

Nugget Systems Architect Activities

by *Gerrit Muller* USN-SE

e-mail: `gaudisite@gmail.com`

`www.gaudisite.nl`

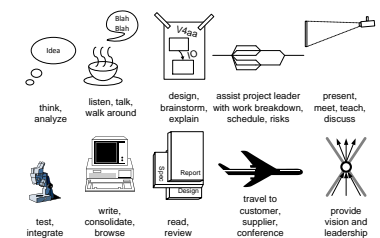
Abstract

The role of the system architect is described from the activities viewpoints. This description shows the inherent tension in this role: a small set of hard deliverables, covering a fuzzy set of responsibilities, hiding an enormous amount of barely visible day-to-day work.

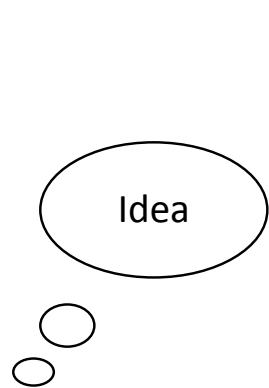
Distribution

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.

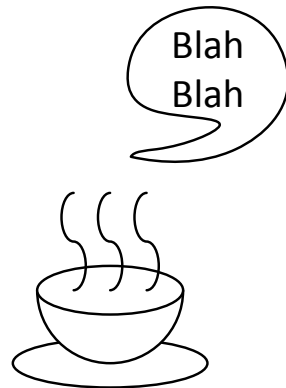
April 5, 2021
status: concept
version: 0



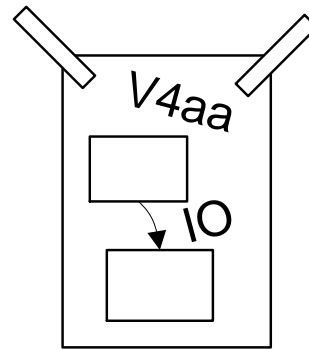
What does the System Architect do?



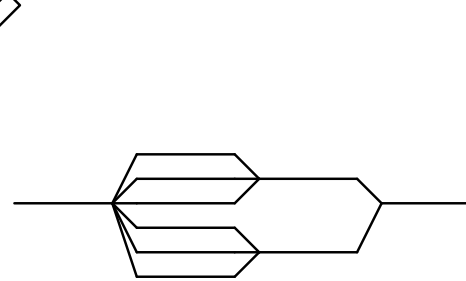
think,
analyze



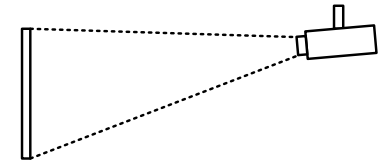
listen, talk,
walk around



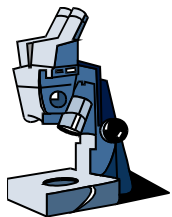
design,
brainstorm,
explain



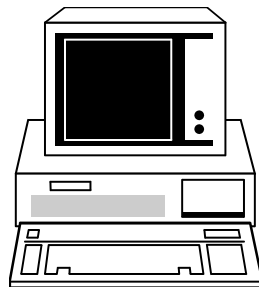
assist project leader
with work breakdown,
schedule, risks



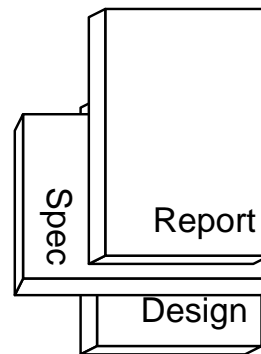
present,
meet, teach,
discuss



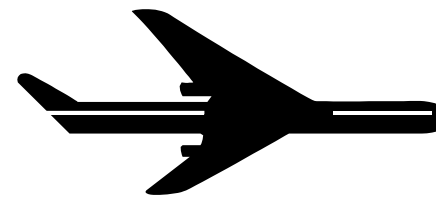
test,
integrate



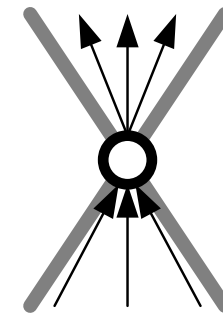
write,
consolidate,
browse



read,
review



travel to
customer,
supplier,
conference



provide
vision and
leadership

From Detail to Overview

		Quantity per year (order-of- magnitude)	architect time per item
consolidation in deliverables meetings informal contacts sampling scanning	→ driving views	10	100 h
	→ shared issues	10^2	1 h
	→ touched details	10^4	0.5 – 10 min
	→ seen details	$10^5 - 10^6$	0.1 – 1 sec
	→ product details	$10^7 - 10^{10}$	
	real-world facts	infinite	

Visible Output versus Invisible Work

