Architecture

CSE 403, Winter 2003
Software Engineering

http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/403/03wi/
Readings and References

• References
  » *Software Architecture*, David Garlan, CMU, 2001
    • http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~able/publications/encycSE2001/
    • http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~able/publications/icse03-dsa/
  » *Enterprise JavaBeans Specification*, Sun Java Community Process
    • http://java.sun.com/products/ejb/docs.html
Software Architecture

• The software architecture of a program or computing system is the structure or structures of the system, which comprise
  » software components
  » the externally visible properties of those components
  » and the relationships among them.

From Software Architecture in Practice, Bass, Clements, Kazman, referenced in Garlan
The architecture of a system describes its gross structure using one or more views

Structure in a view illuminates a set of top-level design decisions

- how the system is composed of interacting parts
- where are the main pathways of interaction
- key properties of the parts
- sufficient information to allow high-level analysis and critical appraisal
Uses of an Architectural Description

• Understanding
  » Abstraction means that we can grasp the major elements in a view and the rationale behind them

• Reuse
  » Reusable chunks must be visible to be recognized, extracted, generalized and reapplied to new areas

• Construction
  » Some views provide a partial blueprint for development - components and dependencies
More Uses of an Architectural Description

- **Evolution**
  - Expose the “load-bearing walls” of the design and distinguish between components and connectors

- **Analysis**
  - Consistency, performance, conformance

- **Management**
  - Milestone: successful analysis of valid architecture

- **Communication**
  - Stakeholders can prioritize explicit tradeoffs
How to describe an architecture?

• “Boxes and lines”
  » graphical, adaptable, intuitive
  » traditional architecture description

• Some issues
  » meaning of the graphical symbols varies
  » inconsistent or incomplete information
  » difficult to formally analyze for consistency, completeness, correctness
  » constraints are hard to show, enforce
Architectural Description Languages

• Formal notations for representing and analyzing architectural descriptions

• Provide a conceptual framework and concrete syntax for characterizing software architectures
  » also provide tools for parsing, displaying, compiling, analyzing, or simulating the architectural description

• Details of the ADL vary widely depending on the intended application domain
  » Like metrics - useful but judgement required for use
Multiple views

- A key understanding is that *multiple views* of the architecture are valid
  - different stakeholders need to see different things
  - different aspects of the system are best viewed from different points of view
- Code-oriented views
  - modular structure of the system, layers
- Execution-oriented views
  - dynamic configurations, performance, reliability
Entities in an execution-oriented view

- **System and Software Components**
  - hardware, programs, data blocks
- **Connectors**
  - mediate interactions among components
- **Configurations**
  - combinations of components and connectors
- **Constraints**
  - resource limitations, operating environment
Enterprise Java Bean Examples

• This is the specification of the Enterprise JavaBeans TM architecture.

• The Enterprise JavaBeans architecture is a component architecture for the development and deployment of component-based distributed business applications.

• Applications written using the Enterprise JavaBeans architecture are scalable, transactional, and multi-user secure.

• These applications may be written once, and then deployed on any server platform that supports the Enterprise JavaBeans specification.
Chap 3: Roles and Scenarios

• Discusses the responsibilities of
  » Enterprise Bean Provider (Aardvark, Wombat)
  » Application Assembler (Wombat)
  » Deployer (IT Staff)
  » EJB Container and Server Providers (Acme)
  » System Administrator (IT Staff)

• with respect to the Enterprise JavaBeans architecture.
Module view of deployed application

(c) Wombat’s application is deployed in ACME’s EJB Container at the ABC enterprise.
6.2.2 What a container provides

The following diagram illustrates the view that a container provides to clients of session beans that provide local and/or remote client views. Note that a client may be a local client of some session beans and a remote client of others.

Client View of session beans deployed in a Container
Inheritance Relationships
A session object does not exist until it is created. When a client creates a session object, the client has a reference to the newly created session object’s component interface.
Figure 8  
OID for session object at start of a transaction.

Object Interaction Diagram

If the instance was passivated it is reactivated
Data Flow Diagrams (DFD)

- DFDs document a process by documenting the flow of data throughout the process.
  - square: external data source or sink
  - arrow: data flow
  - circle: process input data to output data
  - parallel lines: data store

- System user
- Manage user ID
- Current ID
Why do boxes and lines persist?

Boxes and Lines are generally understandable and adaptable

Figure 4: Some mismatch repair techniques, from Garlan, Software Architecture