

WIT MSc Communications Software  
Architecture Description (AD)

WIT Design Patterns Assignment AD: Pacemaker Android Application

*<< Note: This Architecture Description (AD) template from the Open Group TOGAF™ 9.1 architecture framework has been adapted to the purposes of the WIT MSc module on IT Architecture Patterns.>>.*

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Document Overview

The following document shows the Architecture Views of the Pacemaker Android Application for the Design Patterns Module Assignment on Architecture Styles & Patterns into a TOGAF Architecture Description.

# Problem Description

## PROBLEM SCOPE

### PROBLEM SUMMARY

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | Pacemaker Android Application |
| **Industry Domain** | Activity Tracking |
| **Problem Description** | A Play Application was created in the Agile Software Development Module. This assessment seeks to create an Android Application which interfaces with the Play Application using the REST API.  The Android Application will mirror the Play Application as closely as possible as well as add some features specific to the Android Application.  The Android Application should:   1. Track and Log activities and basic stats 2. Have progress reports based on completed activities 3. Connect with friends and compare workouts with friends 4. Prescribe workouts based on completed activities   The Android Application should also exhibit a number of code design patterns. |

### DOMAIN GLOSSARY

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| --- | --- |
| **User** | A registered Pacemaker User can track their activities, connect with friends, compare workouts and generate workouts based on their completed activities. The User can log in via colmcarew.com or via the Android Application. Comparing and prescribing workouts are features solely for the Android Application. |
| **Activities** | Activities are exercise based activities which hold data such as date, duration and distance. These figures are then used for prescribing workouts and progress reports. |

## STAKEHOLDERS CONCERNS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Initiative Sponsors** | Pierre Peclier, Eamon De Leastar, Siobhan Drohan |
| **Project Development Team** | Colm Carew |
| **System Administrator** | Colm Carew |

## REQUIRED QUALITY PROPERTIES

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| **Performance** | System must have acceptable performance and response time for requests. Proximity of components should remain close to not lose performance due to communication overhead. |
| **Usability** | The Android Application must be simple to understand and use.  The user should be able to navigate through all the Android Application’s features without any impediments. |
| **Executability** | The Play Application should be easily deployable to another server without large issues.  The Play Application should run as cheaply as possibly due to limited resources. |
| **Portability** | The system should be relatively easily built upon for a different platform such as iOS. |
| **Topology** | The main application should not become monolithic. |

# Solution Description

Below are the key characteristics of the solution design.

## ARCHITECTURE VIEWS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **VIEW NAME** | **PURPOSE** | **TARGET STAKEHOLDER(s)** |
| **CONTEXT View** | The purpose of this view is to outline the main elements at play in the design of the Pacemaker dashboard:  1.What is the purpose of the system  2.What are the systems features | Data Analyst, CIO |
| **BEHAVIORAL View** | This view lists the processing flows at play for rendering Pacemaker's dashboard. The purpose of this View is to outline:  1.How data gets collected and prepared for storing  2.How analytics data is served to users | CIO  Data Analysts |
| **INFORMATION STRUCTURE View** | Describes how the Pacemaker system stores and manages data.   1. Analytics Data Flow - how the application processes and calculates data 2. Rendering Data Flow – how data is stored and retrieved | Data Analysts  Developers |
| **FUNCTIONAL View** | This specifies the key components of the Pacemaker system and their relationships with one another. | Developers |
| **INFRASTRUCTURE View** | The purpose of this view is to outline the infrastructure behind the design such as servers, databases, applications, how they connect to one another and how the user can connect to the applications. | System Administrators |

## CONTEXT VIEW

### VIEW INTENT

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| **MODEL NAME** | **PURPOSE** |
| **SYSTEM CONTEXT Model** | The purpose of this model is to show the solution in terms of system components. |
| **SYSTEM FEATURES Model** | The purpose of this model is to show the solution in terms of it’s features. |

### VIEW MODELLING ARTIFACTS

#### SYSTEM CONTEXT MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Context View Type** | To illustrate the relationship between the solution and the environment. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **System Context Modelling** | This model shows the Pacemaker Dashboard capabilities in the centre of the model.  All the user data is stored and collected from the MySQL database.  Analytics data is calculated at run time and is not stored. Data used to calculated the analytics are the finished activities which are stored in the database. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Data-driven Style: Agile Data Processing** | User Analytics data is calculated at run time and is not persisted to any database. Data regarding activities is pulled from the database when the user requests analytic calculations so all calculations are near real time. |
| **Domain Pattern: Shared Database** | User data, activities and friends are all stored within the same database. Data can be pulled or pushed from external applications into this database via REST with the Pacemaker Play Application. |

#### SYSTEM FEATURES MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Context View Type** | The purpose of this view is to outline the main features of the Android Application. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **System Feature Modelling** | This model shows that the Application is composed of one large component, the Pacemaker Dashboard.  This model shows how features of the solution are decomposed and allocated within the main components.  Most of the features require some data being pulled and manipulated from the database or data being edited/created. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Data-driven Style: Agile Data Processing** | User Analytics data is calculated at run time and is not persisted to any database. Data regarding activities is pulled from the database when the user requests analytic calculations so all calculations are near real time. |
| **Domain Pattern: Shared Database** | User data, activities and friends are all stored within the same database. Data can be pulled or pushed from external applications into this database via REST with the Pacemaker Play Application. |

## BEHAVIORAL VIEW

### VIEW INTENT

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| **MODEL NAME** | **PURPOSE** |
| **Data Persistence** | This model describes the data persistence process. The process is triggered every time a User edits/create data (e.g. a new activity, a modification of an older activity) in the Android Application.  The flow describes how all data is created, edited and deleted in this Pacemaker Android solution. |
| **Data Rendering** | This model describes the type of tasks the Pacemaker Dashboard performs to fetch the activity data from the Pacemaker website (REST communication), and transforms the data to render it on the Android screen. |

### VIEW MODELLING ARTIFACTS

#### DATA PERSISTENCE MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Behavioral View Type** | The purpose of this view is to show communication mechanisms required to coordinate operations between functional elements.  It also outlines triggers, events, and flow-logic.. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Process Flow Modelling** | This model shows how a user request in the Android Application for editing/creating data persists to the database through REST requests. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Service Registry Pattern** | The Android Application needs to determine the location of the Pacemaker website in order for it to to send REST requests. |

#### DATA RENDERING MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Behavioral View Type** | To outline the process by which the activity and friend data is fetched and rendered in the Android Application.  It also outlines the steps that manipulate data before it is displayed to the user. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Process Flow Modelling** | This model shows the steps involved in activity and user data being obtained from the Pacemaker website via REST. The data is then processed via the Android Application and displayed on screen for the user to view. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **MVC Pattern** | Model-View-Controller pattern to render Android Activity pages based on the data collected and manipulated from the user activities and friends. The model for this pattern is the data (the user or the activity), the controller is the logic behind processing and manipulating the data and the view is the Android Activity the user sees. |

## INFORMATION VIEW

### VIEW INTENT

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| **MODEL NAME** | **PURPOSE** |
| **Analytics data flow** | This model outlines the components that transform data pulled from the web application.  The data flow described in this model is a similar to an ETL model as the data is extracted from the database (REST from the web application), transformed via domain logic in the Android Application and finally loaded onto the users screen. |
| **Rendering data flow** | This model presents the flow of requests and responses of objects throughout application components. It is triggered by a user performing an action in the Android Application which causes data to be requested via REST. |

### VIEW MODELLING ARTIFACTS

#### ANALYTICS DATA FLOW MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Information Services View Type** | Describes how the architecture stores data and defines any significant data structures used within the system.  It also shows the data exchange between functional elements. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **ETL Orchestration Modelling** | To describe the roles of application components in the extract, transform and load phases of data. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Pipes & Filters Pattern** | The purpose of this pattern is to implement a message processing mechanism which is platform independent. Thus making it re-usable for future views.  It also identifies the type of transformation functions and data objects involved in the input and output of each pipe and filter. |

#### RENDERING DATA FLOW MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Information Services View Type** | Describes how the architecture stores data and define any significant data structures used within the system.  It also shows the data exchange between functional elements |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Data Flow Modelling** | This model shows the flow of data when the Android Application makes a REST request to the Play Web Application. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Synchronous Point to Point Processing pattern** | In this case this pattern sends a message from the Android Application to the one receiver which is currently the Raspberry Pi running the Pacemaker Web Application. There is only one receiver for now so only one receiver can receive the message. |

## FUNCTIONAL VIEW

### VIEW INTENT

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| --- | --- |
| **MODEL NAME** | **PURPOSE** |
| **Ports and Adapters** | The purpose of this view is outline the structure of the Pacemaker Dashboard.  The main reason behind using this style is to allow clients (regardless if client is a database, a user or another system) to interact with an application in a consistent way. In the case here the interaction with the Play Application is via the Android Application using the REST API. |

### VIEW MODELLING ARTIFACTS

#### PORTS AND ADAPTERS MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Functional View Type** | Describes the functional elements of the system in terms of their static functional structure. As illustrated by the image, the main function of this system is the Play Application with the Android Application being a front for some of the features. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Application Structure Modelling** | The purpose of this structure is to allow the various applications to communicate with the main application (Play Application) in a consistent manner. |
| **STYLE/PATTERNS USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Ports and Adapters Style** | This style aims to provide a level of abstraction by reducing coupling of the environment. It allows an application to be driven by users, applications and automated scripts. |

## INFRASTRUCTURE VIEW

### VIEW INTENT

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MODEL NAME** | **PURPOSE** |
| **Infrastructure** | The purpose of this view is outline the infrastructure required to run the system. It shows all applications and databases and what server/framework each is run on. |

### VIEW MODELLING ARTIFACTS

#### INFRASTRUCTURE MODEL

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| **VIEWPOINT USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Infrastructure View Type** | Describes the hardware and software used for the system to be operational. |
| **MODEL KIND USED** | **JUSTIFICATION / INTENT** |
| **Application Structure Modelling** | The purpose of this structure is to allow the various infrastructural components used to be transparent. Should be designed so reconfiguration of the infrastructure is not an issue (e.g. adding a server as an application handler). |

## ARCHITECTURE PERSPECTIVES

### PERFORMANCE PERSPECTIVE

#### RECORDING of DESIGN DECISIONS / TRADE-OFFS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| .**ID** | **DECISION ITEM** | **DECISION MADE** |
| **#1** | **System must have acceptable performance and response time for requests** | **Decision**: All components of the architecture must be kept in close proximity such that the Web Application has a solid connection to the database.  **Trade-off:** All components are in one location with no backup currently. Moving any of the components will cause performance issues due to communication overhead. |

### USABILITY PERSPECTIVE

#### RECORDING of DESIGN DECISIONS / TRADE-OFFS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| .**ID** | **DECISION ITEM** | **DECISION MADE** |
| **#1** | **The Android Application must be simple to understand and use.**  **The user should be able to navigate through all the Android Application’s features without any impediments.** | **Decision**: Android Application must be kept simple in order for people of all age groups and computer skills to be able to use it.  **Trade-off**: Application may become too simplified such that it does not serve a purpose or perform any novel tasks that entice new customers. |

### EXECUTABILITY PERSPECTIVE

#### RECORDING of DESIGN DECISIONS / TRADE-OFFS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| .**ID** | **DECISION ITEM** | **DECISION MADE** |
| **#1** | **The Play Application should be easily deployable to another server without large issues.**  **The Play Application should also run as cheaply as possibly due to limited resources.** | **Decision:** The application and database are run off the same server which is a Raspberry Pi model 1b. This is cost effective as the Pi consumes little power and there is only one server.  **Trade-off**: Risk of architecture of becoming monolithic as all functionality of the application is in one place with every other front end application connecting to this possible monolith. |

### PORTABILITY PERSPECTIVE

#### RECORDING of DESIGN DECISIONS / TRADE-OFFS

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| --- | --- | --- |
| .**ID** | **DECISION ITEM** | **DECISION MADE** |
| **#1** | **The system should be relatively easily built upon for a different platform such as iOS.** | **Decision**: The Play Application should store all information relating to any of Pacemaker applications. This allows all new applications being developed to obtain up to date data via REST.  **Trade-off**: Main application can become monolithic over time and data storage may become an issue depending on number of users and uploads. |

### TOPOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

#### RECORDING of DESIGN DECISIONS / TRADE-OFFS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| .**ID** | **DECISION ITEM** | **DECISION MADE** |
| **#1** | **The main application should not become monolithic.** | **Decision**: Using the Ports and Adapters Styles opens the design to becoming monolithic. This is due to there being one main node (Play Application).  **Trade-off**: For design not to become monolithic the features set will need to remain humble rather than verbose as all feature additions will cause the main node to grow. |