

Granularity of Documentation

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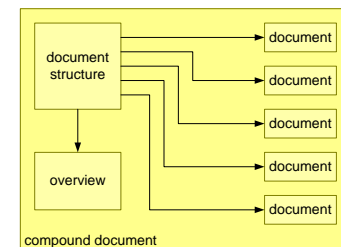
Abstract

The design of documentation is discussed, with emphasis on the requirements, the need for decomposition, the measures needed to maintain overview and criteria for granularity.

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Requirements for the Entire Documentation Structure

Accessibility for the readers

Low threshold for the readers

Low threshold for the authors

Completeness

Consistency

Maintainability

Scalability

Evolvability

Process to ensure the quality of the information

Requirements from Reader Point of View

Convenient *easy*
fast
viewing
printing
searching

Requirements per Document

High cohesion (within the unit)

Low coupling (outside of the unit)

Accessibility for the readers

Low threshold for the reader

Low threshold for the author

Manageable steps to create, review, and change

Clear responsibilities

Clear position and relation with the context

Well-defined status of the information

Timely availability

Ease of reading, “juiciness”

High signal-to-noise ratio: information should not be hidden in a sea of words.

Understandability

Reachability in different ways, e.g., by hierarchical or full search

Reachability in a limited number of steps

single author

limited amount of reviewers

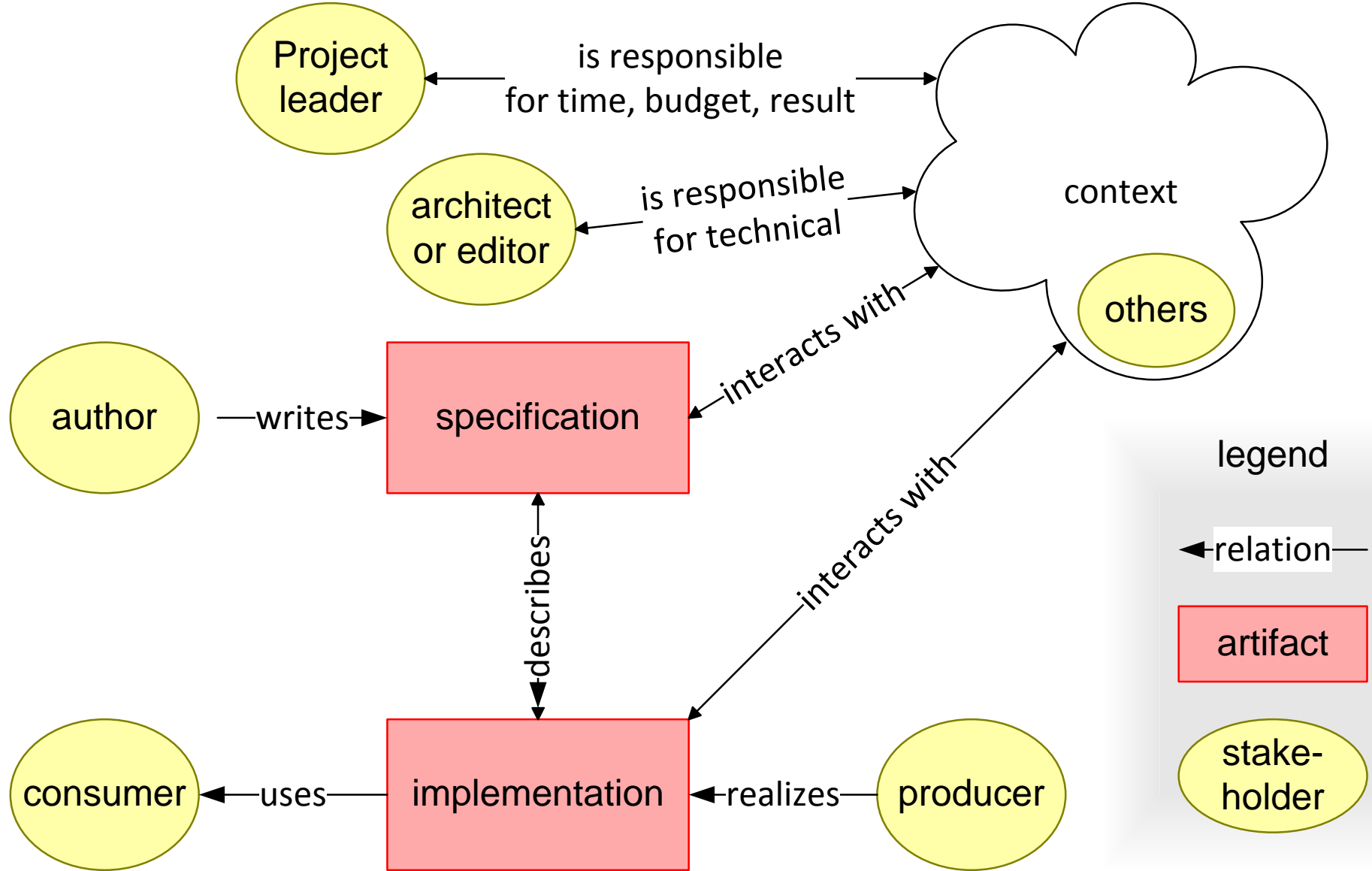
well defined documentation structure

overview specifications at higher
aggregation levels

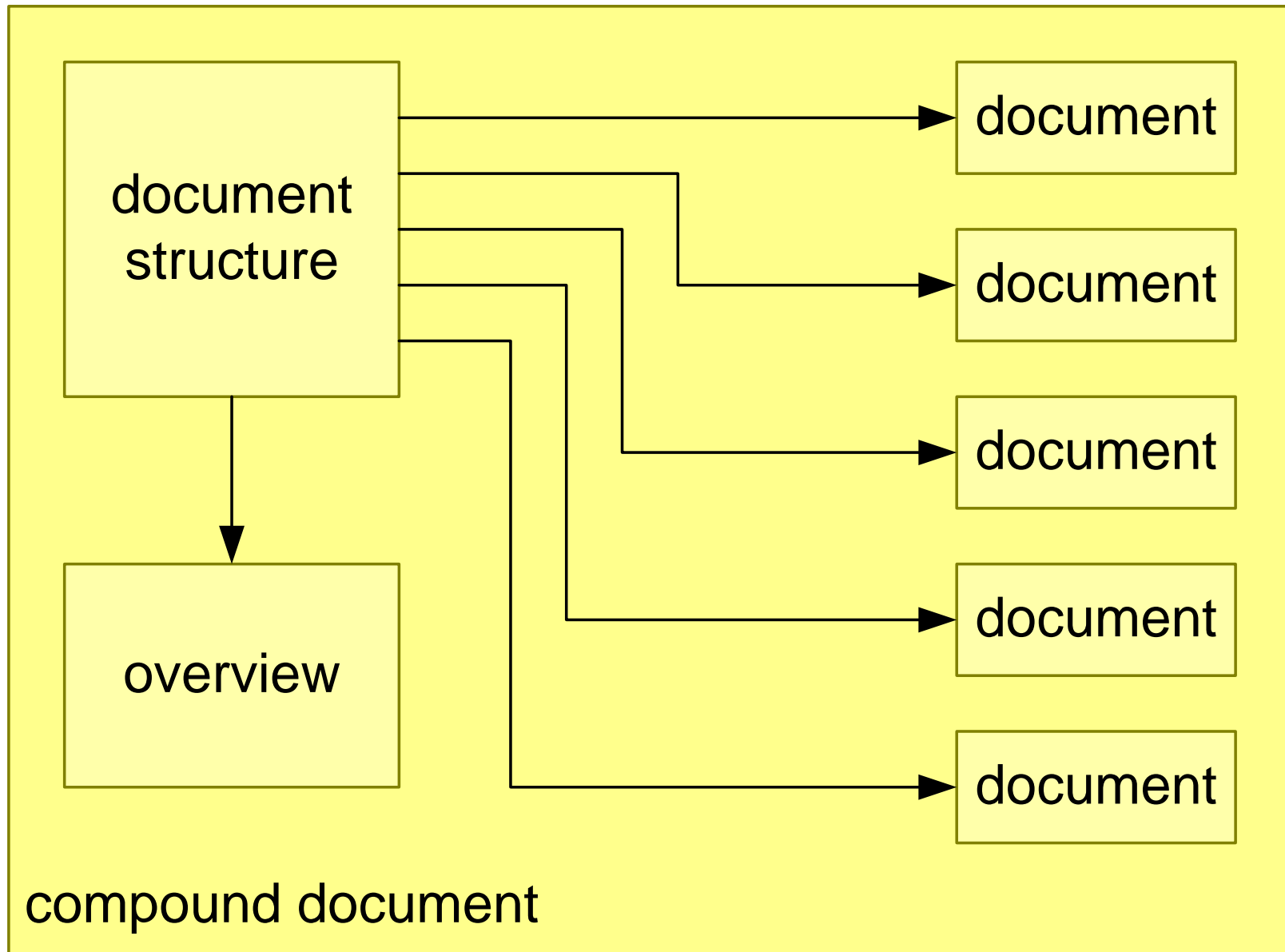
recursive application of structure and
overview

delegation of review process

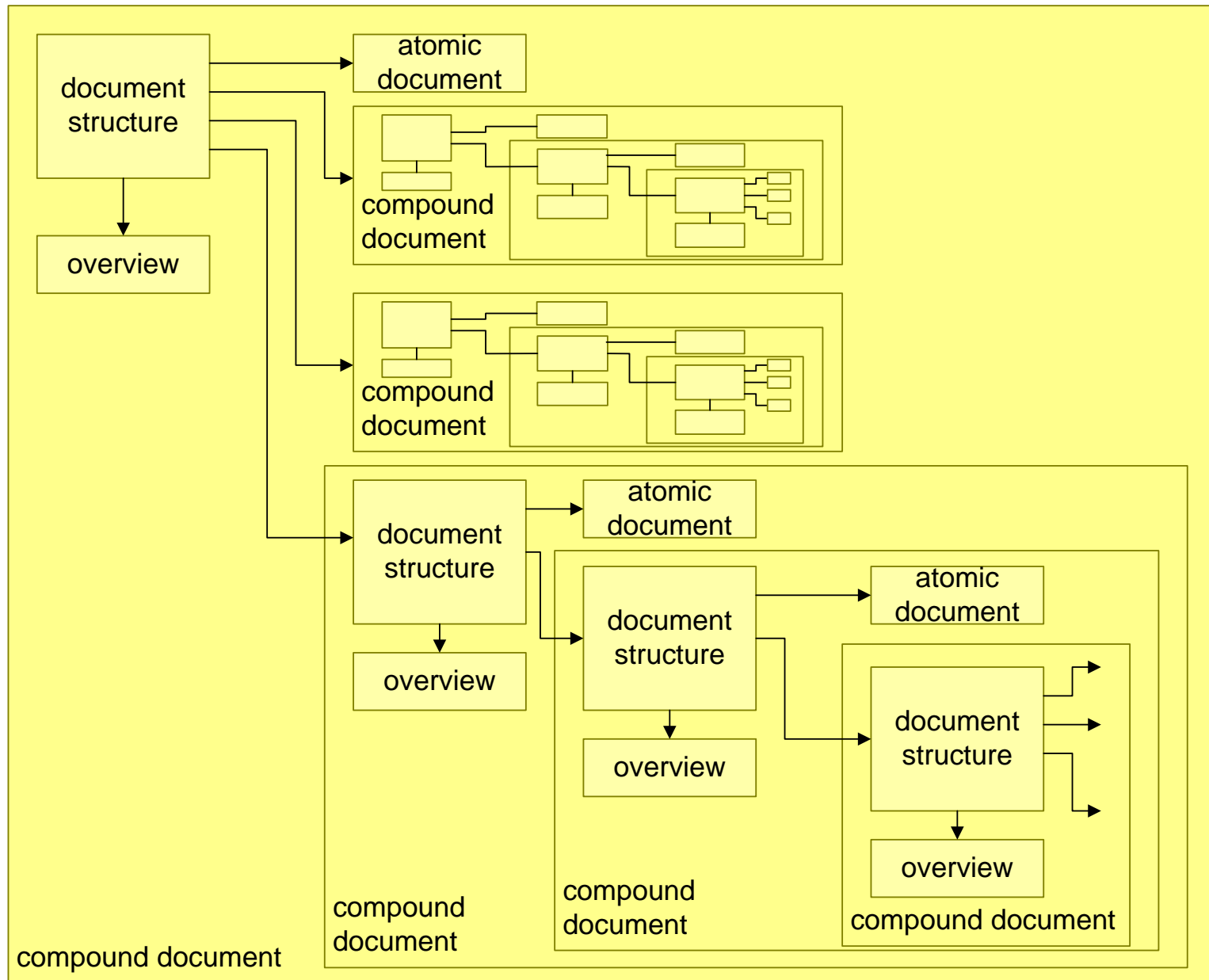
The Stakeholders of a Single Document



Decomposition of Large Documents



Documentation Tree by Recursive Decomposition



Payload: the Ratio between Content and Overhead

