    F[User Type 1] --- A
    G[User Type 2] --- A
```

4 Alternative Diagram (C4 Model Style)

@startuml
!include <C4/C4_Context>

Person(user, "Primary User", "Core system user")
Person(admin, "Administrator", "System administrator")

System_Boundary(sys, "System Boundary") {
 System(core, "Core System", "Main functionality")
}

```

        System(api, "API Layer",
"Integration point")
        System(data, "Data Store",
"Persistence")
    }

    System_Ext(ext1, "External System 1",
"Integration")
    System_Ext(ext2, "External System 2",
"Integration")

    Rel(user, core, "Uses")
    Rel(admin, core, "Administers")
    Rel(ext1, api, "Uses", "Protocol")
    Rel(api, core, "Routes")
    Rel(core, data, "Persists")
    Rel(core, ext2, "Calls")
@enduml

```

5 Key Stakeholders

Role	Responsibilities	Contact
[Role]	[Key responsibilities]	[Contact info]
[Role]	[Key responsibilities]	[Contact info]

6 Technical Specifications

```

Integration Points:
    Inbound:
        - Protocol: [REST/GraphQL/gRPC/SOAP/etc.]
        Volume: [requests/second]
        SLA: [Response time/availability/etc.]
        Security: [Authentication mechanism]
        - Protocol: [Second protocol if applicable]
        # Add details as above

```

```

Outbound:
    - System: [External system name]
    Protocol: [Integration protocol]
    Purpose: [Why we integrate]
    Criticality: [Critical/Important/Optional]
    SLA: [Required service level]

```

System Constraints:

Performance:

- Throughput: [Target metrics]
- Latency: [Target metrics]
- Concurrency: [Target metrics]

Scalability:

- Growth: [Expected growth rate]
- Peak Load: [Peak metrics]
- Scaling Strategy: [Horizontal/Vertical/Both]

Compliance:

- Standards: [Required standards]
- Regulations: [Applicable regulations]

7 Architecture Decisions

Key Decisions:

- Decision: [architectural pattern choice]
 - Rationale: [Technical and business reasons]
 - Impact: [Scope and implications]
 - Alternatives: [What was considered but rejected]
- Decision: [technology stack choice]
 - Rationale: [Technical and business reasons]
 - Constraints: [Limitations this creates]
 - Risks: [Potential issues]

8 Evolution & Roadmap

Timeframe	Changes	Drivers	Status
Current	[Current state]	[N/A]	[Active]
Short-term (1-3 months)	[Planned changes]	[Business/technical drivers]	[Planned]
Medium-term (3-6 months)	[Roadmap items]	[Business/technical drivers]	[Proposed]
Long-term (6+ months)	[Strategic direction]	[Business/technical drivers]	[Vision]

9 System Boundaries

```

Internal Components:
- Component: [Component 1]
  Purpose: [Primary responsibility]
  Owner: [Team or individual]
  Status: [Active/In development/Planned]

- Component: [Component 2]
  # Add details as above

External Dependencies:
Critical:
- System: [External system 1]
  Purpose: [Integration purpose]
  SLA: [Required service level]
  Integration: [How we integrate]
  Owner: [External team/company]
  Fallback: [Contingency if

```

unavailable]

Non-Critical:

- System: [External system 2]
- # Add details as above

10 Risk Assessment

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
[Risk description]	[High/Low]	[High/Medium/Low]	[Mitigation strategy]
[Risk description]	[High/Low]	[High/Medium/Low]	[Mitigation strategy]
[Risk description]	[High/Low]	[High/Medium/Low]	[Mitigation strategy]

11 Related Views

- Component Architecture - Service details
- Integration Architecture - Interface details
- Infrastructure Architecture - Infrastructure view
- Development Guide - Implementation details

12 Document Validation Checklist

- ☐ System boundaries clearly defined
- ☐ All external interfaces identified
- ☐ Integration points specified
- ☐ Constraints documented
- ☐ Key decisions recorded
- ☐ Stakeholders identified
- ☐ Team review completed
- ☐ Diagrams reflect current understanding