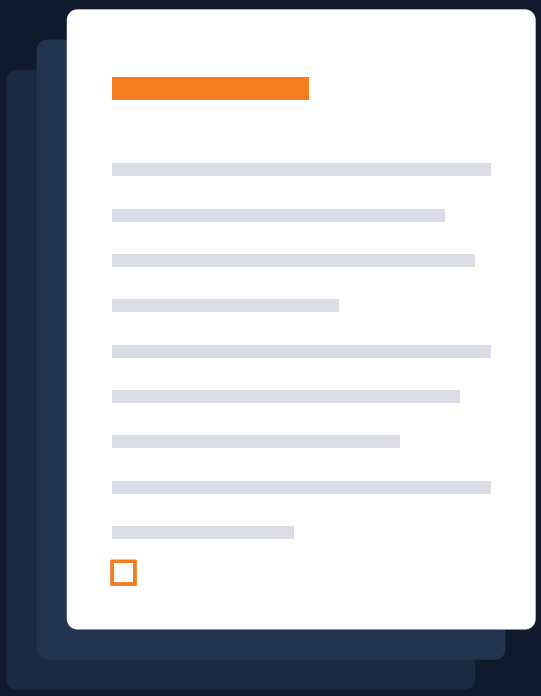
Documentation
Services Lab



FREE TEMPLATE

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Software Architecture Document

The high-level structure of a system: views, quality attributes and key architectural decisions.

STAGE

Architecture & design

PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Systems Architects, Lead Engineers, Security Leads

About this template

The Software Architecture Document (SAD) describes the system's big-picture structure using multiple views (context, containers, deployment), the quality attributes it must deliver, and the decisions that shape it. It stays relevant longer than detailed design docs.

Detail	
Stage	Architecture & design
Primary audience	Systems Architects, Lead Engineers, Security Leads

How to use it

- Replace every *[grey bracketed placeholder]* with your own details.
- Delete the orange **Guidance** boxes and green **Example** boxes before you publish or circulate it.
- Add or remove table rows as needed; keep the section order so readers can find things quickly.

Document Control

System		**SAD version**	
Architect		**Reviewers**	
Status		**Date**	

Version	Date	Author	Summary of changes
[1.0]	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*	*[Name]*	*[Initial release]*

01 Architectural Goals & Constraints

Goals	Constraints
[e.g. Scale to 10x traffic]	*[e.g. Must run on AWS]*

02 Quality Attributes

GUIDANCE *Rank the attributes that drive architectural choices.*

Attribute	Scenario	Target	Priority
Performance			
Availability			
Security			
Scalability			
Maintainability			

03 Context View

GUIDANCE *Show the system, its users and external systems.*

System context diagram
[Insert context diagram]

04 Container / Logical View

Container diagram
[Insert container diagram]

Container	Technology	Responsibility

05 Deployment View

Node / environment	Hosts	Scaling	Region

06 Cross-Cutting Concerns

Security	
Logging & observability	
Error handling	
Configuration	
Data privacy	

07 Architecture Decision Records

ADR	Decision	Status	Consequences
ADR-001		*[Accepted]*	

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08 Risks & Mitigation

GUIDANCE *List architectural risks and technical debt.*

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation	Owner
[Risk]	*[L/M/H]*	*[L/M/H]*	*[Action]*	*[Role]*

09 Approval

GUIDANCE *Record who reviewed and approved this document.*

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by			
Reviewed by			
Approved by			

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