

CHAPTER 3

SOFTWARE DESIGN

ACRONYMS

ADL	Architecture Description Languages
CBD	Component-Based Design
CRC	Class Responsibility Collaborator Card
ERD	Entity-Relationship Diagram
IDL	Interface Description Language
DFD	Data Flow Diagram
PDL	Pseudo-Code and Program Design Language
OO	Object-Oriented

INTRODUCTION

Design is defined in [1] as both “the process of defining the architecture, components, interfaces, and other characteristics of a system or component” and “the result of [that] process.” Viewed as a process, software design is the software engineering life cycle activity in which software requirements are analyzed in order to produce a description of the software’s internal structure that will serve as the basis for its construction. More precisely, a software design (the result) must describe the software architecture—that is, how software is decomposed and organized into components—and the interfaces between those components. It must also describe the components at a level of detail that enable their construction.

Software design plays an important role in developing software: it allows software engineers to produce various models that form a kind of blueprint of the solution to be implemented. We can analyze and evaluate these models to determine whether or not they will allow us to fulfill the various requirements. We can also examine and evaluate various alternative solutions and trade-offs. Finally, we can use the resulting models to plan subsequent development activities, in addition

to using them as input and the starting point of construction and testing.

In a standard listing of software life cycle processes, such as IEEE Std 12207 Software Life Cycle Processes [2], software design consists of two activities that fit between software requirements analysis and software construction:

- ♦ Software architectural design (sometimes called top-level design): describing software’s top-level structure and organization and identifying the various components;
- ♦ Software detailed design: describing each component sufficiently to allow for its construction.

The current Software Design Knowledge Area (KA) description does not discuss every topic whose name contains the word “design.” In Tom DeMarco’s terminology [3], the KA discussed in this chapter deals mainly with D-design (decomposition design, whose goal is to map software into component pieces). However, because of its importance in the field of software architecture, we will also address FP-design (family pattern design, whose goal is to establish exploitable commonalities in a family of software). By contrast, the Software Design KA does not address I-design (invention design, which is usually performed during the software requirements process with the goal of conceptualizing and specifying software to satisfy discovered needs and requirements), since this topic should be considered part of the Software Requirements KA.

The Software Design KA description is related specifically to Software Requirements, Software Construction, Software Engineering Management, Software Engineering Models and Methods, Software Quality, and Computing Foundations KAs.

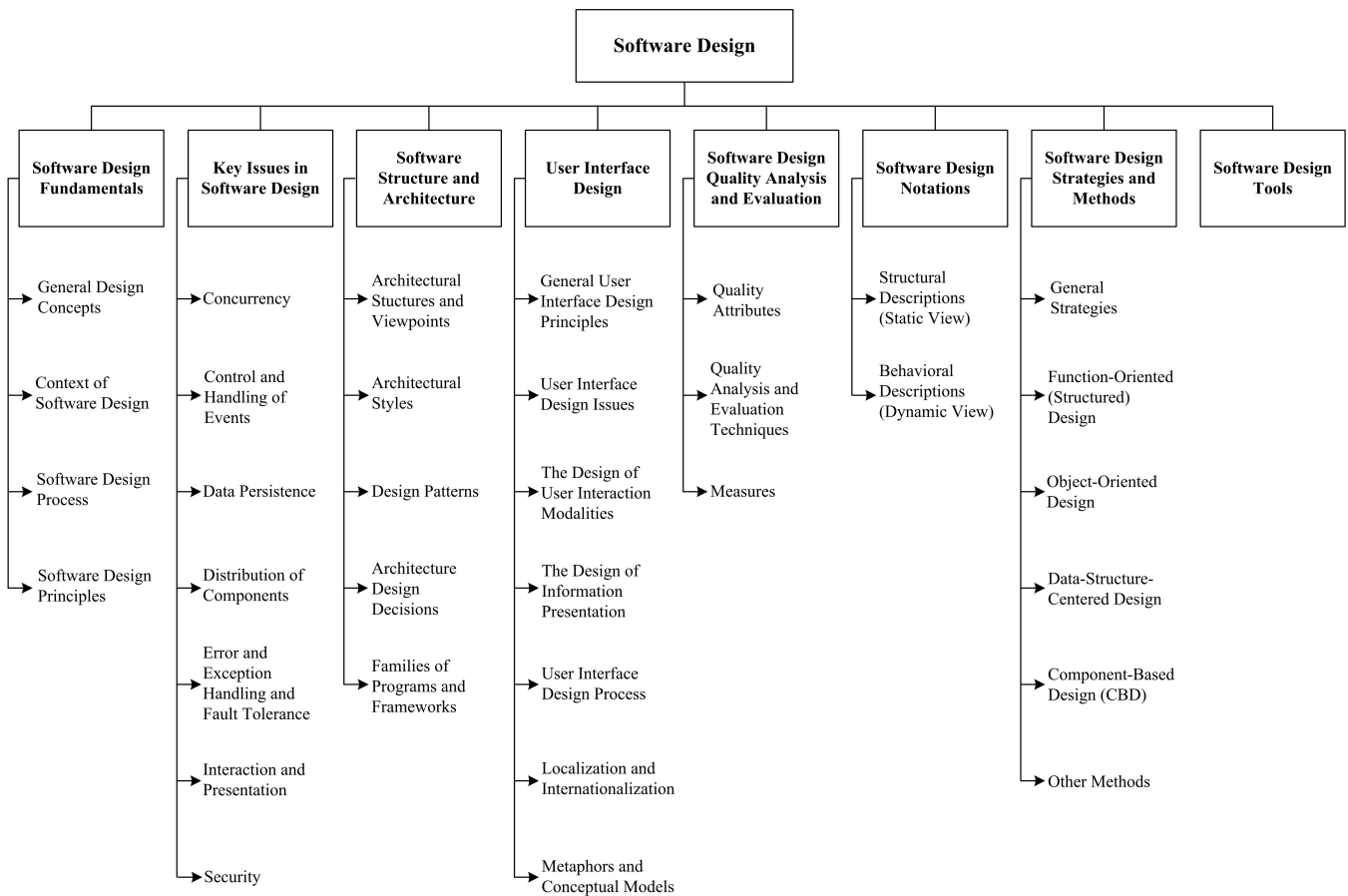


Figure 1: Breakdown of Topics

BREAKDOWN OF TOPICS FOR SOFTWARE DESIGN

1. Software Design Fundamentals

The concepts, notions, and terminology introduced here form an underlying basis for understanding the role and scope of software design.

1.1. General Design Concepts

[4* c1]

Software is not the only field where design is involved. In the general sense, we can view design as a form of problem solving. For example, the concept of a *wicked* problem—a problem with no definitive solution—is interesting in terms of understanding the limits of design. A number of other notions and concepts are also of interest in understanding design in its general sense: goals, constraints, alternatives, representations, and solutions.

(See also Problem Solving Techniques in Computing Foundations KA.)

1.2. Context of Software Design

[4* c3]

To understand the role of software design, it is important to understand the context in which it fits: the software engineering life cycle. Thus, it is important to understand the major characteristics of software requirements analysis vs. software design vs. software construction vs. software testing.

1.3. Software Design Process

[4* c2]

Software design is generally considered a two-step process.

1.3.1. Architectural design

Architectural design describes how software is decomposed and organized into components.

127 1.3.2. Detailed design
 128 *Detailed design* describes the specific
 129 behavior of these components.
 130 The output of this process is a set of models
 131 and artifacts that record the major decisions
 132 that have been taken.
 133 1.4. *Software Design Principles*
 134 [4* c1]
 135 [5* c6,c7,c21]
 136 [6* c1,c8,c9]
 137 According to [7], a *principle* is “a
 138 comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine,
 139 or assumption.” Software design principles are
 140 key notions considered fundamental to many
 141 different software design approaches and
 142 concepts. Software design principles include
 143 abstraction, coupling, and cohesion;
 144 decomposition and modularization;
 145 encapsulation/information hiding; separation
 146 of interface and implementation; sufficiency,
 147 completeness, and primitiveness; and
 148 separation of concerns.
 149 1.4.1. Abstraction
 150 According to [1], *abstraction* is “a view
 151 of an object that focuses on the
 152 information relevant to a particular
 153 purpose and ignores the remainder of
 154 the information” (see also Abstraction in
 155 Computing Foundations). In the context
 156 of software design, two key abstraction
 157 mechanisms are parameterization and
 158 specification. Abstraction by
 159 specification leads to three major kinds
 160 of abstraction: procedural abstraction,
 161 data abstraction, and control (iteration)
 162 abstraction.
 163 1.4.2. Coupling and cohesion
 164 *Coupling* is defined as “a measure of the
 165 interdependence among modules in a
 166 computer program,” whereas *cohesion* is
 167 defined as “a measure of the strength of
 168 association of the elements within a module”
 169 [1].

170 1.4.3. Decomposition and modularization
 171 *Decomposing* and *modularizing* means
 172 that large software are divided into a
 173 number of smaller independent ones,
 174 usually with the goal of placing different
 175 functionalities or responsibilities in
 176 different components.
 177 1.4.4. Encapsulation/information hiding
 178 *Encapsulation/information hiding*
 179 means grouping and packaging the ele-
 180 ments and internal details of an abstrac-
 181 tion and making those details
 182 inaccessible.
 183 1.4.5. Separation of interface and implemen-
 184 tation
 185 Separating interface and implementation
 186 involves defining a component by speci-
 187 fying a public interface (known to the
 188 clients) that is separate from the details
 189 of how the component is realized.
 190 1.4.6. Sufficiency, completeness and
 191 primitiveness
 192 Achieving sufficiency, completeness,
 193 and primitiveness means ensuring that a
 194 software component captures all the
 195 important characteristics of an
 196 abstraction and nothing more.
 197 1.4.7. Separation of concerns
 198 Separation of concerns suggests that any
 199 complex problem can be more easily
 200 handled if it is subdivided into pieces
 201 that can each be solved and/or optimized
 202 independently. A *concern* is an “area of
 203 interest with respect to a software
 204 design” [8]. By separating concerns into
 205 smaller—and therefore more
 206 manageable—pieces, a problem takes
 207 less effort and time to solve.
 208 **2. Key Issues in Software Design**
 209 A number of key issues must be dealt with
 210 when designing software. Some are quality
 211 concerns that all software must address—for
 212 example, performance. Another important
 213 issue is how to decompose, organize, and
 214 package software components. This is so fund-
 215 amental that all design approaches must
 216 address it in one way or another (see topic 1.4,

217 “*Software Design Principles*,” and subarea 7,
218 “*Software Design Strategies and Methods*”).
219 In contrast, other issues “deal with some aspect
220 of software’s behavior that is not in the appli-
221 cation domain, but which addresses some of
222 the supporting domains” [9]. Such issues,
223 which often cross-cut the system’s
224 functionality, have been referred to as *aspects*,
225 which “tend not to be units of software’s func-
226 tional decomposition, but rather to be proper-
227 ties that affect the performance or semantics of
228 the components in systemic ways” [10]. A
229 number of these key, cross-cutting issues are
230 discussed in the following sections (presented
231 in alphabetical order):

232 2.1. *Concurrency*

233 [5* c18]

234 This issue looks at how to decompose the
235 software into processes, tasks, and threads and
236 deal with related efficiency, atomicity,
237 synchronization, and scheduling issues.

238 2.2. *Control and Handling of Events*

239 [5* c21]

240 This issue looks at how to organize data and
241 control flow as well as how to handle reactive
242 and temporal events through various
243 mechanisms such as implicit invocation and
244 call-backs.

245 2.3. *Data Persistence*

246 [11* c9]

247 This issue looks at how to handle long-lived
248 data.

249

250 2.4. *Distribution of Components*

251 [5* c18]

252 This issue looks at how to distribute the
253 software across the hardware, how the com-
254 ponents communicate, and how middleware
255 can be used to deal with heterogeneous
256 software.

257 2.5. *Error and Exception Handling and Fault 258 Tolerance*

259 [5* c18]

260 This issue looks at how to prevent and tolerate
261 faults and deal with exceptional conditions.

262 2.6. *Interaction and Presentation*

263 [5* c16]

264 This issue looks at how to structure and
265 organize interactions with users as well as the
266 presentation of information (for example,
267 separation of presentation and business logic
268 using the Model-View-Controller approach).
269 Note that this topic does not specify user
270 interface details, which is the task of user
271 interface design (see subarea 4, “User
272 Interface Design”).

273 2.7. *Security*

274 [5* c12, c18, 12* c4]

275 This issue looks at how to
276 prevent unauthorized disclosure, creation,
277 changing, deleting or denying of information
278 and other resources; and how to tolerate
279 security-related attacks or violations by
280 limiting damage, continuing service, speeding
281 repair and recovery, and failing and
282 recovering securely. Access control is
283 fundamental to much of security; one must
284 also ensure the proper use of cryptography.

285 3. **Software Structure and Architecture**

286 In its strict sense, a *software architecture* is
287 “the set of structures needed to reason about
288 the system, which comprise software
289 elements, relations among them, and
290 properties of both” [13*]. Architecture thus
291 attempts to define the internal *structure* of the
292 resulting software. During the mid-1990s,
293 however, software architecture started to
294 emerge as a broader discipline that involved
295 the study of software structures and architec-
296 tures in a more generic way. This gave rise to
297 a number of interesting ideas about software
298 design at different levels of abstraction. Some
299 of these concepts can be useful during the
300 architectural design (for example, architec-
301 tural style) of specific software as well as
302 during the detailed design (for example,
303 lower-level design patterns) of that software.
304 But they can also be useful for designing
305 generic software, leading to the design of
306 families of programs (also known as *product*
307 *lines*). Interestingly, most of these concepts

308 can be seen as attempts to describe, and thus
309 reuse, generic design knowledge.

310 3.1. Architectural Structures and Viewpoints 311 [13* c1]

312 Different high-level facets of a software
313 design can and should be described and
314 documented. These facets are often called
315 *views*: “A view represents a partial aspect of a
316 software architecture that shows specific
317 properties of a software system” [13*]. These
318 distinct views pertain to distinct issues
319 associated with software design—for
320 example, the logical view (satisfying the
321 functional requirements) vs. the process view
322 (concurrency issues) vs. the physical view
323 (distribution issues) vs. the development view
324 (how the design is broken down into imple-
325 mentation units). Other authors use different
326 terminologies—like behavioral vs. functional
327 vs. structural vs. data modeling views. In
328 summary, a software design is a multi-faceted
329 artifact produced by the design process and
330 generally composed of relatively independent
331 and orthogonal views.

332 3.2. Architectural Styles 333 [13* c1, c2, c3, c4, c5]

334 An architectural style is “a specialization of
335 element and relation types, together with a set
336 of constraints on how they can be used”
337 [13*]. An architectural style can thus be seen
338 as providing the software’s high-level
339 organization. Various authors have identified
340 a number of major architectural styles.

- 341 ♦ General structure (for example, layers,
342 pipes, filters, blackboard)
- 343 ♦ Distributed systems (for example, client-
344 server, three-tiers, broker)
- 345 ♦ Interactive systems (for example, Model-
346 View-Controller, Presentation-
347 Abstraction-Control)
- 348 ♦ Adaptable systems (for example, micro-
349 kernel, reflection)
- 350 ♦ Others (for example, batch, interpreters,
351 process control, rule-based).

352 3.3. Design Patterns 353 [14* c3,c4,c5]

354 Succinctly described, a pattern is “a common
355 solution to a common problem in a given
356 context” [15]. While architectural styles can
357 be viewed as patterns describing the high-
358 level organization of software, other design
359 patterns can be used to describe details at a
360 lower, more local level (their
361 *microarchitecture*).

- 362 ♦ Creational patterns (for example, builder,
363 factory, prototype, singleton)
- 364 ♦ Structural patterns (for example, adapter,
365 bridge, composite, decorator, façade,
366 flyweight, proxy)
- 367 ♦ Behavioral patterns (for example,
368 command, interpreter, iterator, mediator,
369 memento, observer, state, strategy,
370 template, visitor)

371 3.4. Architecture Design Decisions 372 [5* c6]

373 Architectural design is a creative process.
374 During this process, software architects have
375 to make a number of fundamental decisions
376 that profoundly affect the software and its
377 development process. It is more useful to think
378 of the architectural design process from a
379 decision perspective rather than from an
380 activity perspective.

381 3.5. Families of Programs and Frameworks 382 [5* c6,c7,c16]

383 One possible approach to allow the reuse of
384 software designs and components is to design
385 families of software, also known as *software*
386 *product lines*. This can be done by identifying
387 the commonalities among members of such
388 families and by using reusable and custo-
389 mizable components to account for the
390 variability among family members.

391 In OO programming, a key related notion is
392 that of the framework: a partially complete
393 software subsystem that can be extended by
394 appropriately instantiating specific plug-ins.

395 4. User Interface Design

396 User interface design is an essential part of
397 the software design process. To achieve a
398 software’s full potential, its user interface
399 should be designed to match the skills,

400 experience, and expectations of its anticipated
401 users.

402 4.1 General User Interface Design Principles

403 [5* c29-web, 16* c2]¹

- 404 ♦ *Learnability*. The software should be easy
405 to learn so that the user can rapidly start
406 getting some work done with the software.
- 407 ♦ *User familiarity*. The interface should use
408 terms and concepts drawn from the
409 experiences of the people who will make
410 most use of the software.
- 411 ♦ *Consistency*. The interface should be
412 consistent so that comparable operations
413 are activated in the same way.
- 414 ♦ *Minimal surprise*. The behavior of
415 software should not surprise users.
- 416 ♦ *Recoverability*. The interface should
417 provide mechanisms allowing users to
418 recover from errors.
- 419 ♦ *User guidance*. The interface should give
420 meaningful feedback when errors occur
421 and provide context-related help to users.
- 422 ♦ *User diversity*. The interface should
423 provide appropriate interaction
424 mechanisms for different types of users.

425 4.2 User Interface Design Issues

426 [5* c29-web, 16* c2]

427 User interface design should solve two key
428 issues:

429 (1) How should the user interact with the
430 software?

431 (2) How should information from the
432 software be presented to the user?

433 User interface must integrate user interaction
434 and information presentation. User interface
435 design should consider a compromise
436 between the most appropriate styles of
437 interaction and presentation for the software,
438 the background and experience of the
439 software users, and the available devices.

¹ Chapter 29 is a web-based chapter available
at <http://www.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/~ifs/Books/SE9/WebChapters/index.html>

440 4.3 The Design of User Interaction Modalities

441 [5* c29-web, 16* c2]

442 User interaction means issuing commands and
443 associated data to the software. User
444 interaction styles can be classified into the
445 primary styles as follows.

- 446 ♦ *Question-answer*. The interaction is
447 essentially restricted to a single question-
448 answer exchange between the user and the
449 software. The user issues a question to the
450 software, and the software returns the
451 answer to the question. It is line-oriented.
- 452 ♦ *Direct manipulation*. Users interact
453 directly with objects on the screen. Direct
454 manipulation often includes a pointing
455 device (such as a mouse, trackball, or
456 finger on touch screens) that guides the
457 manipulated object and action that
458 specifies what should be done with that
459 object.
- 460 ♦ *Menu selection*. The user selects a
461 command from a menu list of commands.
- 462 ♦ *Form fill-in*. The user fills in the fields of
463 a form. Sometimes fields include menus,
464 in which case the form has action buttons
465 for the user to initiate action.
- 466 ♦ *Command language*. The user issues a
467 command and related parameters to direct
468 the software what to do.
- 469 ♦ *Natural language*. The user issues a
470 command in natural language. That is, the
471 natural language is a front end to a
472 command language and is parsed and
473 translated to software commands.

474 4.4 The Design of Information Presentation

475 [5* c29-web, 16* c2]

476 Software often needs to provide some way of
477 presenting information to users. Such
478 information presentation may be a direct
479 representation of the input information or it
480 may be graphical information. A good design
481 should keep the information presentation
482 separate from the information itself.

483 Software engineers must consider software
484 response time and feedback in the design of
485 information presentation. Software response
486 time is generally measured from the point at
487 which a user executes a certain control action
488 until the software responds with the desired
489 output or response. Before the software
490 returns the desired response, it should give
491 feedback on what the software is doing.
492 Software feedback should not be expressed in
493 abstract and general terms but should restate
494 and rephrase the user's input to indicate what
495 processing is being completed from this
496 input..

497 When large amounts of information have to
498 be presented, abstract visualizations that link
499 data items can be used.

500 According to the style of information
501 presentation, designers should think about
502 how to color the interface. There are several
503 important guidelines, which follow.

- 504 ♦ *Limit the number of colors used.*
- 505 ♦ *Use color change to show the change of*
506 *software status.*
- 507 ♦ *Use color coding to support the user's*
508 *task.*
- 509 ♦ *Use color coding in a thoughtful and*
510 *consistent way.*

511 4.5 User Interface Design Process

512 [5* c29-web, 16* c2]

513 User interface design is an iterative process;
514 interface prototypes are often used to decide
515 the features, organization, and look of the
516 software user interface. This process includes
517 three core activities:

- 518 ♦ *User analysis.* In this phase, the designer
519 should analyze the users' tasks, working
520 environment, and other software as well
521 as how users interact with other people.
- 522 ♦ *Software prototyping.* Developing
523 prototype software and exposing them to
524 users can guide the evolution of the
525 interface.
- 526 ♦ *Interface evaluation.* Designers can
527 formally evaluate users' actual
528 experiences with the interface.

529 4.6 Localization and Internationalization

530 [16* c8,c9]

531 User interface design needs to consider
532 internationalization and localization, which
533 are means of adapting software to the
534 different languages, regional differences, and
535 technical requirements of a target market.
536 Internationalization is the process of
537 designing a software application so that it can
538 be adapted to various languages and regions
539 without engineering changes. Localization is
540 the process of adapting internationalized
541 software for a specific region or language by
542 adding locale-specific components and
543 translating text. Localization and
544 internationalization should notably consider
545 characters, numbers and currency, time and
546 measurement units.

547

548 4.7 Metaphors and Conceptual Models

549 [16* c5]

550 User interface design often needs to set up the
551 mappings between the information display
552 and the user's conceptual model of the
553 information.

554 User interface design can use interface
555 metaphors to set up a mapping between the
556 software and some reference system known to
557 the users in the real world in order to help
558 them to learn and use the interface. For
559 example, the operation "delete file" can be
560 metaphorized as the icon of a trash can in user
561 interfaces.

562 When designing a user interface, software
563 engineers should pay attention to not imply
564 more than one intended metaphor. Metaphors
565 also present potential problems with respect to
566 internationalization, since not all metaphors
567 are meaningful or not in the same way to all
568 cultures.

569

570 5. Software Design Quality Analysis and 571 Evaluation

572 This section includes a number of quality and
573 evaluation topics that are specifically related to
574 software design. Most are covered in a general
575 manner in the Software Quality KA.

5.1. *Quality Attributes*

[4* c4]

Various attributes are generally considered important for obtaining a software design of good quality—various “ilities” (for example, maintainability, portability, testability, traceability) and “nesses” (for example, correctness, robustness), including “fitness of purpose.” There is an interesting distinction between quality attributes discernible at run-time (for example, performance, security, availability, functionality, usability), those not discernible at run-time (for example, modifiability, portability, reusability, integrability, and testability), and those related to the architecture’s intrinsic qualities (for example, conceptual integrity, correctness, completeness, and buildability). (See also the Software Quality KA for further discussion on this topic.)

5.2. *Quality Analysis and Evaluation Techniques*

[4* c4, 5* c24]

Various tools and techniques can help ensure a software design’s quality.

- ♦ Software design reviews: informal or semiformal (often group-based) techniques to verify and ensure the quality of design artifacts (for example, architecture reviews, design reviews, and inspections; scenario-based techniques, requirements tracing). Software design reviews can also examine security, including performing vulnerability analysis. Installer, operator, and user aids (for example, manuals and help files) can be reviewed to ensure that they include security considerations.
- ♦ Static analysis: formal or semiformal static (non-executable) analysis that can be used to evaluate a design (for example, fault-tree analysis or automated cross-checking). Design vulnerability analysis (for example, static analysis for security weaknesses) can be performed if security is a concern. Formal design analysis uses mathematically based models that allow

designers to predicate the behavior and validate the accuracy of a software instead of having to rely entirely on non-assuring exhaustive testing. Formal design analysis can eliminate residual specification and design errors (caused by imprecision, ambiguity, and sometimes plain mistakes). (Also see the Software Engineering Models and Methods KA.)

- ♦ Simulation and prototyping: dynamic techniques to evaluate a design (for example, performance simulation or feasibility prototype).

5.3. *Measures*

[4* c4, 5* c24]

Measures can be used to assess or to quantitatively estimate various aspects of a software design’s size, structure, or quality. Most measures that have been proposed generally depend on the approach used for producing the design. These measures are classified in two broad categories:

- ♦ Function-oriented (structured) design measures: the design’s structure, obtained mostly through functional decomposition; generally represented as a structure chart (sometimes called a hierarchical diagram) on which various measures can be computed.
- ♦ Object-oriented design measures: the design’s overall structure is often represented as a class diagram, on which various measures can be computed. Measures on the properties of each class’s internal content can also be computed.

6. *Software Design Notations*

Many notations and languages exist to represent software design artifacts. Some are used mainly to describe a design’s structural organization, others to represent software behavior. Certain notations are used mostly during architectural design and others mainly during detailed design, although some notations can be used in both steps. In addition, some notations are used mostly in the context of specific methods (see subarea 7, “*Software Design Strategies and*

670 *Methods*”). Please note that software design is
671 often accomplished using multiple notations.
672 Here, they are categorized into notations for
673 describing the structural (static) view vs. the
674 behavioral (dynamic) view.

675 6.1. Structural Descriptions (Static View)

676 [4* c7, 5* c6, c7, 6* c4, c5, c6, c7, 11* c7, 13*
677 c7]

678 The following notations, mostly (but not
679 always) graphical, describe and represent the
680 structural aspects of a software design—that is,
681 they describe the major components and how
682 they are interconnected (static view):

- 683 ♦ Architecture description languages
684 (ADLs): textual, often formal, languages
685 used to describe a software architecture in
686 terms of components and connectors.
- 687 ♦ Class and object diagrams: used to
688 represent a set of classes (and objects) and
689 their interrelationships.
- 690 ♦ Component diagrams: used to represent a
691 set of components (“physical and
692 replaceable part[s] of a system that
693 [conform] to and [provide] the realization
694 of a set of interfaces” [17]) and their
695 interrelationships.
- 696 ♦ Class responsibility collaborator cards
697 (CRCs): used to denote the names of
698 components (class), their responsibilities,
699 and their collaborating components’
700 names.
- 701 ♦ Deployment diagrams: used to represent a
702 set of (physical) nodes and their
703 interrelationships, and, thus, to model the
704 physical aspects of a software. Usually,
705 only certain deployed configurations are
706 secure.
- 707 ♦ Entity-relationship diagrams (ERDs): used
708 to represent conceptual models of data
709 stored in information systems.
- 710 ♦ Interface description languages (IDLs):
711 programming-like languages used to
712 define the interfaces (names and types of
713 exported operations) of software
714 components.

715 ♦ Jackson structure diagrams: used to
716 describe the data structures in terms of se-
717 quence, selection, and iteration.

718 ♦ Structure charts: used to describe the
719 calling structure of programs (which
720 module calls, and is called by, which other
721 module).

722 6.2. Behavioral Descriptions (Dynamic View)

723 [4* c7, c13, 5* c6, c7, 6* c4, c5, c6, c7, 13*
724 c8]

725

726 The following notations and languages, some
727 graphical and some textual, are used to
728 describe the dynamic behavior of software
729 and components. Many of these notations are
730 useful mostly, but not exclusively, during
731 detailed design. Moreover, behavioral
732 descriptions can include a rationale for why
733 design will meet security requirements.

- 734 ♦ Activity diagrams: used to show the
735 control flow from activity (ongoing non-
736 atomic execution within a state machine)
737 to activity.
- 738 ♦ Collaboration diagrams: used to show the
739 interactions that occur among a group of
740 objects; emphasis is on the objects, their
741 links, and the messages they exchange on
742 those links.
- 743 ♦ Data flow diagrams (DFDs): used to show
744 data flow among a set of processes. A data
745 flow diagram provides “a description
746 based on modeling the flow of
747 information around a network of
748 operational elements, which each element
749 making use of or modifying the
750 information flowing into that element”
751 [4*]. Data flows (and therefore possibly
752 data-flow diagrams) are important to
753 security as they offer possible paths for
754 attack and disclosure of confidential
755 information.
- 756 ♦ Decision tables and diagrams: used to
757 represent complex combinations of
758 conditions and actions.

- 759 ♦ Flowcharts and structured flowcharts:
760 used to represent the flow of control and
761 the associated actions to be performed.
- 762 ♦ Sequence diagrams: used to show the
763 interactions among a group of objects,
764 with emphasis on the time-ordering of
765 messages.
- 766 ♦ State transition and statechart diagrams:
767 used to show the control flow from state
768 to state in a state machine.
- 769 ♦ Formal specification languages: textual
770 languages that use basic notions from
771 mathematics (for example, logic, set,
772 sequence) to rigorously and abstractly
773 define software component interfaces and
774 behavior, often in terms of pre- and post-
775 conditions. (Also see the Software
776 Engineering Models and Methods KA for
777 more information.)
- 778 ♦ Pseudocode and program design
779 languages (PDLs): structured-program-
780 ming-like languages used to describe,
781 generally at the detailed design stage, the
782 behavior of a procedure or method.

783 7. Software Design Strategies and Methods

784 There exist various general *strategies* to help
785 guide the design process. In contrast with
786 general strategies, *methods* are more specific
787 in that they generally suggest and provide a
788 set of notations to be used with the method, a
789 description of the process to be used when
790 following the method, and a set of guidelines
791 in using the method. Such methods are useful
792 as a means of transferring knowledge and as a
793 common framework for teams of software
794 engineers. (See also the Software Engineering
795 Models and Methods KA).

796 7.1. General Strategies

797 [4* c8,c9,c10, 11* c7]

798 Some often-cited examples of general
799 strategies useful in the design process include
800 the divide-and-conquer and stepwise refine-
801 ment strategies, top-down vs. bottom-up
802 strategies, and strategies making use of heu-
803 ristics, use of patterns and pattern languages,
804 and use of an iterative and incremental
805 approach.

806 7.2. Function-Oriented (Structured) Design

807 [4* c13]

808 This is one of the classical methods of
809 software design, where decomposition centers
810 on identifying the major software functions
811 and then elaborating and refining them in a
812 top-down manner. Structured design is gene-
813 rally used after structured analysis, thus
814 producing (among other things) data flow
815 diagrams and associated process descriptions.
816 Researchers have proposed various strategies
817 (for example, transformation analysis,
818 transaction analysis) and heuristics (for
819 example, fan-in/fan-out, scope of effect vs.
820 scope of control) to transform a DFD into a
821 software architecture generally represented as
822 a structure chart.

823 7.3. Object-Oriented Design

824 [4* c16]

825 Numerous software design methods based on
826 objects have been proposed. The field has
827 evolved from the early object-oriented (OO)
828 design of the mid-1980s (noun = object; verb
829 = method; adjective = attribute), where
830 inheritance and polymorphism play a key
831 role, to the field of component-based design,
832 where meta-information can be defined and
833 accessed (through reflection, for example).
834 Although OO design's roots stem from the
835 concept of data abstraction, responsibility-
836 driven design has also been proposed as an
837 alternative approach to OO design.

838 7.4. Data-Structure-Centered Design

839 [4* c14,c15]

840 Data-structure-centered design starts from the
841 data structures a program manipulates rather
842 than from the function it performs. The
843 software engineer first describes the input and
844 output data structures (using Jackson's
845 structure diagrams, for instance) and then
846 develops the program's control structure
847 based on these data structure diagrams.
848 Various heuristics have been proposed to deal
849 with special cases—for example, when there
850 is a mismatch between the input and output
851 structures.

852 7.5. *Component-Based Design (CBD)*

853 [4* c17]

854 A software component is an independent unit,
 855 having well-defined interfaces and
 856 dependencies that can be composed and
 857 deployed independently. Component-based
 858 design addresses issues related to providing,
 859 developing, and integrating such components
 860 in order to improve reuse. Reused and off-the-
 861 shelf software components should meet the
 862 same security requirements as new software.
 863 Trust management is a design concern;
 864 components treated as having a certain degree
 865 of trustworthiness cannot depend on less
 866 trustworthy components or services.

867 7.6. *Other Methods*

868 [5* c19,c21]

869 Other interesting approaches also exist (see
 870 the Software Engineering Models and
 871 Methods KA for more information). Agile
 872 methods propose to quickly implement an
 873 incremental basis by reducing emphasis on
 874 rigorous software requirement and design.
 875 Aspect-oriented design is a method which
 876 designs a software by using aspects to
 877 implement the cross-cutting concerns and
 878 extensions that are identified during the
 879 software requirements engineering process.
 880 And, finally, service-oriented architecture is a
 881 way to build distributed software using web
 882 service.

883 **8. Software Design Tools**

884 [13* c10, Appendix A]

885 Software design tools are used for design
 886 activities during the software development
 887 process. They assist designers in transforming
 888 software requirement specifications into
 889 software design artifacts. In detail, they
 890 implement part or whole of the following
 891 functions: (1) to translate the requirements
 892 model into a design representation; (2) to
 893 provide a notation for representing functional
 894 components and their interface; (3) to
 895 implement heuristics refinement and
 896 partitioning; (4) to provide guidelines for
 897 quality assessment.

MATRIX OF TOPICS VS. REFERENCE MATERIAL

	Budgen [4*]	Sommerville [5*]	Page-Jones [6*]	Brookshear [11*]	Allen [12*]	Clements [13*]	Gamma [14*]	Nielsen [16*]
1. Software Design Fundamentals								
<i>1.1 General Design Concepts</i>	c1							
<i>1.2 The Context of Software Design</i>	c3							
<i>1.3 The Software Design Process</i>	c2							
<i>1.4 Software Design Principles</i>	c1	c6,c7,c21	c1,c8,c9					
2. Key Issues in Software Design								
<i>2.1 Concurrency</i>		c18						
<i>2.2 Control and Handling of Events</i>		c21						
<i>2.3 Data Persistence</i>				c9				
<i>2.4 Distribution of Components</i>		c18						
<i>2.5 Error and Exception Handling and Fault Tolerance</i>		c18						
<i>2.6 Interaction and Presentation</i>		c16						
<i>2.7 Security</i>		c12,c18			c4			
3. Software Structure and Architecture								
<i>3.1 Architectural Structures and Viewpoints</i>						c1		
<i>3.2 Architectural Styles</i>						c1,c2,c3,c4,c5		
<i>3.3 Design Patterns</i>							c3,c4,c5	
<i>3.4 Architecture Design Decisions</i>		c6						
<i>3.5 Families of Programs and Frameworks</i>		c6,c7,c16						
4. User Interface Design								
<i>4.1 General User Interface Design Principle</i>		c29-web						c2
<i>4.2 User Interface Design Issues</i>		c29-web						
<i>4.3 The Design of</i>		c29-web						

	Budgen [4*]	Sommerville [5*]	Page-Jones [6*]	Brookshear [11*]	Allen [12*]	Clements [13*]	Gamma [14*]	Nielsen [16*]
<i>User Interaction Modalities</i>								
<i>4.4 The Design of Information Presentation</i>		c29-web						
<i>4.5 User Interface Design Process</i>		c29-web						
<i>4.6 Localization and internationalization</i>								c8,c9
<i>4.7 Metaphors and Conceptual Models</i>								c5
5. Software Design Quality Analysis and Evaluation								
<i>5.1 Quality Attributes</i>	c4							
<i>5.2 Quality Analysis and Evaluation Techniques</i>	c4	c24						
<i>5.3 Measures</i>	c4	c24						
6. Software Design Notations								
<i>6.1 Structural Descriptions (Static View)</i>	c7	c6,c7	c4,c5,c6,c7	c7		c7		
<i>6.2 Behavioral Descriptions (Dynamic View)</i>	c7,c13,c18	c6,c7	c4,c5,c6,c7			c8		
7. Software Design Strategies and Methods								
<i>7.1 General Strategies</i>	c8,c9,c10			c7				
<i>7.2 Function-Oriented (Structured) Design</i>	c13							
<i>7.3 Object-Oriented Design</i>	c16							
<i>7.4 Data-Structure-Centered Design</i>	c14,c15							
<i>7.5 Component-Based Design (CBD)</i>	c17							
<i>7.6 Other Methods</i>		c19,c21						
<i>8 Software Design Tools</i>						c10,Appendix A		

902 APPENDIX A. LIST OF FURTHER READINGS

903 *Software Engineering: A Practitioner's*
 904 *Approach (Seventh Edition)* [18]

905 For roughly three decades, Roger Pressman's
 906 *Software Engineering: A Practitioner's*
 907 *Approach* has been one of the world's leading
 908 textbooks in software engineering. Notably,
 909 this complementary textbook to [5*]
 910 comprehensively presents software design—
 911 including design concepts, architectural
 912 design, component-level design, user
 913 interface design, pattern-based design, and
 914 web application design.

915

916 The 4+1 View Model of Architecture [19]

917 The 4+1 View Model seminal paper organizes
 918 a description of a software architecture using
 919 five concurrent views. The four views of the
 920 model are the logical view, the development
 921 view, the process view, and the physical view.
 922 In addition, selected use cases or scenarios are
 923 utilized to illustrate the architecture. Hence,
 924 the model contains 4+1 views. The views are
 925 used to describe the software as envisioned by
 926 different stakeholders—such as end-users,
 927 developers, and project managers.

928

929 Software Architecture in Practice [20]

930 This book introduces the concepts and best
 931 practices of software architecture, meaning
 932 how a software is structured and how the
 933 software's components interact. Drawing on
 934 their own experience, the authors cover the
 935 essential technical topics for designing,
 936 specifying, and validating software
 937 architectures. They also emphasize the
 938 importance of the business context in which
 939 large software is designed. Their aim is to
 940 present software architecture in a real-world
 941 setting, reflecting both the opportunities and
 942 constraints that organizations encounter. This
 943 is one of the best books currently available on
 944 software architecture.

945

949

948

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