

# Granularity of Documentation

by *Gerrit Muller* USN-SE

e-mail: `gaudisite@gmail.com`

`www.gaudisite.nl`

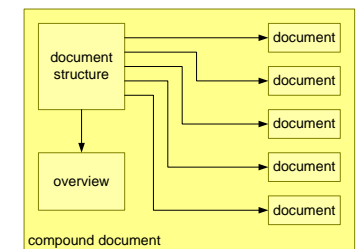
## Abstract

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.

## Distribution

This article or presentation is written as part of the Gaudí project. The Gaudí project philosophy is to improve by obtaining frequent feedback. Frequent feedback is pursued by an open creation process. This document is published as intermediate or nearly mature version to get feedback. Further distribution is allowed as long as the document remains complete and unchanged.

March 27, 2021  
status: concept  
version: 1.2



# 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

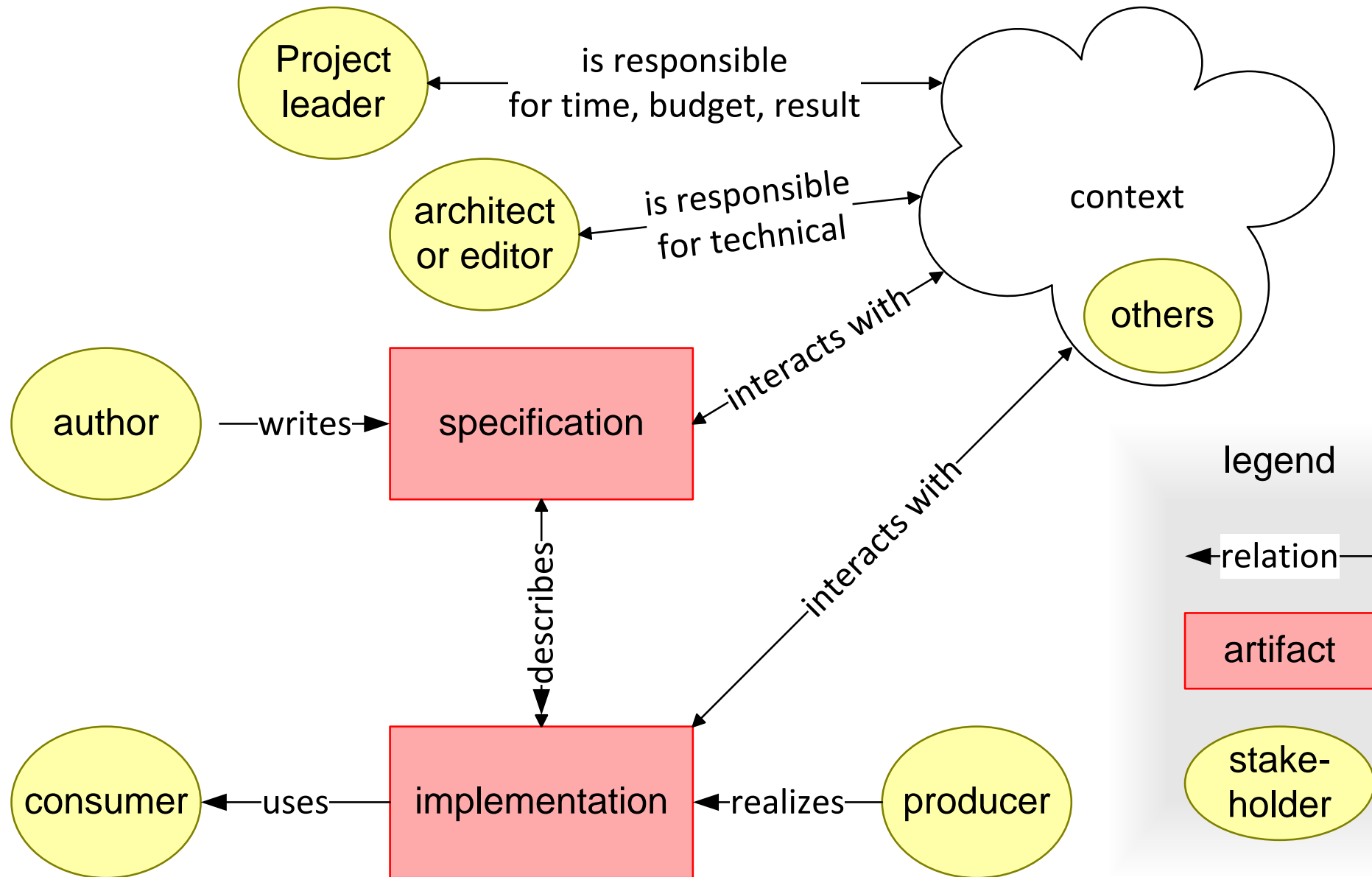
well defined documentation structure

overview specifications at higher  
aggregation levels

recursive application of structure and  
overview

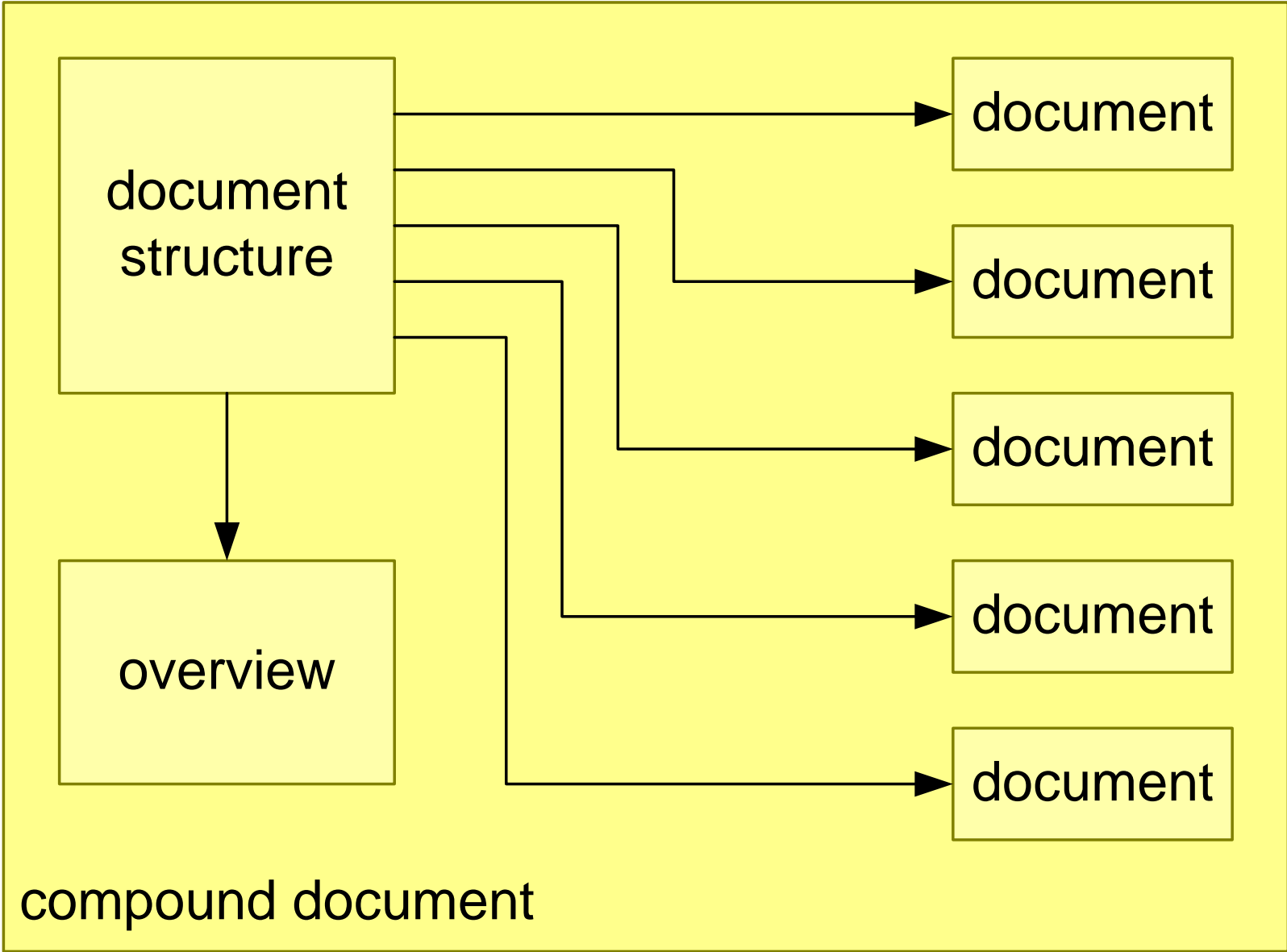
delegation of review process

# The Stakeholders of a Single Document

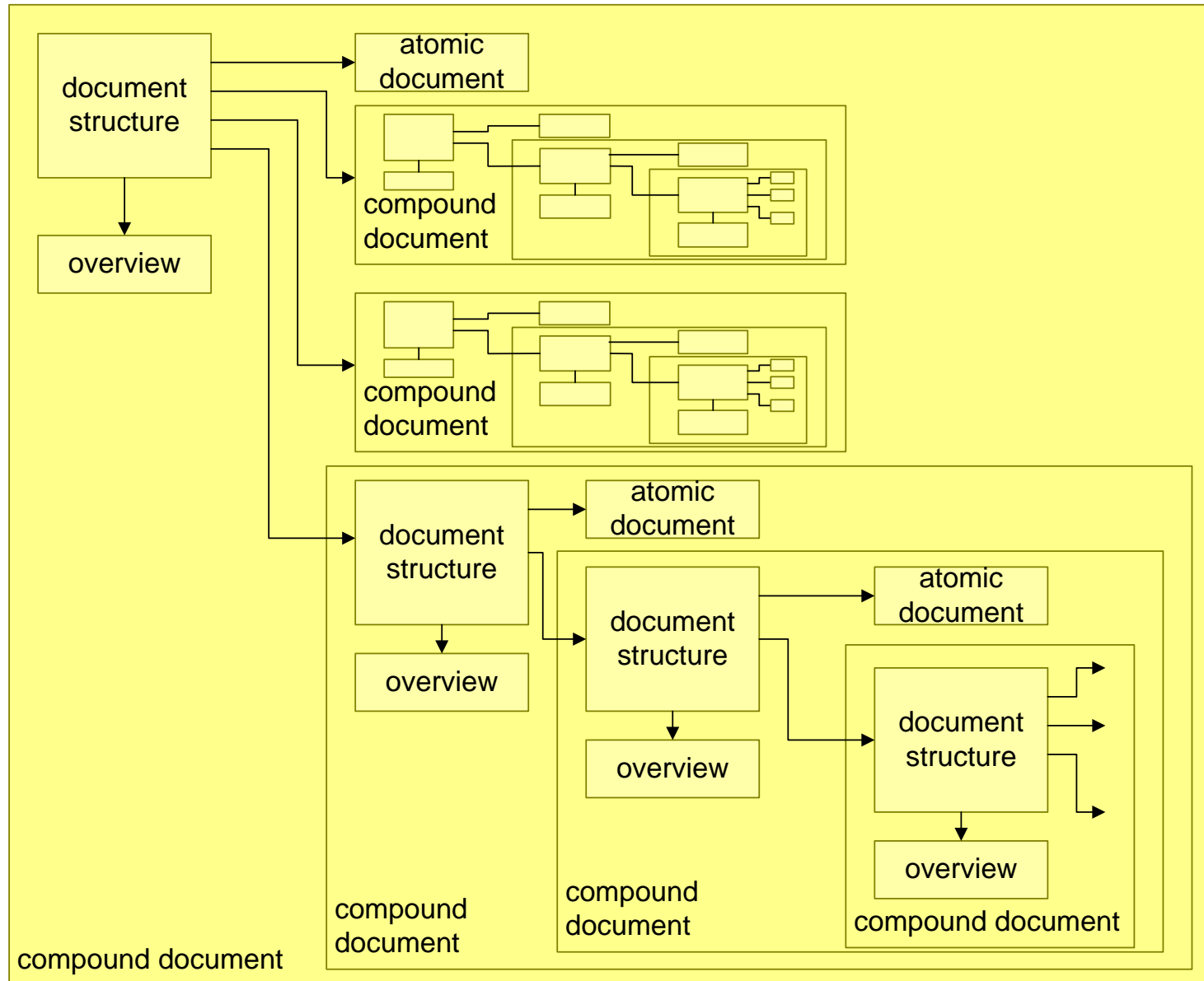




# Decomposition of Large Documents



# Documentation Tree by Recursive Decomposition

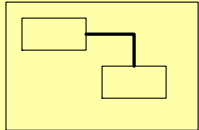


# Payload: the Ratio between Content and Overhead

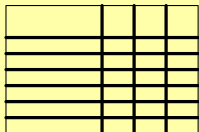
front page

title  
identification  
author  
distribution  
status  
review

history  
changes



diagrams



tables

1. aap
2. noot
3. mies

lists

and ca 50%  
text

← meta information  
max 2 pages →

← contents  
2..18 pages →