Material and some slide content from: - Emerson Murphy-Hill - Software Architecture: Foundations, Theory, and Practice - Essential Software Architecture



Architectural Style Intro Reid Holmes

BOLD == 2% PROJECT BONUS

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Activity Review

- Reflect on the activities:
 - What was the point of each one?
 - What should I have learned?
 - What kinds of questions should I be able to answer based on what we did in class?

Architectural Analogy

Kitchen design activity.

- What are the architectural components?
 - How are they related to each other?
 - What connectors exist?
 - Why did you choose they components / connectors / topology you did?
 - How do the connectors bind the components?
 - Why is software arch. like traditional arch.?
 - Why is software arch. not like traditional arch.?



Architectural Decomposition

- Generate an architecture for an automated shopping cart.
 - Identify the key components and connectors.
 - Derive a system topology.

- Justify your decomposition.
 - Why these components?
 - Does the architecture adequately capture the broad system goals?
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed architecture?



Architectural Tradeoffs

- Generate an architecture for a context-aware notification system.
 - Identify NFPs for a given stakeholder.
 - Justify why those NFPs matter.
 - Determine how those NFPs influence the architecture of the system.
 - Compare the architectures derived when different stakeholders care about divergent NFPs.
 - Understand how NFPs can be in tension with each other.



Completeness & Consistency

• The Spec is Right.

- For a given system description, can we identify:
 - Aspects that are inconsistent
 - Aspects that are incomplete
- How can we build a description that all stakeholders can understand and reason about?
- What is the right level of abstraction for an architectural document?
- What tools and techniques can help us generate complete and consistent system descriptions?







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Architectural styles

- Some design choices are better than others
 - Experience can guide us towards beneficial sets of choices (patterns) that have positive properties
- An architectural style is a named collection of architectural design decisions that:
 - Are applicable to a given context
 - Constrain design decisions
 - Elicit beneficial qualities in resulting systems



Architectural styles

A set of architectural design decisions that are applicable to a recurring design problem, and parameterized to account for different software development contexts in which that problem appears.

e.g., Three-tier architectural pattern:





Architectural styles

- Defines a family of architectures that are constrained by:
 - Component/connector vocabulary
 - Topology
 - Semantic constraints
- When describing styles diagrammatically:
 - Nodes == components (e.g., procedures, modules, processes, databases, ...)
 - Edges == connectors (e.g., procedure calls, events, db queries, pipes, ...)



Understanding a style

- What is the structural pattern?
- What is the underlying computational model?
- What are the essential invariants of the style?
- What are some common usage examples?
- What are the style's advantages and disadvantages?
- What are some common specializations?



Structure and Dependencies

- All styles minimize coupling in a specific way
- Excessive dependencies are not a good idea.
- Key issue:
 - Identifying likely change points.
 - Reduce direct dependencies on these points.



Good properties of an architecture

- Result in a consistent set of principled techniques
- Resilient in the face of (inevitable) changes
- Source of guidance through product lifetime
- Reuse of established engineering knowledge



"Pure" architectural styles

- Pure architectural styles are rarely used in practice
- Systems in practice:
 - Regularly deviate from pure styles.
 - Typically feature many architectural styles.
- Architects must understand the "pure" styles to understand the strength and weaknesses of the style as well as the consequences of deviating from the style.



Role of context

- Neitzsche believed that all judgements were heavily dependent on individual perspective and that truth was the subject to interpretation
- The role of context is fundamental to the decisions surrounding your architecture
 - Two very similar applications may require fundamentally different architectures for seemingly trivial reasons





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Language-based

- Influenced by the languages that implement them
- Lower-level, very flexible
- Often combined with other styles for scalability

Examples: Main & subroutine Object-oriented



Dataflow

- A data flow system is one in which:
 - The availability of data controls computation.
 - The structure of the design is determined by the orderly motion of data between components.

[CZARNECKI]

Examples:

Batch-sequential

Pipe-and-filter

- The pattern of data flow is explicit.
- Variations:
 - Push vs. pull.
 - Degree of concurrency.
 - Topology.

Shared state

- Characterized by:
 - Central store that represents system state
 - Components that communicate through shared data store
- Central store is explicitly designed and structured





Layered

- Layered systems are hierarchically organized providing services to upper layers and acting as clients for lower layers
- Lower levels provide more general functionality to more specific upper layers
- In strict layered systems, layers can only communicate with adjacent layers





Interpreter

- Commands interpreted dynamically
- Programs parse commands and act accordingly, often on some central data store

Examples: Interpreter Mobile code



Implicit invocation

- In contrast to other patterns, the flow of control is "reversed"
- Commonly integrate tools in shared environments
- Components tend to be loosely coupled
- Often used in:
 - Ul applications (e.g., MVC)
 - Enterprise systems
 - (e.g., WebSphere)

Examples: Publish-subscribe Event-based

